

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RAILWAY STATIONS, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES:

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:

MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

The Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

*Nov. 21st* November 14th, 1927.  
*Saw Mr. Nichols at*  
*Macdonald today.*  
*Dean Barton present*

I was very disappointed to learn that Mr. Nichols had received a very attractive offer from Dean Boyle and had consequently decided to remain there. It is, of course, easy to be wise after an event, but I feel that the negotiations might have had a more satisfactory conclusion, if what is sometimes termed "professional etiquette" had been more strictly observed. //

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Mr. Nichols, as you will remember, accepted the post, but was unable to begin work until January. He was told without consulting me, that we could not wait until then, although I had distinctly stated that I was prepared to carry on until he could come. When he was approached again it was too late, for he had then accepted this other offer.

The position at present is that I am now faced with the task of finding a man for next January. I have written to the heads of the Physics Departments of McGill, Toronto and Queens, but my efforts are rather handicapped by the fact that I am unable to give any very definite details as to the salary and status which will accompany the post. After consultation with Dean Barton I am left with an impression that funds for this purpose will be obtained reluctantly. It is this question which I should like to see cleared up. //

For the last three years I have run this department absolutely alone. In addition to the regular Physics work, which, by the way, was increased, I was asked to take over the Department of Mathematics, formerly conducted by Mr. Percival. This year I have agreed to take over the High School Physics, and to this has been added a greatly increased Winter Course programme. My contention is that there appears to be little appreciation of the amount of work involved in discharging these obligations. //