

DR. CASEY WOOD
House-boat "Bendemeer"
Srinagar, Kashmir,
North India.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

January 28th, 1926.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

When I began to make the collection of Sinhalese Coins about which I wrote some time ago, I did not expect to run across the "treasure Trove" described by Mr. John Still in the enclosed report. As matters now stand, it looks as if McGill is to possess a finer collection of the rarer Ceylon coinage than the Colombo or British Museum. Of course the "find" ought to be properly examined and catalogued by experts. This has been done partly for me by Mr. Still (who catalogued the coins in the Colombo Museum) but as he is not sufficiently conversant with Arabic it will be necessary to have many coins examined in the British Museum. Mr. Still will be in England if and when I arrive in Montreal and has promised to assist the B.M. expert in deciphering and classifying such of the coins as I shall be unable to place by the aid of the notes made here and more leisurely comparison with Codrington's Catalogue and other authorities. I shall be glad to do this work on my arrival at the University some time in the Spring of 1927. There is just this proviso that I wish to make - the duplicates I would like to dispose of in any way I see fit. At the moment, it seems proper that some of them should be offered to the Colombo Museum - especially as we shall have several hundreds more than their comparatively meagre supply, and of their own coins! Then we can probably exchange these rare and very valuable coins for others (through dealers and so build up a collection representative of most other countries.

But there is also even a more important consideration - not to let our light shine under a bushel. If I live and turn up in Montreal, I shall be glad to write a monograph on ORIENTAL HOOK MONEY (Larins) illustrated by and with the McGill collection - now by far the most important collection in the world. The moral effect of drawing attention to that fact should, I think, not be overlooked.

Meantime, if anything happens to me, the whole collection is unconditionally the property of McGill, but I would like to feel that somebody should write it up properly for publication in one of the University periodicals.

By the time this reaches you we shall be on our way to Kashmir for the Summer and Autumn, and my address will be as above.