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OTTAWA, CANADA, Jan. 14th, 1924

Lieut. General Sir Arthur Currie G.C.B.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear General Currie:

I feel that I may write to you because you were my next door neighbor while you lived in Ottawa, and because I was able to show in a practical manner during the last campaign to raise funds for McGill that I was a supporter of your great University.

A syndicate which I formed, has built the Ottawa Auditorium, which is a very large artificial ice rink and convention and concert hall combined, and generally admitted to be the best of its kind in Canada. Yesterday I had the pleasure of a visit from Major Brown, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Pitts, who said that there was a possibility of McGill or affiliated interests erecting a large artificial ice rink and concert hall like our Auditorium, with a gymnasium attached to it. I gladly told them the history of our Auditorium enterprise and showed them over it.

Among other things, I gave them as my opinion, that to ensure an adequate revenue, professional hockey and amateur city league hockey, as well as the University hockey teams, would have to be assured playing there. I was informed that you seemed much opposed to professional hockey.

I am backing the Ottawa professional team in the National Hockey League, and I am doing so because I believe it to be the best way to build up hockey, which I consider the finest of all games—because the large crowds that attend are kept interested. Years ago I was tremendously interested in amateur hockey and finally backed an amateur team in Ottawa. I had an unhappy experience with it. It put me on the inside of amateur hockey, and I learned things that opened my eyes. I found that outside of universities, there was practically no such thing as amateur hockey in the true sense of the word. It was veiled professionalism all through, not only in Ottawa, but in all our large cities. If the players did not get actual money they received payment in kind, and it is so to-day.

I tried to figure it all out and I believe that the answer is this: Football and hockey are strenuous games, and they also use up a lot of the time of those who play. Our young men look for