

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS.  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN.

April 2, 1924.

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Department of  
Mathematics 1920-26*

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University.

Dear Principal,

Department of Mathematics.

Following several casual interviews with you recently affecting this Department, I venture now to make the following suggestions for your assistance.

I do not think that we can afford to appoint a mathematician of great prestige and international reputation to this department at present. There are not enough advanced students in Mathematics to justify so large an expenditure.

As near as I can make out, the department is very much in need of being rebuilt from the Freshman year up. Mathematics is a perfectly logical subject and the courses in this department follow one another in rigid conventional order. There is no possibility of a student undertaking special advanced courses unless his fundamental courses in the subject have been thoroughly completed, and it is impossible to apply Mathematics to any other branch of science until it has first of all been thoroughly mastered in its pure form. It would obviously require four or five years at least to complete this task at McGill.

I feel pretty well convinced that Dr. D.A. Murray is the best man available to undertake this work. His methods