

April 15th, 1926.

Colonel Alexander Macphail, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
50 Clergy Street,
Kingston, Ont.

My dear Colonel:-

Poor Herdt's death has been a very great loss to McGill and to all his many friends. For the past year and a half he has been in poor health and has not met his classes in that time. His trouble was largely mental, a strange sort of depression having seized him. He had many delusions which he himself knew were false, but, apparently, he could not help being influenced by them. I think he thought of suicide on more than one occasion. The only thing he ever said to me which indicated the trend of his thoughts was "what is the good of going on like this". I do not think the family were greatly shocked and I have not heard that he was in financial difficulties. He suffered from nervous prostration twenty years ago and I am told it is more or less a family failing.

I am glad you liked what I said at Ottawa, but I cannot see how the Vimy Dinner as such can be perpetuated. A Vimy Dinner without Byng would be like caviar without the onion. Perhaps we can hold another some time and induce him to come across to it.

You will be interested to know that we have made an offer to Bisson.

With all good wishes, I am,
Yours faithfully,