McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

No. 2. Sir Arthur W. Currie, K.C.M.G., L.L.D. 10/10/22.

We charge the Supt. Engineer with indifference amounting to incompetence in allowing our office to be run at temperatures averaging about 50° in the winter. We charge that excessive fuel and power charges are accumulated against us. We charge that Mr. Lawrence's claims that he heats the Observatory are incorrect. We charge that our rentals are not properly credited to the Observatory funds. We charge holding up of our communications in the office, delays in our requisitions, and in general an intolerable interference within the University in Observatory matters.

We have at the present moment some grounds for action for damages against the University if it longer allows Mr. Lawrence to succeed in making uncomfortable and unsuitable the quarters occupied by Mrs. Weir and myself in the residence for which we pay rental.

The University paid a deficit last fiscal year of $1,000. for its share of the Observatory. No department can show that its receipts were three-fourths of the cost of maintaining it. No Observatory ever was self-supporting. We require what observatory facilities we have as a minimum for our University courses in practical astronomy. We must have it for the time service rating chronometers, basis for our longitude work, facilities for teaching deficient students on the campus and for the contracts the University has to supply time to the City, to jewellers and to the railroads. We received $2600. for doing half the work of the Surveying Department. Our colleague receives $3,500. for the other half. We receive $1,000. for being custodian of all the astronomical equipment at McGill, concerning which the calendar may be consulted. The four weeks work we do in September is largely observatory work conducted on Westmount but requiring observatory facilities as a base. Our lectures in practical astronomy & geodesy require the materials we have from the Observatory.

Astronomy otherwise at McGill is disgracefully deficient. Let the University see to it that a proper college Observatory project under suitable guidance takes ~~seed~~ root and grows. There are qualified men in the University to direct. In the meantime our equipment for practical astronomy for engineers is the envy of other colleges in America and requires Observatory facilities. The $1,000. deficit is nothing compared with our needs to keep this course properly equipped.

A exception one course for students, in Honour Mathematics.