

**FILE 815**

**PRINCIPAL: CURRIE'S DIARY**

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**(FRAGMENTARY)**

**1923 - 1925**

At a meeting of the Sigma Xi held on  
20th March, 30 members present

Resolved

"That the Sigma Xi Society strongly  
endorses the proposal for a Faculty  
Club readily available for all men  
on the Instructional and Administrat-  
ive Staff of McGill University."

A. S. P.

Vice President  
Sigma Xi Society

Saturday,

February 24th, 1923.

Mr. R. L. Hamilton of the Students' Council saw me with reference to the constitution of the body it is intended to create to deal with all matters of finance and all questions of policy of University athletics.

The University had a gala day in respect to Intercollegiate sports, winning the championship in the Ladies' Basketball, Water polo, Boxing, Fencing and Wrestling, and tying in the Men's Basketball.

Tuesday, February 27th, 1923.

Consulted with Lord Shaughnessy with reference to project of Mr. Gillespie and was advised to leave it alone.

Lunched with Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor at his house to meet the Dean of Windsor. There were present Messrs. Beatty, Molson, Meredith, Laing, Geoffrion and Leacock.

At three o'clock had a meeting of the Deans in my office where they gave their approval to the plan to consolidate the records in the office of the Registrar. My understanding was that if any Dean needed a duplicate set this would be prepared by the Registrar and given to the Dean.

Had a number of Professors to meet the Dean of Windsor at tea in the Mount Royal Club.

Dined with the Harvard Club in the evening.

(1) That we allow the building to be erected on our property.

(2) That the I.O.D.E. organization would administer the building.

(3) That McGill could have the use of it whenever desired.

(4) At the end of a period of years, say 25, the building would become the property of the University.

There was a good deal of discussion about the project, at the end of which it was agreed that the University would prepare a memo setting forth the conditions under which it would be prepared to join the I.O.D.E. in the project, if such a union were possible .

February 23rd, 1923.

The third of the series of lectures in

Industrial Medicine was given by Professor G. C. Whipple of Harvard University. The attendance was the largest yet and while the lecture was very interesting it did not rank with that of Dr. Emerson.

A largely attended meeting of the Protestant Board of Education was held to-day and adjourned to meet in a month's time. This adjournment was necessary owing to the inability of the Textbook Committee to make a complete report. The matter of the training of High School Teachers was again brought up and the old committee was asked to get in touch with McGill and Lennoxville to find out just what these institutions contemplated in the development of this course.

February 21, 1923.

Mr. J. J. Harpell of the Garden City Press approached me with reference to some members of the staff of Macdonald College giving some of their time to assist him in a Correspondence School.

Dental Undergraduate dinner was held in the Mount Royal Hotel and was quite one of the best students' functions that I have attended, were it not for the fact that the chairman, one Macmillan, was somewhat under the influence of liquor and he became rather wearisome before the evening was over.

February 22nd, 1923.

At the funeral of Sir Thomas Roddick, where there was a very large attendance of McGill Governors, Faculty and Medical Students, I was informed that Sir Thomas had left to McGill Medical School some \$50,000.

At 3.15 a meeting was held in Mr. Beatty's office where there were present besides himself, Mr. John W. Ross, Mr. W. R. Miller, Mr. W. M. Birks, Mr. Glassco and myself of the University and Mrs. R.A.E. Greenshields representing the I.O.D.E.

Mrs. Greenshields explained that the organization desired to erect a War Memorial which would take the form of a Hall, providing accommodation for lectures, concerts, etc., and offices for Women's organizations. Mrs. Greenshields advanced every argument in support of the need for such a Hall. She suggested that as McGill needed a Convocation Hall and had contemplated erecting such a building in the near future the I.O.D.E. and ourselves might join forces in the project. She suggested:-

McGILL UNIVERSITY

February 20th, 1923.

After the meeting of the Bank this morning Col. Herbert Molson spoke to me with reference to the proposition from the Royal Victoria Hospital received by the Maternity Hospital. He said that he was afraid he would have to admit that from a University standpoint the proposition ought to receive the support of the University, but he pointed out that the staff of the Montreal General Hospital, all of whom were McGill graduates, would feel that one more thing was transpiring which would place them at a disadvantage with the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital. He feared that violent and sustained opposition would come from the staff of the Montreal General. My position was that a Maternity Department of the Royal Victoria Hospital ~~would give us the facilities we required, that we would have~~ the same privileges and powers in connection with it as we have under the present arrangement, that the staff of the Maternity Hospital would be safe-guarded, and every service rendered by the Maternity Hospital would be rendered under the new arrangements. I also held that it was a pronounced step forward towards the desired end of the amalgamation of the Royal Victoria and the Montreal General Hospitals, intimating that when Mr. Beatty, recently appointed to the Board of the Royal Victoria Hospital, should succeed Sir Vincent Meredith as President of that institution progress in the larger hospital scheme would be much accelerated.

