

McGILL GETS WASHINGTON LETTER

A two-page letter written by General George Washington to a certain Dr. John Cochrane was presented recently to Montreal's McGill University.

The letter, dated August 31, 1785, expresses Washington's appreciation of Dr. Cochrane's assistance in transporting some hunting dogs from New York to the General's home at Mount Vernon. In reference, however, to Cochrane's request that he be nominated to the post of Continental Treasurer in return for his help, the first President of the United States writes that it is not practice to make nominations to government posts: "I early took up a determination not to hazard the mortification of a refusal."

Matilda Moore of Westmount, a municipality of Greater Montreal, who is now 85 years old, passed on the letter to McGill. She was given the letter when she was 15 by her grandmother. Miss Moore's great-grandmother, Mrs. Jacob Henry Joseph, received the letter when she herself was a girl, from the Clay family, one of the leading political families in the United States during the nineteenth century.

After being treated by a special preservation process, the letter will be displayed at McGill University.

DBS NAME CHANGE

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics changed its name on August 3 to Statistics Canada, in accordance with Parliament's enactment of "The Statistics Act, 1971", which was passed early last spring and proclaimed law on May 1. Among other things, the Act changed the name of Canada's central statistical agency from "Dominion Bureau of Statistics" to "Statistics Canada" and the title of its chief officer from "Dominion Statistician" to "Chief Statistician of Canada".

Recognizing the magnitude of the task involved in developing a new identity for the national statistical agency, Parliament allowed a period of transition in which to complete the changeover.

For the benefit of users, secrecy provisions have been modified to remove unnecessarily restrictive elements and permit the publication of data not previously available. The main changes will permit publication of lists of companies or other organizations by broad employment-size ranges or by specific goods and services provided.

In the case of respondents to statistical surveys, the legislation allows Statistics Canada greater access to and use of information available elsewhere, including income-tax information. In addition, it places more emphasis on co-ordination with various provincial departments and agencies, particularly in

the use of joint collection arrangements.

Thus Statistics Canada has been given a somewhat greater authority and greater flexibility. Under its new name, the bureau intends to continue to improve the scope, timeliness and efficiency of its operations, to meet the growing need for statistical information on social, economic and financial developments in Canada.

PULP-AND-PAPER POLLUTION PROBE

Nine research contracts valued at \$545,850 have been approved by the Department of the Environment under a program established last year to reduce water pollution from pulp-and-paper operations.

The Minister of the Environment, Mr. Jack Davis, under whose jurisdiction the Canadian Forestry Service administers the program, said that eight of the awards were for continuation of research begun in 1970. One contract, valued at \$50,000, will cover a new project by B.C. Research of Vancouver to investigate microbiological characteristics of pulp and paper mill effluents.

The other contracts are:

Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada: \$71,000 to study amine treatment for the decolourization of pulp mill wastes; \$122,650 to evaluate ozone treatment for strengthening mechanical pulps thereby reducing the chemical pulp requirements for newsprint manufacture; and \$70,000 to study pulping using pressurized oxygen.

Ontario Research Foundation: \$50,000 to study separation, handling and utilization of fine suspended solids.

B.C. Research: \$77,000 to study the sublethal effects upon fish of bleached kraft mill effluents; \$23,500 to study the sources of toxicity and biochemical oxygen demand in the bleached kraft process; and \$40,700 to study isolation of toxic constituents from bleached kraft pulp mill effluents.

MacMillan Bloedel Research Limited: \$41,000 to study alkaline pulping processes without sulfide.

Several additional contracts are currently under negotiation with various industrial research laboratories.

The program was established in 1970 with a fund of \$500,000 to encourage increased research into water pollution abatement from pulp mills. This amount was increased in 1971 to \$1 million a year for five years, contingent upon the pulp-and-paper industry increasing its private funding of such research by at least \$1 million over the amount spent in 1970. The privately-funded research in 1970 was estimated at \$1.4 million and is expected to reach \$3 million in 1971.