

2  
Co Res Mr. Mount  
Lakeview, near Lachine  
Que.

July 12<sup>th</sup> 32

Dear Sir Arthur,

I am sorry I did not  
succeed in seeing you before I  
left Montreal. I phoned several  
times and called but unfortunately  
did not find you in. I was  
anxious to pay my respects to  
you before discussing business  
matters.

When I submitted my  
resignation to you, I did so  
for the best interests of the  
University, as I recognised

that my efficiency as a teacher + investigator was finished. I had no thought of the future, for I expected that my Carnegie pension would be at the rate of \$1800<sup>00</sup> a year, but when I returned I found that I was receiving only \$35<sup>53</sup> per month, and presume was exchange at par it would be even less. Neither the university nor the bank had notified me of this, so I was much surprised. Had I sufficient private means, I would not mind, but the present situation has impoverished my slender resources.

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Even if I had more ample means the present amount I am receiving seems rather inadequate.

Had I remind you of my past service? The incessant strain of responsibility at Macdonald, the starting of a policy, which I believe is now keeping up the supply of students to Macdonald, the amount of teaching undertaken, the large output of research work, largely carried out during the summer when I should have taken a vacation, the starting of graduate work at Macdonald, etc.

Truly with thus ready the University can afford a little better recompense to one of its worn out professors?

4.

I regret having to make  
this appeal to you. but not  
my present circumstances  
warrant it.

Respectfully & sincerely yours.

F. C. Dawson

Six Avenue Currie C. B. M. Ch.  
McGill University  
Montreal.

Dr. Harrison

July 21st, 1932.

Dr. F. C. Harrison.

My dear Dr. Harrison,

It is a pleasure for me to tell you that the Board at its meeting yesterday was very pleased to supplement the Carnegie pension. I hope this action will remove any worry you have. Please come to see me when you come to town.

May I now express to you my personal appreciation of your kindness in giving to the Royal Victoria College the nice gift of furniture.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

July 15, 1932.

My dear Dr. Harrison,

I am very sorry that I did not see you during the few days you were in Montreal. I feel that the blame lies altogether with me and I have a guilty conscience. I did not realize that you were intending to leave the city, and was waiting for a convenient time when I could have a long chat with you. I appreciate your kindness in calling and very much regret not seeing you.

I shall at once take up the matter you have raised in your letter and write you in the near future. I am astonished to learn that your Carnegie Pension amounts to only a little over \$55 a month. This is the first I have heard of it and I promise you that I will see what can be done. As you say, an unexpectedly very much reduced pension from the Foundation and none from the University is a poor recompense for one who made the contribution you did to the fame and welfare of McGill and to education generally.

Ever yours faithfully,

Signed A.W. Currie.

Principal.

Copy

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

GRADUATE FACULTY

May 12. '30

Dear Sir Arthur,

During the past year I have been more & more conscious of failing powers. As you know I have been troubled with a form of arthritis for several years. & during this time have been conscious by pain or ache of every step I take, going up stairs, even dressing involve me always an addition of pain. During this year however, my arms have troubled me, & at times lifting them or even blackboard writing cause me a greater expenditure of effort owing to the pain. Other physical effects constantly occur which I will not specify.

The continued effect of this has affected my nerves & mentality. & I have to confess to you, & I have not dared say it to anyone, that I feel that my days as a teacher are numbered, & that the responsibilities I have been asked to undertake are too much for me. In a sense it is humiliating to have to say that mind & memory are so deteriorating. That the thought of a lecture fills me with apprehension. Recently, so acute has this become, that I

have had to write out my lectures. I seem to suffer a forgetfulness, now for a word, or its spelling, & now for some fact that I thought I knew well. With this forgetfulness I have the further trouble that I cannot get up new material, & any creative ability that I had seems gone. I can't think up material for graduate students. In late years bacteriology has become more chemical & mathematical. I had a fair knowledge of chemistry, but to day I cannot use it. The formula seem to go, & I can't trust myself to write the simplest formula on the board. & this spring I had to resort to the subterfuge of writing such on the board before my lecture. Such 'bluff' I can't keep up, & feel that in the interests of the University I should confer to you. As for mathematics, I wanted some for my work, but after working at them for some time my mind refused to carry them. These are the broad outlines, the details I am ashamed to set out. I feel that the University should have a well equipped bacteriological professor at this juncture, a man who knows his chemistry & bacteriology, & can plan & do the necessary research work as well as lecture on the later developments. Physically & mentally I do not feel able to do it, & unless I can rest & get away I feel I am in for a worse breakdown. I have no confidence in myself, & feel that as a University teacher I cannot do more. In view of this I am writing to ask you to retire me as soon as this term is over.

