

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

THE MACDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING

June  
20th  
1923.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

The original plans of Dr. J. C. Fields with regard to the holding of the International Mathematical Congress for 1924 in Canada contemplated the financing of the scheme by the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments. It was hoped that the Dominion Government would provide \$35,000; the Ontario Government perhaps \$10,000 if the Congress agreed, after the meeting at Montreal, to have a joint session or sessions with the British Association at Toronto; the Quebec Government \$35,000; and the Western Provinces were to finance a trans-continental trip to the extent of \$40,000. The Dominion Government has, I am assured by Dr. Fields and Dr. Eve, agreed to furnish \$25,000; there is no hope of the Ontario Government doing anything if the Congress is held here; The Quebec Government is opposed to giving any provincial support; and I have little expectation that the Western Provinces will do anything.

To make the Congress a success and to justify its being called International, there should be a delegation from Europe of at least forty or fifty mathematicians of front rank. The Government of France would almost certainly and those of Czecho-Slovakia and Japan might probably send a few paid official representatives; possibly some other Governments might fall into line. Of this we have no definite assurance. Dr. Fields is now committed also to the invitation of a certain number of men in allied branches, such as Engineering, Physics, Actuarial work, etc. It was with the hope of winning the support of the Quebec Government that Dr. Fields enlarged the scope of the Congress to such an extent that he now hopes for an attendance of 1500. This was the number that he mentioned at the conference with the