

June 17, 1931.

E. W. Beatty, Esq., K. C.,  
Chancellor,  
McGill University.

Dear Chancellor,

I have just had a chat with Mr. Decary about the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and from our conversation I am convinced that it would be helpful in every way if you would accept for a year the Presidency of that organisation.

Decary seems very anxious that this organisation should stand for a community effort in every way. I think it was very well demonstrated last winter that the Orchestra is a good orchestra, but also that it, apparently, could not be well enough supported by the English alone to enable it to thrive. It owes much, I know, to the generosity of the C.P.R. - and that is, to yourself.

Apparently, among some of the French, the group where Mesdames David and Casgrain are prominent, there is a certain amount of jealousy that the English element is so active. You and I know that our friend David would like to be looked upon as a great patron of the arts and that he would prefer to think it altogether a French undertaking. Decary thinks, and I agree with him, that this year the president should be one who is recognised as an outstanding English-speaking Canadian. You are his choice, and he believes that you would be welcome to the French element.