

226

*House built 1881*

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

October 10, 1922

Sir Arthur W. Currie, K.C.M.G., L.L.D.,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Sir,

As Superintendent of the Observatory, we have requested the use of three of the twelve rooms in the Observatory residence. Will you be good enough to inform us why we do not get these.

To assist you to clear away the misrepresentations of the secretary and his protégé, the Superintendent's Engineer who has confiscated eleven rooms of this building without right, rent or reason, we beg to make clear that all reports and minutes of the University show this residence was intended for the Observatory Superintendent. Observatory funds are being used even yet to pay for its first cost. Our rental cheques and receipts show payments made for rental of observer's house. It has always been occupied in whole or lately in part by the Superintendent of the Observatory.

*rent?*  
*1*  
*2*  
*3*  
*4*  
*\$66 2/3 per annum*

We have Sir Wm. Dawson's statement that "The Observatory residence was built to aid the Superintendent in his work." We recall the late Sir Wm. Peterson's advice to us to occupy what part of it we needed as the University wished to make us comfortable in our work. We have the requirements of the Civil Service Commission that in first class meteorological stations the man in charge is to reside where the instruments are exposed. We have the advice of Sir Frederic Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, that long experience has proven amply the necessity of this. This is not interference on his part, for the service he directs pays for the maintenance of this Observatory more than the University does.

We have the opinion of Dr. Klotz, Director of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, who has collaborated with the late Prof. McLeod in this Observatory and has written an historical account of it, that to allow anyone else than the Superintendent to occupy the residence is most extraordinary and absurd, and certainly not in keeping with the spirit of a University. We have our own convictions as Superintendent of this Observatory that we cannot and will not supervise it from a distance.