Sir Arthur Currie,
        President, McGill University,
        Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

                On several occasions recently
I have been discussing with Professor King the
possibilities of establishing an astronomical
course at McGill University, and on the occasion
of a recent visit to Montreal I had some dis-
cussion with Professor Gillson on the same sub-
ject. In the course of these conversations it
was suggested that there might be the possibility
of arranging for some practical training of stu-
dents here. In view of this I thought that you
might be interested in knowing my views on the
matter.

                We have at the present time in
Canada no astronomical course in any of our Uni-
versities where it is possible for students to get
real practical training in an observatory so that
after graduation they could take a responsible part
in observatory work without considerable further
training. At Toronto they have a theoretical course,
which I believe is very good and which is being con-
stantly improved, and I understand that they are
also looking forward to the time when they will have
an observatory of their own. I believe, however,
that there is plenty room for courses at other Uni-
versities, and that at both Toronto and McGill, at
least, we should have real astronomical courses.

                With regard to the training of a
limited number of students, I have already remarked
to Professor King and Professor Gillson that I see
no reason why this could not be arranged satisfactorily.
Of course for such an arrangement to be permanently
satisfactory, it would have to be on a mutual basis;
that is, the practical work would require to be so
arranged that the student while getting instruction
would be able to contribute something to our obser-
vatory work, but I do not see any particular diffi-
culties in the way of this.

                I may say that since my return to
Ottawa I have talked the matter over with Mr. Cory,
our Deputy Minister, and that he is favourably disposed.

                                        If