

February 5, 1932.

A. Remes, Esq.,
Consulat General de Belgique,
Montreal.

My dear Consul Remes,

Let me acknowledge your letter of February 1st in which you enclose a copy of a Canadian Press despatch as published in the Vancouver Star of the date 18th of January. Let me at once say that I am glad to have your assurance that you look on me as a friend of Belgium, for which country, its soldiers and its noble King and Queen I have the very highest regard.

With reference to the article written by Professor Stephen Leacock for the New York Tribune Sunday Magazine, let me say that I never attempt to explain or to defend any article by one of the professors of this University. I do not suppose I read one-twentieth of what they write. We are proud of the fact that at McGill there is no limitation placed upon what a professor may write or say at any time or in any place. All that we try to ask is that a professor knows what he is talking about, recognises that there are two sides to every question and that he is not a paid propagandist. As to the source of Professor Leacock's information, he draws my attention to the following facts. In February 1908 a British parliamentary paper (Africa No.1, 1908) was issued containing consular reports concerning the state of affairs in the Congo. The consul at Boma after detailing various abuses added, "The system which gave rise to these abuses still continues unchanged and so long as it is unaltered the condition of the nations must remain one of veiled slavery." On the same day the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey (later Viscount Grey) declared that "the Congo State had morally forfeited every right to international recognition." (Enc. Brit. 1927. Vol.6, p. 245)