

July 14th, 1922.

Hon. Charles Stewart,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Stewart:-

In reply to your letter of the 29th of June which I found awaiting my attention on my return from the West I regret to say that McGill University is unable at present to provide rent free accommodation for the Forests Products Laboratories which you would regard as suitable.

We have at present no accommodation to spare and the demands for increased accommodation by our several Departments are so great that we cannot look forward to supplying what you would regard as suitable quarters for some time to come. Nevertheless I think it would be a very great pity and a very great mistake to remove these Laboratories to Ottawa. In all seriousness I submit that the Government should accept the offer which I made on behalf of McGill, namely to supply the ground on which the Government could erect a suitable building to house the Laboratories and to carry on the work which they are at present doing. I doubt very much whether it will be cheaper for you to move these Laboratories to Ottawa than to provide yourself accommodation here. You will have to go to the expense of moving, to the expense of fitting up the building in Ottawa as a laboratory, to the expense of purchasing considerable necessary machinery and equipment which is owned by us here and which we allow the Laboratories to use. The cost of administration in Ottawa will be no less than if the buildings were administered here.

Your policy of breaking up the association of these Laboratories with a University which has a large staff of very eminent scientists engaged in research work