



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
OF CANADA,
OTTAWA.

Personal.

December 6th, 1920.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal,
P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

With reference to your letter of 2nd instant, I desire to also range myself in the ranks of those who feel themselves unfitted to pass an opinion of value on works of art. Doubtless because my predecessors in office were similarly circumstanced, the Advisory Arts Council was called into being to advise in selection when the Government was acquiring works of art. I should be quite unready to act excepting on their advice.

I should say that the Advisory Arts Council has not recommended the purchase of any of the War Memorials referred to in your letter, and have personally expressed themselves very much along the line you have with regard to the merits of some of the pictures. I understand the collection was made by the Canadian War Records overseas, and while quite likely, on account of the passing out of the body that collected them, the Canadian Government may find themselves in possession, it will be without cost to the treasury.

I am sure you will agree with me that a person in a position of responsibility would