

117 Madison Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.
22nd September 1920.

Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B.
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am writing to ask your assistance in an enterprise which I have very much at heart. Shortly before the war I was endeavouring to bring out a series of religious books by Canadian authors. Our great church leaders of the past generation had passed away without leaving any message in book form and the loss seemed irreparable. The difficulty of publication was so great that few present day religious thinkers in our land were preparing their message for the press.

It seemed to me that Canadian thinkers should inspire Canadian thinking and Canadian action. If so, it was necessary to encourage them to write and someone had to make a beginning.

Also one could not look through the church without feeling that the rank and file of our religious leaders, lay and clerical, needed to acquaint themselves with the thought of our own outstanding men. Most of our religious leaders draw their inspiration from British or American or German sources; Canadian authors are rarely considered yet we have men here who rank with the best.

Following out this idea I got a strong editorial board associated with me and arranged with a number of our prominent Canadians to write. Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton of London, England, are willing to publish the books.

The situation at present is this. The publishers are fully prepared to take responsibility for the first few books of the series. But this is something new in Canada; the books are of the highest order; and the Canadian book market has never been tested with books of this class. We need to secure in advance enough subscribers to the whole series to warrant the publishers in issuing the entire list. My son has undertaken to push this work and I am writing to ask if you will be one of the patrons of the enterprise. We do not want you to assume any financial responsibility for the series; it is your commendation of the effort and your influence behind the task that will do so much to give it a standing and insure success.

Yours very truly,

Geo. Ridgway