

C O P Y:

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Montreal

26th November 1929.

George S. Currie, Esq.,  
President - Graduates' Society,  
McGill University, Montreal.

My dear George:-

I was very sorry I could not be present at the last meeting of the local Graduates' Society because I would like to have made some observations which are the result of my experiences out in the West.

It is obviously very difficult to get local branches anywhere to meet at regular intervals unless there is some very definite purpose or objective before them. To meet merely for the sake of getting together as McGill graduates is, after all, rather wasted time.

Could we not in our local branch at a future meeting introduce a number of problems in which our McGill graduates would be interested, and then get small groups to form committees to look into these problems and bring forward to the branch meetings suggestions as to their solution? If, for instance, we had a committee of graduates interested, let us say, in questions such as Athletics, or Libraries, or the contribution which the University might make with reference to our national needs in mining, in agriculture, and so on, and have these committees formed of men who are eminently competent to deal with such problems, they could meet informally, and they could discuss these matters with the heads of the departments concerned, and could, perhaps, bring forward suggestions to the Governors of the University through the Executive of the Graduates' Society, which would not only show active interest taken by the graduates in the University, but might likewise be productive of much good.

It seems to me that if we are to keep the interest of the graduates alive in this city, we ought to give them something specific to do, and I do not know of any way in which this could be better done than by the formation of such groups with a special job to do.

Nowhere throughout the West, in any of the big centres, do the graduates meet regularly; when they come together, it is only because some visitor appears to whom they wish to show special courtesy, and such meetings are always full of enthusiasm and teeming with enquiries as to why McGill does not do this, that and the other thing to improve the University.

Our own local branch in Montreal is peculiarly and strategically placed to confer great benefits on the University.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) D.F. MARTIN.