



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

AUGUST
Twenty-ninth
1922.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

The long established reputation of McGill has made me well aware of the standing held by your University as one of the leading medical schools and a pioneer in radium work and scientific researches. I am fully prepared to recognize all of the claims mentioned in your letter of August 25th, for which I am obliged.

But, as a matter of fact, the Government is not setting up a radium institution. After I have explained to you why and how we undertook to supply radium for the University of Montreal, I do not believe that you will have any cause to feel that McGill University has been overlooked.

Last Spring representatives of the Montreal University came to us and stated their intention of establishing a radium laboratory so as to keep abreast of the time and offer the same facilities for scientific study and work as were possessed by McGill University. They proposed also making use of radium in the treatment of cancer and other similar diseases for the general benefit of our population, and were ready to add to their medical staff an eminent French scientist and physicist who would have charge of this radium laboratory.

Since they have received very few endowments, if any to speak of, from private sources, and since the help recently given them by our Government is all required to carry out their regular programme and could hardly be properly used for the purchase of radium, they asked whether we would not buy a gram of radium, which would remain our property and be used in their laboratory for research work as well as for the immediate treatment of cancer by experienced physicians.