

Sept. 6th., 1923.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

The plans for the new Engineering Building are now almost completed, and we are ready to start on the specifications, but before doing so I think you should have a rough idea of what we propose to use as materials for construction and the system of building generally. I will, therefore, give a brief summary herein and am enclosing three copies, one for the heads of each Department concerned, in order that they may make any suggestions or criticisms at this time before we have gone too far with the drawings and specifications. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Mr. K.G. Rea.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION:

We propose to sink open caissons to the bed rock, which varies in depth from 15 to 33 feet. These caissons will be filled with reinforced concrete, upon which will rest the steel columns supporting the building. The building will be constructed of steel columns, beams and girders and reinforced floor arches. This steel framework will carry the outside walls of the building from the level of the top of the first floor up to the roof. The building is to be faced with Montreal Limestone to match the existing buildings in the vicinity, but we propose to get an alternative price on a good quality of Terra Cotta. The stone facing or Terra Cotta will be backed up to the required thickness with either brick or hollow tile. The windows in all cases will be double double-hung, similar to those in the recently finished Medical building. This system, while providing for winter sun, does away with the necessity of taking them off in the Spring and putting them on in the autumn. The roof over the main building and tower will be flat construction and covered with tar and gravel roofing.

INTERIOR FINISH:

Generally the floors of all ~~laboratories~~ laboratories, class rooms and offices to be finished with hard wood, maple flooring. The walls of laboratories will be lined to a height of 8 feet with buff coloured pressed brick, and above this with plaster, finished with cold water paint.