Finally I want to say how much I appreciate your many kindnesses, unvarying courtesy, & the confidence you have so often given me.

Very sincerely yours,  
E. C. Harrison.

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March  
Thirtieth  
1922.

Dr. F. C. Harrison,  
Principal, Macdonald College,  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Dear Dr. Harrison:-

Replying to your letter of March 29th, I believe it would be advisable for you to go to the Nova Scotia School of Agriculture and also to any other institutions in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia where you could have any influence in inducing students to come to Macdonald College. I am only sorry that I cannot go with you. This, of course, must not be at your own expense.

Re the closing exercises for the School for Teachers and the School of Household Science, I do not see any objection to their being combined. I shall be very glad to go out and preside on Wednesday, the 7th of June.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

Wp

November  
Twenty-fourth  
1921.

Private and Confidential.

President L. S. Klinck,  
University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear President Klinck:-

I desire to obtain for my private information your opinion regarding Macdonald College. I know that you were a member of its staff for some years and doubtless know most of those who are now on the staff. I also know that before you were President of the University of British Columbia you were Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. Your opinion is one which I shall value highly, and in expressing it I would like you to be as frank as possible.

For some time I have known that a number of members of the staff have not been satisfied with Dr. Harrison's administration. It is a very difficult matter for me to approach them, because I must avoid encouraging disloyalty, yet the trouble is there and I want to get at the root of it.

I believe that before the war you had associated yourself with others in a memorial setting forth certain grievances which the staff had and also the opinion that the College was not fulfilling its mission. I do not think anything came of that, but the matter has come up again, not in an official way, but certain members of the staff have approached a lawyer here and sought his advice as to what they might do to remedy grievances.

Of course, I have heard charges against Dr. Harrison, but they were more particularly in connection with the School For The Training

President L.S.Klinck - 2 -

of Teachers. On investigation I have found in every case that the charges did not hold water. I have also heard that he does not get on well with the citizens of the town of Ste. Anne, though I can find nothing definite at the bottom of it. I have also heard him very seriously censured for a case of typhoid which occurred there, but after investigation, I concluded that the College had taken all possible steps to see that the water was free from impurities.

Will you please write to me frankly and confidentially and tell me what, in your opinion, is at the back of it all. I want to clear up the situation as soon as possible because, if allowed to continue, it will only get worse. Where there is no harmony in the staff there cannot be the greatest efficiency.

I would also be obliged for frank criticism regarding the curriculum at Macdonald College. There is a great plant there which ought to be used to the fullest and best advantage.

Montreal is in the grip of real winter weather, and on these days I often think of the salubrity of Vancouver's climate, somewhat envying you the while.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

copy



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

VANCOUVER, CANADA

December 9-1921.

Confidential

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

Dear Principal Currie:

Although I have been associated with Principal Harrison more or less closely for the past twenty-two years, I find it extremely difficult to give a just appreciation of him and of his services to Macdonald College. This is due in large measure, to the fact that I do not really know him and I should perhaps add, that the responsibility for this may not rest wholly with Dr. Harrison.

You ask me what lies back of the dissatisfaction among the staff and what is, at bottom, the occasion for the disquieting rumors which sometimes reach you from the public. As I see it, the reason, so far as it may be attributed to Dr. Harrison, lies in his personality. Dr. Harrison is a scientist, not an administrator- at least not a public administrator. He has failed to gain the confidence of the original staff and has been equally unsuccessful in his honest endeavor to retain the loyal support and cooperation of those members who have been appointed during his administration. I regard it as little less than a tragedy in the life of Dr. Harrison that attempts on his part to make himself acceptable to his staff, and to at least one part of the constituency of the College and of the Province, only seem to accentuate an unfortunate condition rather than to relieve it.

When I say these things, I am not unmindful of the fact that there are certain elements in the situation at Macdonald which make the position of Principal an extremely difficult one. Some of the dissatisfaction arises from conditions inherent in the situation and so is largely beyond the control of the

Sir Arthur Currie-2-

responsible head. But when due allowance has been made for these factors, candor compels me to reply in a way calculated to give you an adverse opinion, although, as you have seen, that opinion is not unmixed with appreciation of some of the difficulties and with a high personal regard for Dr. Harrison as a scientist.

