

C O P Y

McGill University,

DRAFT PROPOSED MEMO.

Montreal, January 6, 1919

Hon. J. S. Mewburn,
Minister of Militia,
O t t a w a .

Sir,

1. I have the honour to draw your attention to the appended correspondence relative to the provision of funds by the Government for a drill hall for the McGill contingent C.O.T.C. as it is now the intention of the University to proceed with that part of its building programme in which this drill hall is incorporated, - that is to say with the group of buildings consisting of a drill hall, gymnasium, baths and dressing rooms to be erected at McDonald Park.

2. It will be observed from the appended copies of letters and plans that:-

1. On his death Lord Strathcona left to the Government a parcel of land on condition that a drill hall for the McGill C.O.T.C. was erected and this land with the obligation was accepted.
- ii. Early in 1914 this land was handed over to McGill University in exchange for a suitable site at McDonald Park, your Department and the University concurring in the view that the change would be advantageous as enabling military training, athletics and gymnastics to share one roof.
- iii. In the summer of 1914, after careful study, a general scheme for the buildings on McDonald Park was evolved. The plans prepared by the University's architects were approved by Colonel (then Mr.) Deroches in so far as your Department was concerned in them. The probable cost was also discussed at that time. Shortly afterwards the war was upon us.
- IV. In December 1914 Mr. Jack Ross came forward with funds for the construction of the gymnasium as a memorial to his late father, and agreed to the drill hall being merged as an integral part of the group of buildings in which he was interested.
- V. The necessary finances being thus arranged for, the plans were further developed in January 1915, and the cost of the drill hall element was estimated at One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.)
- VI. However, late in January 1915 the Government found it necessary to communicate with the University postponing its contribution until after the war. From the nature