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Ottawa, 15th June, 1920.

My dear Langley,-

I thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of the 8th instant offering me your congratulations on my acceptance of the Principalship of McGill, and also on receiving the sword of honour from the commanding officers of the units in the corps. Nothing which I have ever received pleased me more than the last mentioned gift. The sword is a most beautiful one in silver and gold with my initials in diamonds and rubies. It is very handsomely engraved and suitably inscribed. It also bears a reproduction of the different orders and decorations which I have received. What I most appreciate, though, are the terms of the address and the unanimity with which it was signed.

Regarding the appointment to McGill I assure you that I am going to Montreal with the most pleasant anticipations of the work there. Naturally one regrets severing direct association with the service with which I have been so intimately connected during recent years. I had many plans in mind for the good of the Militia, yet I have been long enough here to know that these plans were due for long and painful periods of incubation.

I cannot tell you with what relief I give up a Government position. I never liked being placed in the same class as the man who is rewarded for active political support, and I know that many people considered I had been given this position as a reward for my services and that I ought to be jolly well satisfied. I did not want to hold the position if I was not the best man for it, and I did not want to receive a cent more than the position is worth. If the Canadian Government thought I was rewarded for my services by this position they may keep the reward.