I am preparing a criticism of the curriculum of Macdonald College and shall hope to have it ready in the course of a few days.

Yours very truly,

R. D. Kline

December  
Seventh  
1921.

Dr. F. C. Harrison,  
Principal, Macdonald College,  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Dear Dr. Harrison:-

I do not know what you thought of the conference last Saturday morning. That is something which we may discuss further when I next visit Macdonald College, which I intend to do next Saturday morning. I hope to go out on the 10.05 train to have lunch with you and to meet in the afternoon Mr. Beatty and Mr. Cowan, who are going out for the purpose of having a look about the plant.

When I go on Saturday morning I hope to see Professor Barton and the other members of the staff whom I was unable to see the other afternoon.

Regarding last Saturday's conference, you remember we spoke of a committee of the heads of the different Departments at Macdonald to consider the regulations which should be set up governing the domestic life of the College. I think it would be a good thing if you would establish that committee at once and have a meeting at the earliest possible moment, allowing the heads of departments every facility to state what they consider might be done to make the atmosphere of the College as desirable as possible.

Dr. F.C.Harrison,

- 2 -

You will remember, also, that I promised the Protestant Committee that I would appoint a small sub-committee to meet a small sub-committee of theirs to consider further matters relative to the School for the Training of Teachers at Macdonald. Who do you think should be our representatives on that small sub-committee?

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

December  
Sixteenth  
1921.

Dr. F. C. Harrison,  
Principal, Macdonald College,  
Macdonald College, Que.

Dear Dr. Harrison:-

When I attended a meeting of the Protestant Committee of the Department of Public Instruction, I heard a statement made in connection with the School Fairs that Macdonald College had been doing this at an excessive cost.

I do not know just what was meant, but the words "excessive cost" struck me, especially in the light of our financial difficulties.. As I understand it these School Fairs are run by the Department of agriculture in every district where that Department has a representative, but in those districts where there are no representatives ( some four in number)we arrange for these Fairs. I believe they have done a great deal of good, but I think the cost should be borne altogether by the Department of Agriculture.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

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November  
Seventeenth  
1921.

Dr. F. C. Harrison,  
Principal, Macdonald College,  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Dear Dr. Harrison:-

I am very pleased to forward you a copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the four Co-operating Theological Colleges.

I am glad the Colleges were able to pass such a resolution and I congratulate you on receiving it.

It may interest you also to learn that Mr. Grantham of the United States Rubber Plantations, Inc. of New York City, makes the following statement in his report to his Company: "I spent two days in Montreal, one visiting the works of the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Company, and the second visiting the Macdonald College of Agriculture at Ste. Anne. This is the finest institution of its kind I have seen".

I hope to go to Macdonald on the train which leaves here at 8.15 on Saturday morning. I will have to return by the 1.30 train from there. I would like to see the heads of the Departments.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

RESOLUTION

PASSED BY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF CO-OPERATING THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGES.

On receiving the report of the Summer School for rural ministers held annually at Macdonald College, under the joint auspices of the four co-operating Theological Colleges, it was resolved that this Board put on record its high appreciation of the service rendered by Dr. Harrison, the Principal of Macdonald College, in connection with the School. From various testimony this Board has learned that his whole-hearted leadership in preparing for and carrying through the curriculum, and the spirit of welcome and warmth of hospitality so abundantly shown, made the two weeks spent at Macdonald fruitful in valuable instruction for rural leadership, and a fragrant memory in the hearts of the students.

On behalf of the Board of Governors  
of the Theological Colleges,

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) D.L. Ritchie,

Dean.

November  
Seventeenth  
1921.

Alexander MacLaren, Esq.,  
The Social Service Council of Ontario,  
152 Bay Street,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your inquiry of the 22nd ultimo and regret delay in replying to same.

I attach herewith the Announcement of the Summer School for Rural Improvement, which was held at Macdonald College last August. In it I think you will find all the particulars you desire, with the exception of the number who registered. I am informed that there were 88 in attendance at the entire session.

That it was a success is proven by the Resolution, which I have just received from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Co-operating Theological Colleges interested, a copy of which I enclose.

Trusting that this information will be satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

TELEPHONE  
ADELAIDE 5163

# The Social Service Council of Ontario

Incorporated

HON. TREASURER:  
MR. D. A. DUNLAP

GENERAL SECRETARY:  
GILBERT AGAR, B.A.

