



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS.

June 2nd, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal,
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My dear Sir Arthur:-

In accordance with the instructions received from your Secretary on May 29th, I submit herewith a brief report on the paper of Rev. J. A. Durocher, Ptre, Hemmingford, P.Q. on "Notes and Problems on Mathematics."

Any merit which the above paper possesses accrues solely to the writer thereof himself. In other words, no one can go to the trouble of working out even such simple mathematical problems as it contains, without deriving therefrom some little benefit. From a mathematical standpoint, however, there is nothing new whatsoever in the paper, and many of the problems can be attacked in a much simpler and more direct manner. Here and there throughout the paper have been added a few notes intended to point out simpler and more direct lines of approach, and while these are not given in great detail, yet they will serve to indicate more direct and modern methods.

The whole subject of surds may be treated by means of indices, resulting in much briefer formulae and more direct solution.

The treatment of abstraction of cube roots and fifth roots, as given in the paper, is incomplete, and I have indicated the weaknesses in the method and have shown the correct method of obtaining the successive figures by means of trial divisors. The two or three examples given are merely verifications, and fail to demonstrate the correct method.

If you care to do so, I shall be glad if you will suggest to the author of the paper that he may come to see me about it at any time, when I shall be glad to go over the whole in detail and explain fully the comments outlined above.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Bruce MacLean