

September  
Twentieth  
1920.

Major-General J.H. MacBrien,  
Department Militia & Defence,  
Ottawa.

My dear MacB.-

I have your letter of the 16th September with reference to the appointment of Forbes to the permanent force. Let me say that a few days ago Elmsley wrote to me on the same matter.

Regarding a choice between Scroggie and Forbes for any vacancy in the permanent force my knowledge of the two officers would make me recommend Scroggie, for of the latter officer I cannot speak too highly. He was one of the most outstanding younger officers in the Canadian Corps, a real example and inspiration to other officers and to his men. I had not heard of Forbes' drinking habits and can only conclude that they developed since he left the front.

Regarding the situation of Scroggie and Jeffreys, I wish to tell you of a conversation I had last Saturday evening with Mr. Ballantyne, whom I know is now Acting Minister of Militia. Ballantyne recently visited the coast and while there paid a call on the Naval College. It so happens that I tried to get the Mathematical Master of the Naval College as an Assistant Professor in Mathematics at this University. Richardson, for that was the name of the Master sought, had the matter under consideration at the time of Ballantyne's visit. I did not succeed in getting Richardson because of Ballantyne's action on his return to Ottawa. The salary of men like Richardson at the Royal Naval Colleges had been under the control of the Civil Service Commission. Ballantyne told me that on his return to Ottawa he notified the Civil Service Commission that as far as the teachers at the Naval Colleges were