

255 Windsor Street Station
Canadian Pacific Railway

F.L.WANKLYN,

M. INST. C. E.
M. E. I. C.
CABLE ADDRESS,
"WANKLYN."
A. B. C. CODE.

MONTREAL (CANADA)

June 7th, 1921

Genl. Sir A. W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
595 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Que.

My dear Sir Arthur:-

As promised I herewith attach a few notes which occurred to me during our recent visit to the Royal Military College, at Kingston. My general impression, formed on that occasion, was that perhaps there was an inclination to give too much time and attention to the physical and military end of the training, and owing to the amount that we had to see in this connection we were unable to form any appreciation of the academic work that the Cadets were doing.

While admitting that the R.M.C. is essentially a military academy we cannot overlook the fact that the Cadets graduating from the Institution have to make their way in the world and concurrently with the military training, during their 3 or 4 years at the College, they must be taught subjects that will be useful to them in civilian life after they graduate.

All branches of civil engineering and surveying should be given the ~~the~~ first consideration and in addition a thorough grounding in the French language. There are also minor subjects which would be of great value.

Just imagine the impression of the College that would be created in the mind of a well-to-do farmer in Ontario or the West, if he found that his soldier-son could weld a broken axle, make a horse shoe and fit it to the horse, that he could diagnose and cure the diseases inherent to the tractor motor, that he could readily repair leaky milk cans and fix the windmill that supplied the farm with water. One or two examples of this kind would make R.M.C. the most popular educational institution in the Dominion.

It is all within the bounds of possibility and arts easily learned by the intelligent bunch of boys that go through R.M.C.

I also attach great importance to an intimate knowledge of the design, construction and operation of the Westinghouse Air Brake, and all its accessories, and the necessity of becoming proficient in telegraphy, telephony, stenography and typewriting.

Boys having these qualifications will readily obtain remunerative employment on the Canadian National Railways, and