

167
August
Twenty-fifth
1922.

Hon. L. A. Taschereau,
Prime Minister of Province of Quebec,
Quebec, P.Q.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:-

The announcement of the gift of \$100,000. from the Government of the Province of Quebec towards the establishment of a Radium Institute in connection with the University of Montreal has been noted with interest and appreciation by McGill University.

According to a report in the Gazette this morning, August 25th, it appears that only 75% of that amount is to be expended in the purchase of radium and that the balance will be used for the purchase of the intricate and costly apparatus required for the collection of radium emanation, and for the securing of a properly trained staff. May I respectfully point out that McGill University is peculiarly fitted to act as the custodian of radium and to carry out researches in connection therewith. In the first place there is already installed in the Macdonald Physics Building of this University the necessary facilities for the storing of radium and the apparatus and also the trained technical staff required for the collection of radium emanation. Nearly twenty years ago Sir William Macdonald presented to McGill the sum of \$10,000 worth of radium and purchased at the same time the apparatus above mentioned. Since that time McGill University has occupied a most unique position as one of the great radium centres in the world.

May I remind you that the laws of radio-activity were first discovered at McGill University. This discovery was made by Professor Ernest Rutherford, (now Sir Ernest Rutherford) Professor Soddy and their associates.

The successors of these gentlemen Professor Barnes, Professor Eve and Professor Gray (the latter two are now on the staff of McGill) have continued to extend the work and have attained great eminence as original researchers