

MACDONALD COLLEGE

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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POST OFFICE:
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

January 25th, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal & Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

In reply to yours of January 21st, in regard to Professor Scarth's letter concerning co-operation between his department and Macdonald College, I may say Professor Scarth and I agreed that some work having to do with one phase of the pasture problem in Quebec might very well be undertaken as a joint project between his department and our Agronomy Department. We discussed other possibilities, including the teaching of Plant Physiology, to which you refer. I pointed out that I was anxious to stress Plant Physiology somewhat more here and particularly in the field of research as it concerns agriculture. As to teaching work, I do not think there is any need for extending it in undergraduate work at present.

If the instruction were given by men from the Botany Department at McGill, our staff of course would be relieved to that extent and enabled to devote their time to other aspects of the work. I am very doubtful that satisfactory arrangements could be made to have undergraduate students at Macdonald take this work in Montreal. I think the other arrangement of having McGill Professors spend one day at Macdonald would be more likely to work out satisfactorily. There is one difficulty in such a plan which I mentioned to Professor Scarth, but which no doubt could be overcome. A great deal of this work is lab work and involves preparation, materials, etc., which those who are putting it on have to plan and arrange before the periods. Then there is also one question in regard to it which I think should not be overlooked. The kind of work given at McGill would not be entirely satisfactory for Macdonald. Doubtless there is a certain amount of basic work similar in character given in both places at present, but the development of the work based on this is given an agricultural slant and relationship at Macdonald, and this can best be done, it seems to me, through contact here and by arrangement with us.

Yours faithfully,

W. Bartou
DEAN.