February 20th, 1923.

P.M.

Lunched with Professor Martin, brother of Dr. C. F. Martin, at the Mount Royal Club where we discussed how the desire of himself and his brothers to help the University and to perpetuate their father's memory could best be fulfilled.

I suggested that help should come in the form of scholarships, surrounded by such conditions that those only would receive them who were capable of profiting thereby and to whom a university education would be denied but for such help. I suggested that some of these scholarships should be ear-marked for the sons or daughters of graduates, while others should be retained for distribution to those who were orphaned by the war. Professor Martin will communicate with me later when the proposition takes more definite shape.

Feb. 20th. Death of Sir Thomas Roddick, Governor of the University and ex-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

February 21st, 1923.

Dr. Joseph Nolin, Dean of the Dental Faculty of the University of Montreal, came to see me with reference to requirements demanded by the College of Dental Surgeons of the Province of Quebec, assuring me that the desire of the College was to work in harmony with McGill Dental School. He seemed to think that if we were prepared to endorse two years in Arts as a preliminary to Dentistry there would be no difficulty in meeting the wishes of the College of Dental Surgeons. He is to send me a copy of the matriculation requirements and agreed to meet Dean Laing, Dr. Thornton and myself in further conference on the matter.

Thursday, March 22nd, 1923.

To-day at the University Club Dr. Nolin, Dean of the Dental School of the University of Montreal, lunched with Dean Laing, Dean Thornton, Dr. Nicholson and myself. We discussed the requirements of the Dental College, and as far as I can see the best thing for our students to do is to write on the matriculation examination of that Board. Unless the standard of that examination is raised it ought to be comparatively easy for a student in first year Arts to pass it. What will make it hard for us to induce the Government to force the hands of the Dental College is the fact that the University of Montreal agrees with the Dental College requirements. We, of course, believe that their Arts standard does not compare with ours in the matter of equivalence. I was not very much encouraged as a result of the luncheon, nor was I particularly impressed with the good faith of Dr. Nolin.

Professor Lafleur called and told me of the condition of his health, a statement confirmed by his brother who assured me that the Professor has tuberculosis and he advises that the Professor be relieved as much as possible from further teaching.

Friday, March 23rd.

Dr. Laing forwarded to me correspondence which he had with the authorities at Chicago, who are endeavouring to entice him to resume connection with the staff of the University of Chicago. I saw him later in the day when he assured me that he was perfectly happy at McGill and would not definitely decide for some time.

Sunday, March 25th, 1923.

Dined with the Zeta Beta Tau Society, a Jewish Fraternity. Was very much struck by the facility of expression of the students and ex-students who spoke. It would be interesting to find out their academic standing.

Monday, March 26th, 1923.

Dean Laing told me of the definite offer he had received from the Chicago people. They offered to make him Dean of the Graduate School, which they say is now, or at least will very shortly become, the greatest Graduate School in America. His teaching hours per week would be but four, while he would be consulted freely in the development of the University policy. I pointed out to him that next year he would be Vice-Principal of this University and Dean of our Graduate School and that I believed there was a present opportunity of his influencing Canadian education, an influence which would be greater than that which he could bring to bear as head of the Graduate School in Chicago. I told him that as a Canadian he ought to consider that side of the question. That if he returned to America now he was lost to Canadian education for good. I also impressed upon him the place he had won in the University and in the city. Apparently there are no temptations in the way of salary offered to him, but I gathered that Mrs. Laing is very homesick for Chicago.

Dr. Hickson also informed me to-day that he could no longer work under Dr. Caldwell and if Caldwell returned to the University he asked that his resignation be accepted. Professor Williams also informed me of a plan he had to get the help of Terry MacDermot, who next September comes to the staff of Lower Canada College.

Thursday, March 29th, 1923.

Accompanied Mr. Beatty to Ottawa and saw Mr. Fielding re exemption from taxation of that portion of income used for benevolent purposes. We were joined by

May 21st, 1923.

On Saturday, May 19th had lunch at the Mount Royal Club with the Hon. Mr. Taschereau and Mr. Walter Mitchell. We discussed at considerable length the increased matriculation requirements as set up by the Quebec Dental Council and as discussed by other professional bodies. Mr. Taschereau was keenly interested in the matter and Mr. Mitchell forcibly placed before him the belief that the degree granted by Quebec Classical Colleges was not an equivalent of the B.A. degree of McGill. I pointed out that were the decision of the Dental Council to prevail it would make the dental profession more than ever a closed corporation, and that in future it would be limited to the sons of rich men and most likely only to French-Canadians.

