



OTTAWA,
16th February, 1922.

My dear Prime Minister,-

I herewith return the letter of Sir Arthur Currie, respecting the removal of the Forest Products Laboratories from Montreal to Ottawa, and in this connection would say that these laboratories, which are entirely under the direction of the Forestry Branch of this Department were started in a building at 700 University Place, loaned to us by the McGill authorities. The building was not an ideal one for our purpose but we were allowed to utilize certain equipment in other buildings belonging to the University and had the benefit of the University Library and the advice of the McGill University staff.

I am enclosing you, herewith, a memorandum showing the changes which have taken place in the staff of the Laboratories since they were started. It has been extremely difficult for us to hold good men on account of the prosperity of the pulp and paper industry which enabled commercial concerns to pay much higher salaries than we could hope to offer. Similar laboratories organizing in other countries also paid higher salaries. As fast as a man proved his worth he was snapped up by some other organization and so the Laboratories became more or less disorganized although marked improvement has been effected since Mr. Kynoch, the present Superintendent, took charge, as the general business depression makes the Government service more attractive than formerly.

There were several reasons why the Department decided to move the Laboratories to Ottawa.

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., M.A., LL.B., - In the -
Prime Minister,
Ottawa.

FEB 20 Rec'd