

January 2nd, 1932.

To the McGill graduates of Montreal,
To the Governors and Members of Corporation.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am sure you are all pleased with the success that has attended the formation of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra by Douglas Clarke, Dean of the Faculty of Music of McGill University. That Professor Clarke should have taken advantage of the unemployment of so many first-class musicians to weld them together into an efficient organization shows his alertness and his keenness to help the cause of music in Montreal. That he should have held them together during the difficult period of the last eighteen months is a tribute to his power of organization and his personality.

The terms under which these concerts are given in His Majesty's Theatre are that the Theatre takes forty per cent. of the proceeds each week. This may be too high a percentage, and personally I think it is, but the contract has been made and must be observed. The other sixty per cent. is divided among the musicians, and gives them each, I understand, about six dollars a week. From a fund collected at the beginning of the season there has been taken a sum sufficient to make the musicians' weekly stipend up to fifteen dollars each, - a very small amount when it is appreciated that the Orchestra holds rehearsals on five days previous to its concert on the Sunday.

We are now told that there is only sufficient in the Treasury to maintain these concerts for another three weeks. To me it seems a strange thing that Montreal, claiming to be a city of culture, should be willing to see