

I have many ideas which I think if put into effect would result in an increased efficiency to the Militia but in the present state of political uncertainty I am afraid these ideas were due for a long and painful period of incubation.

MacBrien is back, looks well but has not taken over yet. You know the violence of his opposition to those who did not serve in the front line, and it is that opposition which is delaying his taking up his work. However, I think things will come out all right. We pride off a good many of these barnacles but there are yet remaining a few to be disposed of. Many of our officers, you know, gained their positions on account of their political affiliations and these same influences are at work in keeping them in the service. We are getting our way slowly but surely.

When I go the position I occupy will be done away with. Burstall will likely be Inspector General but will have no place on the Militia Council. MacBrien will be first military member and Chief of the General Staff, Elmsley is likely to be Adjutant General, Morrison will be Mastergeneral of Ordnance, while Ashton, of whom you have no doubt heard, is likely to transfer from the A.G.'s branch to the Q.M.G.'s branch. I expect to be here for another month, then after a few weeks vacation I take over at McGill on the 1st of August.

I am looking forward to the work there with a very great deal of interest. The Governors say they will give me the Professors I want, otherwise they will give me the staff I need. They don't expect me to attempt to teach anything; I am simply the Manager of the Institution. They say they want a Canadian, one who will administer the affairs of the University well and who will build up and maintain a good esprit de corps. I look forward to living in Montreal for I like the people there very much indeed and they have been exceedingly kind to me. The press throughout Canada have received the news of the appointment well, and have commented most favourably upon it. I will be away from political turmoil and strife, and you can imagine how pleasing a prospect that is.

I hope that you will continue at Camberley where the work has been so congenial. You will not forget, I hope, your promise to visit Canada. We are not very far away, and a trip will give you an opportunity of renewing your friendships here.