

DR. CASEY WOOD  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
CALIFORNIA

March 5, 1928.

Sir Arthur Currie  
Principal McGill University  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

Last week I went to San Francisco on a visit to my friends in the California Academy of Sciences. During my stay I met two interesting Academy officials with McGill affiliations.

The more important one was Mr. G.P. Rixford, Sc., McGill ##### 1864 - one of our oldest graduates. The MCGILL NEWS for June, 1921, as well as the CALIFORNIA COUNTRYMAN for Jan, 1928, furnish full life-histories of this truly remarkable young-old man, now in his 90th year. We talked on all sorts of subjects - largely about early McGill days - and I had an excellent opportunity of applying those tests for senility well known to every physician. I declare that to outward seeming my subject was not more than 60 years of age!

We have accepted an invitation to drive out to his semi-tropical fruit ranche about 10 miles from our house. At this place in the Los Altos hills he has succeeded in raising, he told me, 55 varieties of tropical and semi-tropical edible fruits.

No wonder our Dept. of Agriculture still retains him on their staff even at his age.

What the periodicals I have quoted fail to draw ones attention to is the evidence of hereditary influence in Mr. Rixford's family; his son is not only one of the most famous surgeons in this State but rose to the enviable position of President of the American Surgical Association - no mean distinction.

Second, but not less, in her particular field, is Miss Susie Peers, Secretary to the Director - a bright, competent girl, without whom Dr. Evermann's life wd. certainly be more or less of a dreary waste! She has shown her Canadian upbringing by influencing her brother (as I am informed) to enter McGill as a ## medical student:- Robert S. Peers, No. 11 Capitol Apts., 64 Victoria St., Montreal

The Academy has a pretty good library on Natural History which it has been @ collecting ever since the Earthquake-fire, when all the buildings, including a fine Museum and Library were entirely destroyed, except one rare and precious volume (a copy in McGill) and three type birdskins. These were rescued by the Director of the day at the risk of his life.

I spent several hours looking over the stacks, and calculated that they shelve, ##### in point of numbers and research value, about one-fifth of our library zoological titles.

My family are happily settled here in a pleasant house on the Campus, in touch with my old Stanford friends and, thanks to President Wilbur, enjoy all the University privileges; which means much in this part of the world.

May I once more mention the name of our old friend, George Iles of the Author's Club, New York and of the Cosmos in Washington? He is still a faithful adherent of the McGill cause.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours

Casey d. Wood