HON. PRESIDENTS:  
HON. E. C. DRURY  
PREMIER OF ONTARIO

RT. REV. J. F. SWEENEY, D.D.  
LORD BISHOP OF TORONTO

152 BAY STREET, TORONTO

PRESIDENT:  
REV. GEO. C. PIDGEON, D.D.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Quebec,

October 22nd. 1921

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions I am forwarding the enclosed resolution which was passed at the Summer School for Rural Leadership held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, July 25, to August 4, 1921. There were present 144 from all over the Province.

We would be glad to hear what action, if any, is taken in this matter.

Yours very sincerely,

*Alexander MacLaren*

Secretary-Treasurer,

Rural Community Life Movement of Ontario.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR RURAL LEADERSHIP  
HELD AT THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
GUELPH, July 25th to August 4th, 1921.

"We, the members of the Rural Leaders School in Session assembled at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., would draw the attention of the Governing Bodies of the various Educational Institutions in Canada to the fact that practically no provision has been or is being made to give instruction in rural sociology.

We would ask them to note the prominence being given to Rural Sociology in the States of the Union.

Professor Campbell of the International Young Men's Christian Association of Springfield, Mass., recently sent out a questionnaire to 1,044 Educational Institutions in the U. S. A. regarding the number of faculties which were giving definite instruction in Rural Sociology. The replies were as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Institutions offering courses	153
Institutions not offering courses	340
No reply received	80

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Institutions offering courses	51
Institutions not offering courses	92
No reply received	41

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Institutions offering courses	115
Institutions not offering courses	104
No reply received	68

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OFFERING COURSES	319
TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS NOT OFFERING COURSES	536

PROFESSORS OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY

General	185
Theological	38
Normal	<u>144</u>

Total                      367

In view of the increasing recognition of the importance of rural problems we would urge the early establishment of chairs of rural sociology in all of our leading educational institutions.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of Governors and Dean of Faculties of all of our larger Educational Institutions, General Theological and Normal."

With the writer's compliments.  
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Reprinted from THE JOURNAL OF BACTERIOLOGY  
Vol. VII, No. 2, March, 1922

## OUR SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

F. C. HARRISON

*Principal, Macdonald College, P. Q., Canada*

### INTRODUCTION

The constitution of our Society states that the object of the Society shall be the promotion of the science of bacteriology, the bringing together of American bacteriologists, the demonstration and discussion of bacteriological methods, and the consideration of subjects of common interest: Thus, in accord with other scientific societies, its ultimate object is to make life a better thing than it is, to help in the service of man, and to attempt in some small measure to attain what Aristotle in Book III of *The Republic* has expressed that:

Our youth will dwell in a land of health, amid fair sights and sounds and receive the good in everything; and beauty, the effluence of fair works, shall flow into the eye and ear like a health giving breeze from a pure region and insensibly draw the soul from earliest years into likeness and sympathy with the beauty of reason.

To accomplish these benefits, our work lies ready to our hands, but our strength may be the greater and our faith the firmer if we spare a moment from present toils to look back upon the achievements of the past, to gather strength and encouragement before confronting the future.

The Society was founded in 1900, under the presidency of the late Prof. W. T. Sedgwick, a great teacher, an inspiring investigator and a kindly spirit that radiated good will and courteous consideration to others. In the two decades just past the Society has increased in stature and in wisdom and in favor with fellow workers.

<sup>1</sup> Address of the President at the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists.

The membership has grown from fifty in 1900 to over one thousand in 1921. The Society has tasted the joy that springs from labor, and perhaps its greatest achievement has been the establishment of the JOURNAL and ABSTRACTS which are to our workers ports and happy havens indeed. Further achievements of happy memory and daily use to the teacher and investigator are the Society's card, the standard methods of many routine proceedings; some order out of the chaos of bacteriological nomenclature; and the commencement of work on standardizing materials and methods.

The recital of the past is an augury for the future. Can we, at this time, suggest a policy for our Society? Are we able to plan a coöperation of efforts which will interest all members, for each to give something of himself for the good of the Society, and for the benefit of human life and effort?

"The keen spirit seizes the prompt occasion—makes the thought start into instant action, and at once plans and performs, resolves and executes."

May I, therefore, take this opportunity of placing before you a few thoughts regarding the future.

