



CANADA

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE DEPUTY MINISTER

*Personal*

Department of National Defence

QUOTE No.....

Ottawa, Canada

4th June, 1926.

Dear General:-

I have your letter of June 1st, regarding the appointment of a Professor of Electrical Engineering to fill the place of the late Dr. L.A. Herdt.

I feel very strongly that advantage should be taken of this opportunity to infuse some new blood into the Electrical Department and to obtain, as head of it, a man who will bring the Department back to some standing in Electrical Research.

Owing to Dr. Herdt's long illness and his absorption, in later years, in the economic aspects of the work, I am afraid that McGill has ceased to figure in the technical papers and discussions presented to <sup>the</sup> Institute of Electrical Engineers in London or to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in New York; the two principal associations of English speaking peoples concerned with this phase of engineering research.

I am keenly interested in the development of this work at McGill and each time I have been in Montreal I have made it a point to walk through the laboratories and to inquire what is being done. I have failed to find any evidence of any real research being undertaken and this despite the fact that there are many problems within the scope of the ~~material~~ resources and equipment available.

*Electrical* In 1914 McGill's best chance for useful research was in the study of High Voltage Phenomena. After several years of work a High Voltage Laboratory had been created which compared favourably with that of any university on the North American Continent with the possible exception of Leland Stanford in California. Since Hague and I left for overseas and, except for some routine testing at moderate voltages, this equipment has been unused and as late as last year I found some of my own old working diagrams pinned on the boards. The study of Transient Phenomena was also well advanced in 1914 but this too has not been proceeded with, although much useful research in it has been done elsewhere with great credit to the colleges at which it was carried out. These are only two of the fields which might have been exploited during the past few years.