

You say you cannot see why McGill graduates should support the Symphony Orchestra when the leader appears to be biased in favour of outsiders. The Dean denies that he is in any way biased in favour of outsiders and says that he would be only too happy to use local artists - but, of course, as the leader of the Orchestra he must be the judge of the merits of those who seek to perform. He refers me to the fact that he has had as soloist Miss Ellen Ballon, who is a graduate of this University; that next Sunday the solo violinist will be Mr. Onderet, who is a member of the staff, and that the only new orchestral work which the Orchestra intends to perform was written by a McGill graduate, Mr. Frank Hanson. This would not seem to indicate a bias on his part in favour of outsiders. I know that many have written musical compositions which they have asked him to perform and that he has been forced to refuse, for various reasons, many of these compositions. The last he refused was one written by a very close personal friend of his own.

You say that the instance cited in your letter (but as to what instance you mean is not clear) concerns a person with whom you are closely connected and that you know that others have had similar experience. I am sure it would be most helpful if you would disclose the identity of the one concerned, because, and I repeat it, the Dean is positive that he knows of no request from a McGill graduate which he has refused.

Had you been a member of the Graduates' Society I would have asked that body to investigate your charges.

I am one of those who believe that Dean Clarke has rendered a wonderful service to Montreal in his endeavour to give this city a good symphony orchestra, and I believe his efforts should receive warm support and commendation. You say that you have had to revise your impression that the staff of McGill should make every effort to support McGill graduates. A natural corollary of that is that McGill graduates should make every effort to support the staff of the University.

I do not mind telling you that I am often greatly embarrassed by graduates insisting on receiving appointments to the staff of the University: just now it is suggested that I add one who graduated a few years ago to a staff that is already complete. The financial resources of the University do not permit me to increase that staff, and I see no reason why I should dismiss a teacher who has been rendering good service for years to make way for anyone, whether a graduate or not. I think anyone would agree that the staff of McGill contains as many graduates as could reasonably be employed. Inbreeding in a university