

2nd December, 1920.

Hon. F. B. McCurdy,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa,
Canada.

Dear Mr. McCurdy,-

I have your letter of the 27th November with reference to Miss Warren's paintings. I note that the Advisory Arts Council decline to recommend their purchase.

I quite realize that this is a matter which is entirely the business of the Canadian Government. I will also say that I do not know whether Miss Warren's paintings are worth \$10,000. or \$10. I am a very ignorant person when it comes to oil paintings, but I probably know as much about them as the great majority of people who will see the War Memorial paintings bought and paid for, I presume, by the Canadian Government. It will be hard for we common people to understand why the Government refused to offer Miss Warren anything for her paintings when they have been saddled with some of the outlandishly freakish things which I have seen exhibited as War Memorial paintings, the property of the Canadian Government. I know this, that Miss Warren spent months and months in getting her paintings faithfully exact, the figures in it were painted from life, the flags in it are an exact reproduction of the "colours" of the regiment, while the background is also faithfully portrayed, as the pictures were painted in the Abbey itself. I have looked at other pictures which you have purchased and which are supposed to represent scenes in France. I suppose I spent as long in France as any other Canadian during the War, yet I cannot, by the wildest stretch of imagination, believe that I ever saw such scenes as some of these pictures present. It appears to me that some of them were painted by artists who, in their studios, gave free rein to their imagination. If the Arts Advisory Committee have recommended the purchase of these other paintings solely on account of their merit, it will be hard for some of us to understand why they have not considered Miss Warren's picture worthy of an offer. I know that Sir Robert Borden's opinion was that Miss Warren's pictures were worthy of ^{every} consideration, and I, for one, frankly believe that they never received very much consideration.

Yours faithfully,

ATC/W.

Principal.