

Personal.

43 Victoria Chambers,

June 5th, 1920.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I had intended writing you sooner congratulating you on your new distinction. It certainly was a surprise to me when I saw the announcement. The surprise consisted in the fact that an almost venerable institution of learning like McGill should break away from all traditions and go outside of the ranks of schoolmen for a President. To my mind it marks a new and hopeful era in education.

University men for generations have erected themselves into a select class who by virtue of a degree have imagined themselves superior to the man whose alma mater has been Hard Knocks or whose education has been the result of experience and private study and investigation. I have long been convinced that our system of education--primary, secondary and superior--is full of fallacies and false standards. The very fact that McGill had practically felt compelled to go outside of an army of graduates to get a man like yourself for organizing and directing ~~purposes~~ purposes is proof of the limited extent to which universities qualify men for responsible ~~men~~ positions. Of course, in your case there are the personality and distinction which make the selection one of advantage and especial value to the institution over which you will preside.