

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL**

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

October 3rd, 1931.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I am returning the letter written to you by George C. McIntyre with reference to the engagement of Sir Alexander Gibb to report on the general problem of Canadian harbours. He asks whether there are available graduates of McGill University or of any other Canadian University equally capable of doing this work. I do not know the precise terms of reference in regard to this inquiry.

There are many engineers in Canada with considerable experience in harbour work, both from the point of view of construction and development. I might mention J.J. Macdonald, a graduate of our Faculty, who was designing engineer in connection with the Halifax harbour many years ago. He has recently been engaged on the reconstruction of the wharves destroyed by fire at St. John during the past summer. I do not know to what extent he has studied the general question of economics of harbour administration, and it may well be that Sir Alexander Gibb has been asked to report on this phase of the problem.

Then again, one might mention engineers such as Mr. F. W. Cowie, former Chief Engineer of the Montreal Harbour Board, and Mr. Swan, an engineer from the old country who came out to Canada many years ago and has been identified with harbour development work, notably at Vancouver. Mr. Swan is not a McGill graduate.

In addition, McGill graduates are serving in the Department of Public Works, and in this way have been brought into contact with harbour construction and harbour problems. Mr. D.W. McLachlan is a graduate in Civil Engineering who served as Chairman of the Canadian Section of the St. Lawrence Waterways Board. Previous to that he was identified with the harbour works on the Hudson Bay, and I believe is still connected with this work.