

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

THE MACDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING

December  
Ninth  
1924

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal of McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

During more than twenty years the Departments of Mathematics and of Physics have worked together in a most cordial and harmonious manner, and, in consequence, have jointly developed an Honour School in Mathematics and Physics which is a great credit to McGill and the envy of many other Universities. Recent action shows that we may carelessly cast away a pearl of great price. Toronto University has recently passed through a somewhat similar transition, but we should not do so without careful thought, and, in any case, the present drift is being conducted in a fashion which is to be deplored.

The change, which may result in what might be termed a dissolution of partnership, was brought before the Faculty of Arts under a notice in the agenda which gave no indication of the actual scheme. Dr. King's protest was timely and just, although it received criticism from the chair.

No member of the Physics Staff, either publicly or privately, received intimation of the change, which was sufficiently important to demand some consultation between the mathematicians and the physicists. The point is this: taking human nature as it is, the majority of students are not likely to take an Honour Course in Mathematics AND Physics when they can obtain honours in Mathematics alone. Hence we may be compelled, in self-defence, to start an Honour Course in Physics alone; so that students may have three choices, (i) Honours in Mathematics, (ii) Honours in Physics, (iii) Honours in Mathematics and Physics.