#### I. STEADY CAMPAIGN FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE POSSIBLE OF LOCAL BRANCHES

Thanks to the activity of Dr. Ayers and his committee, there has been this year a large increase in membership. But we must have more, if the plans outlined for a larger journal are to be carried out; a large membership is fundamental and when obtained many other things will follow in consequence.

We have started a number of local branches. No scheme offers better prospects of success for keeping the interest in the Society between annual meetings. Every endeavour should be made to increase these local organizations for, besides interest, they afford opportunity for social meetings, arouse a feeling of professional solidarity and permit of more frequent contributions to our science. Further, by enlarging the field from which members are drawn, the danger of narrow specialization is avoided, and members of the local branches will be given a broader outlook.

## II. IMPROVEMENT OF THE JOURNAL AND ABSTRACTS

When so much has been done in establishing these two important journals and bringing them to their present state of excellence, any drastic criticism would be a task of supererogation. I mention this matter, however, because our Secretary, in his circular letter dated October 25, 1921, stated that the Editor must have more space in order that papers offered for publication may appear more promptly. In order to make the *JOURNAL OF BACTERIOLOGY* a monthly periodical, there must be an increase of membership to 1500, or else other means must be adopted, and several alternate suggestions are set forth.

All of us would like to see the size of the *JOURNAL* increased, and regular publication guaranteed; these benefits can best be obtained only by an increase of membership. If our publications maintain a high standard of excellence, their worth will ensure more subscriptions from foreign countries.

Each member should be personally interested in the success of these journals, and should see that they attain a wider field of usefulness. Judicious and frequent suggestions to libraries that do not take them, bringing them to the notice of medical men and others interested in cognate subjects would help to advertise and undoubtedly secure subscribers.

## III. PROVISION FOR CRITIQUES AND RÉSUMÉS

ABSTRACTS at present is filled with references and short résumés of work done by bacteriologists all over the world.

I suggest that it would be of considerable interest to arrange for critiques or comprehensive résumés on many subjects, to be written by students of particular groups. For example: a comprehensive summary of the literature on the decomposition of cellulose; botulism; the carrier of infection, etc. Such reviews would be of great value to students, save much time in hunting up references, and bring the subject up to date. If written in a judicial spirit, the writer would be able to size up the situation, and give an appreciation of the subject as a whole.

If possible, such contributors should be paid.

## IV. CARD INDEX COMPILED FROM ABSTRACTS

The Library of Congress prepares and issues a card index of books and periodicals. The United States Office of Experiment Stations issues a card index of all its publications and that of the experiment stations. Would it be possible, and would it fill a need, if the editors of ABSTRACTS prepared a card index of the papers abstracted? The basis of subscription would have to be the individual card. Laboratories might arrange to subscribe according to the titles and sub-titles of the table of contents of ABSTRACTS.

General bacteriology should interest all. Agricultural colleges would naturally desire the card index for dairy, soil, and plant bacteriology. Public health laboratories should be interested in water, sewage and food bacteriology and health board laboratory methods and so on.

Prompt service as regular as the issue of ABSTRACTS would be possible.

How many would be willing to subscribe for such a service?

## V. COÖPERATION BETWEEN OUR SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

In some regards our Society and the laboratory section of the American Public Health Association cover similar subjects. Both organizations have attempted to standardise technique and methods, both have published so-called standard methods. Members of our Society have been prominent in the American Public Health Association and vice versa. I suggest that some form of coöperation be instituted which would prevent any useless duplication of work. The two societies should work together, for in unity there is strength, and projects to be initiated by each might well be considered jointly, not necessarily by the whole society in convention, but at any rate by responsible committees of each.

## VI. A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF METHODS AND MATERIALS

Valuable work has been done by committees of the Society who have given their labor and time ungrudgingly in order to work out methods or examine materials. I mention this here because I believe that a more comprehensive survey of methods and material would be of great value. In biological problems we cannot hope for the minute exactness of the chemist, but the chemist has his standard and authorized methods, which he dare not depart from. When a method is being improved or a new one instituted a committee and official referee is appointed, and a thorough test, often extending over years, is given. It seems that such methods would be helpful in bacteriological technique and help to ward aside many criticisms that are at present levelled at us. The Society might add to the committees already at work, and assign more problems to be worked out for the common good.

