MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS:
STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

POST OFFICE:
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

February 11, 1933.

Dr. J.F. Snell,
Macdonald College.

Dear Doctor Snell:

Acting in accordance with the request of the Principal I have today sent the following telegram to Mr. Alex. McRae, Patent Solicitor, Ottawa: (56 Sparks St.)

"Please stop all investigation peat patent "possibilities per my letter February eighth STOP Letter "follows. R.R. McKibbin"

I have also written to Mr. McRae advising him that because of certain circumstances we do not wish him to proceed with his study of the patent literature.

In connection with this question of ammoniated peat I believe that it is fair to point out that more than a year ago at Dean Barton's request I started work for Messrs. Stinson & Reeb of Montreal, analyzing samples of Alfred peat. At that time I completed the analyses they wanted and discharged my obligation to them. It was then that the idea of reinforcing this acid carex peat with ammonia, potash and phosphoric acid occurred to me. However, it so happens that since the question of peat work for the provincial government has arisen (that is to say, since Christmas, 1932) I have used some material from another acid carex peat bog (the Large Tea Field bog, Huntingdon) for some further studies. When I saw the note about the U.S.Dept. of Agriculture work with peat it occurred to me that some action might be taken about the findings that I had made.

I am quite content to drop the whole question at this point as I realize that there may be some complications that would be troublesome to the University. I should like to ask, however, if it may not be wise for someone to mention to some Canadian manufacturers the possibilities inherent in this process, as otherwise we will continue importation as at present of untreated peat, and very soon, of the ammoniated product? start importation,

Yours very truly,

R.R. McKibbin,
Asst.Professor of Agricultural Chemistry.

RRM/M