



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

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After carefully considering this proposition, and giving due thought to the claims which McGill might have in the matter, my colleagues and myself came to the conclusion that, with the war that must be waged on cancer, it was our duty to help the Montreal University in that field. As they were willing to establish a laboratory at their own expense and to secure the services of eminent European scientists, our purchase of radium constituted nothing else than an investment and a loan in order to help a most worthy undertaking.

I wish to make it very clear that the Government has no intention, as you seem to believe, of devoting money for the installation of a laboratory, and will not be spending one cent which might have been saved by going to McGill University. We are buying one gram of radium, which we were fortunate enough to secure at a price lower than was ever paid, that is \$77.00 per milligram, and from such a good firm as the United States Radium Corporation of New York. While we are merely paying \$77,000 for one gram of radium, the United States Radium Corporation undertakes, free of charge, to supply the University of Montreal with a Debiere-Duane Emanation apparatus complete, and to give the services ~~of~~ consultation of their physical research staff, including Dr. Hess, formerly of the Vienna Radium Institute. Dr. Duane will supervise himself the installation of his apparatus.

In the meantime, Dr. Gendreau has gone to France, Germany and Austria, with a view to organizing his university laboratory of radium on a scientific basis and ~~and~~ securing an experienced physician and scientist.

I feel convinced that, with this full explanation of our dealings with the University of Montreal, you will be satisfied that we have done the right thing on behalf of an institution that wished to promote scientific work and hasten the relief of those suffering from cancer. We will not give them any money to install a laboratory, but we are simply loaning them radium which remains our property.

Yours sincerely,

L. A. Taschman