

January
Twenty-seventh
1923.

Sir Herbert S. Holt,
83 Craig Street West,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Herbert:-

Through the generosity of Mr. Walter Stewart we are able to install in our Physics Laboratory an X-Ray Diffraction apparatus, which Dr. King, Macdonald Professor of Physics, requires for the further study of the micro-crystalline structure of liquids.

Professor King has examined equipment of the above mentioned type at the works of the General Electrical Company of Schenectady. He finds that that Company furnishes such equipment to educational institutions at cost price. The figures given him there are very much less than those quoted by the Canadian General Electric Company. I believe that the Canadian Company has an inclusive contract for Canadian territory, and, therefore, if we are forced to purchase this apparatus from the Canadian General Electric Company we shall have to pay a very much higher price than if it were possible to purchase the equipment from the General Electric Company.

On such equipment used in University laboratories there is no duty, although purchased in the United States, so that the difference in cost prices as quoted by the two companies must be the profit of the Canadian General Electric Company. It seems to me that the latter company might very well adopt the policy of the General Electric Company and allow University Research Departments to purchase electrical equipment at cost, in as much as the results of research often mean increased demand for electrical apparatus.