

February Fifteenth,  
1930.

Personal and Confidential

Honourable Smeadon White,  
The "Gazette",  
M o n t r e a l .

My dear Senator,

With reference to your letter of February 12th and the story concerning the foundation of a Club to be known as the Newman Club of McGill, I have to say that there is such a Club here, and it never occurred to me that any exception could be taken to it.

Fraternities, as you know, exist at McGill and have existed for many, many years. They are secret organizations and their usefulness has often been debated wherever they exist. There are many arguments that can be advanced in favour of fraternities, and at the same time powerful objections can be raised to their continuance. While appreciating the value of the arguments on both sides, on the whole I am not opposed to fraternities. They are self-perpetuating bodies and are secret to this extent: that the general public cannot be admitted to their meetings. However, we know who they are, and I have often dined with the members of different fraternities. My son is now a member of the Delta Upsilon.

Then we have other sectional clubs, like the Maritime Club, the Newfoundland Club, the British Columbia Club. These clubs do not amount to very much and have never been encouraged. I suppose they were formed in order that the members might meet others from the same part of Canada and so feel less lonely.