

Ottawa, Ontario,  
12th March, 1921.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I am planning a three year polar expedition. This year I want to send north to a point within the Arctic Circle an advance party, consisting of a Topographer, a Botanist, a Zoologist, a Geologist, and one or two other men. While it is hoped that some incidental scientific work can be done this year, the task of the party will be largely the preparation for more extensive work the following two years. Next year a second party of five or more men will go out to join these. The expedition will then be complete and will carry on at least for two years further.

My experience has been that generally the younger the man the more readily he adapts himself to northern conditions. For that reason I should prefer to get men just out of college. The chief qualification is temperamental. There should be no tendency to imagine that you are a hero or that it constitutes remarkable hardships to be away from movies and operas for a year or two. Moderately good health is desirable. The man should be especially a good walker; his circulation should be at least so good that there is no marked tendency to numbness of hands or feet, and the eyesight should be above the average. No man is useful in mid-winter work in the far north who is not able to get along without glasses.

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Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
M O N T R E A L,  
Que.