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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

VANCOUVER, CANADA

December 9-1921.

Confidential

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Principal Currie:

Although I have been associated with Principal Harrison more or less closely for the past twenty-two years, I find it extremely difficult to give a just appreciation of him and of his services to Macdonald College. This is due in large measure, to the fact that I do not really know him and I should perhaps add, that the responsibility for this may not rest wholly with Dr. Harrison.

You ask me what lies back of the dissatisfaction among the staff and what is, at bottom, the occasion for the disquieting rumors which sometimes reach you from the public. As I see it, the reason, so far as it may be attributed to Dr. Harrison, lies in his personality. Dr. Harrison is a scientist, not an administrator- at least not a public administrator. He has failed to gain the confidence of the original staff and has been equally unsuccessful in his honest endeavor to retain the loyal support and cooperation of those members who have been appointed during his administration. I regard it as little less than a tragedy in the life of Dr. Harrison that attempts on his part to make himself acceptable to his staff, and to at least one part of the constituency of the College and of the Province, only seem to accentuate an unfortunate condition rather than to relieve it.

When I say these things, I am not unmindful of the fact that there are certain elements in the situation at Macdonald which make the position of Principal an extremely difficult one. Some of the dissatisfaction arises from conditions inherent in the situation and so is largely beyond the control of the