

Terroux

COPY

Cavendish Laboratory,
Cambridge.

Sept. 19th, 1920

My dear Eve

I received your letter, with regard to filling the post vacant by Bieler's death, when I was away on vacation. I have delayed answering until my return to the Laboratory.

As you say, it is not easy to get a man as suitable all round as Bieler. You mention the name of W. Watson, who has been working in the Cavendish and holds the Clerk Maxwell Studentship. I have formed a very good impression of his all round knowledge and ability. He is very well read in Physics and I am sure would prove a competent lecturer and teacher. He is keen on research and is an excellent experimenter. His own work here has been along his own lines, to test theoretical possibilities where one would have anticipated that the result would be negative. He is very interested in the philosophy of Science and like many of us is a little critical of some of the present phases of the Wave Mechanics, where all ideas of Physics vanish.

Altogether I think that you would find Watson a very good man of wide experience and a pleasant colleague. Just before I left Cambridge he was considering the possibility of a temporary offer at the Physics Department of Columbus University, Ohio. This was for one year but I have not heard whether any settlement has been made. If he should decide to take it for experience it would be no doubt possible to get him to come to McGill for you to make his acquaintance.

You ask my opinion of your other men, Terroux, Patterson and J.K.L. MacDonald. Terroux is quite a good fellow but to my mind is not comparable in ability or knowledge with Watson.

MacDonald is as yet too young and inexperienced to take a responsible post. It will not be easy to form a definite opinion of his promise until he has had another year.

I have not kept closely in touch with the work of Patterson the last few years but I should doubt whether he is in the same class as Watson.

If I can help in any way please drop me a line.

My wife leaves next week for New Zealand to see her relatives and will be absent for about five months. She will travel via the Panama Canal.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) E. Rutherford.

Terroux
nb.