## VII. BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT

The Chemists Club of New York city has managed an employment agency since 1913 with marked success. I have frequently availed myself of its services with satisfaction to all concerned, and I suggest that our society might organize and run a similar bureau. If this employment bureau were incorporated as a "membership corporation" no person could benefit by the profits but any such accruing would go to the Society. Such an organization, if carefully organized and conservatively run, should be of great service to those in administrative positions, or heads of departments desiring to obtain assistance, not to mention those aspirants to bacteriological fame who desire to place a foot on the first rung of the ladder of employment opportunity. Certain large employers of trained bacteriologists, such as the health departments of large cities, could file their specific needs with the bureau, and these organizations could be kept informed of any men coming on the list who were specially fitted for their particular line of work.

## VIII. A BACTERIOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The American Museum of Natural History in New York has maintained a bacteriological museum under the skilled supervision of Prof. C.-E. A. Winslow. This has been a valuable asset to members of the Society, and should have support. Some of the older members may remember the Museum which Kral maintained in Prag, and the fine series of museum specimens and photographs he used to prepare. Kral's collection was very helpful to teachers and investigators, and has now been moved to Vienna.

The Society should have a museum, which should serve as a repository for all type species of organism described in our literature; further, I suggest that part of the work of such a museum would be to keep up the pathogenicity of organisms of economic importance, or those used for teaching. For several years I have sought plant pathogens of known virulence, for class work, but have received organisms devoid of pathogenicity, to the disappointment of the classes, and the possible loss of faith in one's veracity.

If the American Natural History Museum will undertake this work, nothing more need be done by the Society, save to let all members know what services the museum can render. If, however, some measure of support is necessary, I trust that the Society will investigate in what way the interests of its members can best be served, and make proper business arrangements with the Museum.

I suggest also another function for a museum, that of a

## IX. BACTERIOLOGICAL CLEARING HOUSE

You are all aware of the functions of a clearing house in a large city, an organization the members of which meet daily and pass through the various cheques and transactions of many banks.

Something similar would be valuable to the bacteriologist. I presume that many of you have had similar experiences to my own. Working on a particular problem, or doing some routine work, such as water or milk analysis, you find occasionally an

organism that attracts your interest by some peculiarity or abnormality. You isolate it, and put it by, with the intention that at some convenient season you will investigate it further, but alas, procrastination is the thief of time; the convenient season does not come, and the organism probably dies of exhaustion, starved by inattention to its material needs.

Now, if we had a clearing house the course would be different. You would say, candidly, I have not the time to work out this organism; it is interesting on account of its morphology or some peculiarity of its culture; I shall send it to the clearing house with a note as to where it was found, and its peculiarities. It is, therefore, duly dispatched, and on arrival at the clearing house, those in charge will read the letter and note the peculiarities, and will say, send this to John Doe, he is interested in this line and is working on this particular group, or investigating this irregularity, etc., or failing a student of this group, the organism might be investigated by those in charge of the clearing house.

This is a function that a well equipped and adequately staffed museum might undertake—possibly the American Museum of Natural History might institute a department charged with such work. If this were possible it would be a great asset to our Society. Failing such an organization, it might be possible to arrange for some distribution through the Journal.

#### X. A NEW DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY

Those of us who teach and those who are engaged in general or systematic studies, know the difficulties experienced in determining species.

Frantic search of Chester, Migula, Matzschita, of monographs here, of periodicals there, often fail to give any information or assistance on the points we desire, and then we realise the inadequate nature of our descriptions and our classifications, for they are numerous.

The Society, through the interest of some of its members, has taken cognizance of the chaos in classification and has adopted certain revisions which are helpful.

The Society also has a chart that has undergone a number of revisions, and which in its present form represents what is considered necessary for a proper description of an organism. These two contributions are excellent, but not enough. We want full descriptions as per Society chart of all known organisms, and we want them properly named and classified according to our latest classification. Here then is a splendid task for the Society, a task seemingly of great magnitude, but with proper organization and coöperation we should be able to surmount all obstacles, and produce a new determinative bacteriology approved by the Society, and all interested in bacteriology. Such a publication from its intrinsic value would find a place in every laboratory and succeeding generations of students and workers would rise up and call us blessed.

We have a membership of a thousand. If each one would pledge himself to give a full description of an organism assigned to him, what a magnificent start it would be. I trust the Society will accept this suggestion and formulate the necessary committees.

