

Copy to Colombo
Copy to New Delhi.

January 12,
1931.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I was very glad to get your long letter this morning. Mrs. McMurray and I have been checking over your mailing addresses, as I had thought in any case of writing you soon to give you the news.

What you say about the East and Russia is all very interesting. Those of us who sit here feel in a helpless way that we should be trying to understand it at least. I, for one, find it extremely baffling.

The scandal about Sir F.W. had reached us here, but I shall pass your message on to Corbett, who will be very amused about the spirit shown by the Count.

About English, keen as I am to make a change there, it ~~think~~ is of such utter importance that sheer excellence be introduced that I think we should hesitate and draw back altogether, unless: (a) the candidate is well recommended by at least two people in a position to judge; and, in addition (b) the candidate, in your own judgment, is both an effective and amiable human being. In the teaching of literature, English or not, humanism and character must reinforce scholarship.

Sadler is right about Nichol Smith not being "active"; and unless he has changed since I knew him, his opinion about anything else but scholarship - and even there not very much - hardly matters.

About Joseph Fisher, mentioned by Sadler, at Alberta University, from what he says of his youth and of his own lack of intimate knowledge of Fisher, I suppose you would not be enthusiastic.

The man at Alberta University recommended by the Toronto professors I consulted is R.K.Gordon, a Canadian, who did very well at Oxford. I did not mention this before because I knew you wished to canvass the other field first.

In view of what you say about Adams being ready to discuss an English professor, I shall talk with him about it, and very confidentially with F. Clarke, and make some further very tentative enquiries as well.