

January 31st 1923

Hon. W. G. Mitchell,

Bank of Ottawa Building,

M o n t r e a l.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:-

I am very much obliged to you for sending me copy of a letter by Sir Arthur Currie, relating to the importation of scientific books into Canada, and, generally, for the interest you have taken in that matter.

The point at issue does not relate to the importation of scientific books by the University as a corporation, but rather to the importation of books by professors and other instructors and by students, for the purposes of their own study and research. When an officer of the University, or a student, in the pursuit of their studies or research import books, monographs, scientific reprints, in fact any printed matter, these are invariably held in customs. A notification is then sent to the addressee that he may go down to customs, have the package opened in the presence of a customs official, and he is then asked a duty on book, monograph or reprints which is determined by the customs official. This is carried so far that the same method is pursued even when complimentary copies, catalogues, and other publications that have no commercial value, are sent to teachers in the University in a purely complimentary way. This is not only a time consuming and