Mr. Taschereau was very sympathetic and said that I could rest assured of one thing and that is he would not tolerate any unfairness to the English-speaking minority. He gave it as his belief that it was unnecessary to ask a man to have B.A. qualifications before entering a School of Dentistry. He and Mr. Mitchell were that afternoon to see the Secretary of the Dental Council and Mr. Mitchell was to let me know the result of that interview, together with any suggestions as to future action, Mr. Taschereau having intimated that he would do whatever the Universities advised even to the extent of passing legislation curtailing the powers of the Dental Council.

Sir Andrew McPhail was delighted with the proposition seeing that it was the first time that the interests of the professors were placed ahead of the interests of the students. He predicted much good results would follow.

Professor Traquair cordially supported the Club and gave the experiences of the Arts Club. He thought that there should be 200 members and if so, the annual expenses would run to about \$6,000. He thought that everyone should join, pointed out that the Club would run only eight months in the year which would add to the expense, considered that the provision of dinner was as necessary as the provision of lunch, and thought that Sunday meals ought to be provided.

Dr. Ruttan seconded Dr. Leacock's motion.

~~Dr. Simpson~~ asked that consideration be given to the admission of graduate students.

A resolution from the Sigma Xi Society shewing that they were cordially in favour of the Faculty Club was read.

Professor Leacock did not believe that the club should become an incorporated body, but that the building should be given by the Governors and used in the name of the University. He thought that if rent, heat and light were provided the Governors could have the assurance that the staff would bear the up-keep. He thought the income from fees might be looked upon as \$3,000. and that initial expenses would probably be about \$3,000. He suggested that life memberships be sold and thought that certain professors would contribute a four year membership. He suggested widening the membership to the Administrative staff and the Governors and offered the following resolution:-

That this meeting requests the Principal to call together a Committee to consist of himself and the Deans of the Faculties and such other members as they may add to their number, and

That this Committee shall take steps to find out the number of members of the teaching and administrative staffs of the University who are willing to join a Faculty Club on the general terms indicated in memorandum to be prepared by the Committee in accordance with the views expressed at this meeting,

That if the number of prospective members warrants it they shall call a meeting of all these prospective members and submit to it a definite plan of organization to be handed on to the Governors as the basis of permanent organization.

NOTE:- This resolution having been unanimously adopted a large number of those present, whose names appear in a schedule attached herewith, indicated by their signatures their willingness to become members of the Club.

Tuesday, March 20th, 1923.

This afternoon at five o'clock in the Lecture Room, Medical Building, nearly 200 teachers of the University attended a meeting which was called for the purpose of giving consideration to the proposal to establish a Faculty Club.

Dean Laing stated that the idea had originated with the Arts Faculty and it was hoped that such a Club might be established, but that they would have to look to the University to provide a house, light and heat. He thought there would be no competition with the University Club, as only 38% of the teaching staff of the University belonged to that Club and of those who did belong one-half were part-time men, such as lawyers and doctors. This meant that less than 20% of the teaching staff of McGill used the University Club. As regards fees he stated that they must be small and suggested \$15.00 for Demonstrators and \$25.00 for Professors, or a sliding scale. He pointed out that no place at present existed where the teaching staff could meet each other socially; that the University Club did not serve this purpose and that a great many teachers had no chance of knowing each other, and that such clubs, though modest, were successful elsewhere. He thought the members should include all the officers of instruction at McGill and the Affiliated Colleges and raised the question as to whether wives should have privileges.

Dr. Adams stated that in his opinion the University needs such a Club and the size of the present meeting shewed that it was warranted. Its success would depend on the measure of co-operation secured from all.

Dr. Armstrong gave it as his opinion that the Medical staff would most cordially welcome such a club.

Professor Smith speaking for the Law Faculty stated that the full-time men approved and that he thought the Faculty generally would also.

February 26th, 1925.

Mr. Glassco sent Mr. Webster (R.V.H.)  
extract from Minutes of Governors' meeting at which  
agreement between McGill and Royal Victoria Hospital  
re University Clinic was confirmed.

Lunched with Colonel Jones of Spanish  
River Pulp & Paper when we discussed further the  
co-operation which we endeavoured to bring about  
between the Pulp and Paper School and McGill. I told  
him we had taken steps to obtain a Chemical Engineer.