

THE LIBRARY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL, P. Q.

January 4, 1921

The Finance Committee  
McGill University  
Montreal, P. Q.

Gentlemen:

The Library Committee unanimously and urgently recommends for your approval the following appropriations for the Library from the funds raised in the Centennial Campaign:

1. Three additional library assistants	\$ 3,600
2. Increased funds for books, binding, and periodicals	17,000
3. Addition to library building as recom- mended in enclosed estimate	<u>135,000</u>
	\$155,600

This recommendation is based upon the following considerations:

1. McGill Library statistics for the past twenty years show a steady rate of growth and recently a marked increase in the number of readers.
2. McGill expenditures for assistance and purchases, when compared with those of some thirty representative American college libraries, show that McGill is behind institutions of its size in funds for books and in number of assistants.
3. The present overcrowded condition of the Library makes it necessary to place books on the floor or on shelves out of reach, has used up for storage purposes the study rooms formerly available, including even the janitor's quarters and the basement hall, and makes it impossible to unpack some donations or to shelve special libraries in accordance with the terms of the gifts.

The Library was originally built in 1893 and was enlarged seven years later. No additional space has been provided for the last twenty years. The limit of efficient operation was passed several years ago; and no successful business could tolerate the conditions under which library work has to be carried on. The present congestion not only reacts upon the University itself but upon possible donors and, in conjunction with scarcity of funds, upon the public, who are more and more coming to look upon McGill as providing a general reference library. It would be fatal for McGill to get the reputation of being ill equipped for this important service to the community.