



34 Drummond Place,
Edinburgh.

19th July, 1926.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal,
Canada.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Please believe it is not want of gratitude for your delightfully long letter about McGill which has delayed my answer so long. But the fact is that I have had a tremendously hard year preparing new lectures and getting into my new work, and latterly I have put off writing till I could see some of our McGill friends at the Historical and Universities Conferences, which I have just been attending. I was very fortunate in seeing so many - ~~Wagh~~ Adair, McKay, Caldwell and Bovey. They all seemed very fit and as keen as ever, and in both Conferences were holding up the flag of McGill most effectively. It is wonderful to hear that the old Arts building is rising so quickly, like the Phoenix, almost unchanged in appearance, but a really worthy building inside.

We both feel very grateful for the many warm-hearted friends both of the Staff and the students who write us so many letters and make us feel still so much in touch with old McGill. But even so, we do miss Canada immensely. The sun and vigour of the place, and above all the warm-hearted friendships which were given to us so generously.

I should very much like to have a talk with you about Canadian politics now, and to hear what you feel about the political crisis. My own view, from a constitutional point of view, is that Lord Byng was absolutely right in what he did. It seemed to me that when Mackenzie King asked for a dissolution, the King or any Governor General, from a constitutional point of view, would have said "You are not even the largest party in the House. We have only had a General Election a few months ago, and you have been defeated on a rather sorry business and bound to give the larger party in the House a chance of seeing whether they can carry on the affairs of the country in these circumstances". But when Meighen found that he could not carry on the Government, as there was no other party which could possibly carry on the Government, then Lord Byng had no alternative but to grant their dissolution. I believe all the talk that Amery at Whitehall had ~~some~~ something to do with it is pure nonsense. I do wish, if you have time, you would let me know what your views are on the matter, and what the prospects of the next Election are.

I wish you could find a decent house to settle in; it must be awfully unhealthy being in the hotel all the time. We have had nearly a year's experience of living about in boarding-houses and furnished houses, without my books around me, and have only just got into a house, which at first we had to share with painters, paperers, plumbers, etc.etc., but I think it will be alright when we get settled there.

William/