

Inter-department Correspondence



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
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MONTREAL.

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Another reason given to me by you why the receipts have fallen off was the sickness and disease amongst the birds. Apparently, we have not been able to combat this sickness and this disease successfully. Something must be done in our Poultry Department to correct this very great and alarming disparity between receipts and expenditures and to get rid of the sickness and disease in the flock.

You say that the two main functions of the Department are teaching and research. The question arises as to whether it is advisable for Macdonald College to continue the teaching in Poultry if our own experience is so regrettable. It would almost seem as if we would be acting more honestly if we told the Agricultural students that our own experience was so unfavourable in this matter of poultry that we had decided to discontinue the Department and advise farmers and others interested not to have anything to do with poultry. Our inability to keep the flock free from disease and in a healthy condition reflects seriously upon us. We are getting a bad reputation amongst poultry breeders. There are some who say they have come to the conclusion that they do not wish to replenish their stock by birds from Macdonald College.

I know, of course, that this matter of disease is one that has much to do with the income; and for the sake of that income, for the sake of our reputation as experts in poultry, we must get rid of it.

I hope that the report by yourself and Professor Conklin, as asked for by me yesterday, will not be long delayed.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.