

January  
Twenty-third  
1923.

Mrs. J. B. Learmont,  
30 Macgregor Street,  
Montreal.

My dear Mrs. Learmont:-

I have had a chat with Dr. Byers who has very kindly given me a clear outline of the position of affairs of the Ste. Agathe Sanitorium. From him I learn that it is owned by the Provincial Government, who have promised to operate it. It is fully equipped in every respect and could tomorrow receive 128 patients if the Provincial Government would say the word.

I would be very happy to be associated with any body of citizens whose aim would be to induce the Government to operate the Sanitorium to its full capacity, and for that reason will be glad to preside at the meeting of which you spoke yesterday, provided that meeting is representative of all the citizens of Montreal and has no restrictions as to race, creed or religion. To my mind it would be a mistake to ask the Government to turn over the Sanitorium to any section of our people, as such a request might have the effect of furnishing them with an excuse for not operating it at once. I would simply ask that the Sanitorium be opened, in view of the great need for treatment for consumptives. The Government can scarcely refuse to do that, but if you are going to ask them to open it for English-speaking people only, or for any other section of the community only, you furnish the Government with an excuse for doing nothing at all. I would simply put it up to them; tell them of the need, remind them that they own the institution which is now fully equipped and let it be firmly impressed upon them that you expect them to operate it.

For that reason a meeting called should not be restricted to any section of our community. If it is not I shall be very glad to preside.

Yours faithfully,