#### XI. TEACHING PROPAGANDA FOR BACTERIOLOGY

A subject, the study of which may not only serve on account of its educational value by enlarging our knowledge of nature and training the powers of observation and judgment, but also because of its sheer practical utility as the servant of medicine, pathology, sanitation, industry, agriculture, and household life; should have a well defined place in all our colleges and universities, and possibly in secondary schools. Yet we find that it is not mentioned in the curriculum of eight of our agricultural colleges. In many medical colleges it takes a subordinate place, and in many institutions having comprehensive courses in botany and zoölogy no course is given in bacteriology. Surely this is not right. Several past presidents of our Society have spoken about the value of the subject from the educational and practical aspects, notably the late Prof. W. T. Sedgwick and Professors Bergey, Marshall and Jordan, and there are excellent references in our literature as to the place the subject ought to

hold in our halls of research and learning. Therefore, all members of this Society should carry on incessantly and enthusiastically an active propaganda for bacteriology, for more bacteriology, and for still more bacteriology until the subject becomes more widespread in its benediction and embraces all classes and all institutions of secondary and higher learning.

A subject, which has achieved so much for the relief of suffering and the prevention of disease and whose effective progress and definite mission can be measured almost daily merits the early attention of the pupil and student.

Let us remember the words of the Greek philosopher, Prodicus, "That which benefits human life is God."

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me state that I have made these suggestions in the hope that they will be freely discussed by our members. We have a live Society, we are all interested in a subject that has advanced in the last forty years by leaps and bounds, there is much to investigate and nothing can provide an investigator with quite so pleasant a decoy as the persuasion that his chosen theme is in the nature of virgin soil. Here is a true adventure of the spirit, for he is adding a few sovereign grains of gold to the riches of his science for the enrichment of present life.

If little labour little are our gaines;  
Man's fortunes are according to his paines.

—Herrick.

MACDONALD COLLEGE

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

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

POST OFFICE:  
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA.

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir Arthur,

I am glad to hear that you have returned & hope that you had a pleasant holiday & good rest in England.

I am leaving tomorrow (Sunday) for Charlotte town P.E.I. in order to address the Maritime Section of the Canadian Manufacturers Association. They asked me to speak on "Bacteria in relation to Canning". I return on Thurs. Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

I am anxious to see you as soon as possible, I have information which I think you should have, & in view of this I trust you will make no decisions about the various matters here until you see me.

With all kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Sir Arthur Currie C.M.G. etc.

J. C. Hurston

## MACDONALD COLLEGE

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

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

POST OFFICE:  
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

15th July, 1926.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

On September 30th next I shall have completed twenty-one years' service in the employment of Macdonald College.

On my appointment as Professor of Bacteriology I came to Ste. Anne's at the time the foundations of the College Building were being put in, and during the course of construction I made all the plans and drawings for the fittings of all laboratories; superintended the installation of all gas, water, steam, lighting, etc.; ordered apparatus, etc.; and designed all furniture and other installations in all the buildings. I prepared the list of books for the College library, ordered them and saw to their cataloguing. I also prepared the general plan of the campus and its planting. For three years after the college was started I fulfilled the duties of Professor of Bacteriology and when Dr. Robertson left I was asked to take charge as acting Principal.

I went to Sir William Macdonald and expressed the hope that he would give me his support and was told by him that he hated the very name of Macdonald College. In spite of this handicap, I think that in due time I obtained his confidence. The first year I assumed charge I reduced the deficit by \$55,000 and after two

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

15th July, 1926.

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years of acting rank was made Principal. The confidence that Sir William Macdonald had in my administration is proved by his subsequent donations - the most important of these being:-

1. One million dollars to the endowment fund.
2. The erection of eleven new houses.
3. The purchase of four other houses.
4. The installation of a water filtration plant.
5. The purchase of 220 acres of extra land.
6. At Sir William's death the bequest of another million to the endowment fund.

Although I asked to be relieved of some of my duties my request was not granted, and until last year I filled the three offices: Principal, Dean of the Agricultural Faculty and Professor of Bacteriology, and in doing this for some eighteen years I have saved the College several thousand dollars a year. I have never taken more than two weeks' holiday during this time, and for the past ten years have had summer courses which I inaugurated and which I have never missed. During my administration as Principal I can safely say there has been no reproach made on account of its being a co-educational institution; that the college has been economically run with surpluses every year but one. As Dean of the Agricultural Faculty there were fat years and lean as regards students; the years immediately preceding the war there were more students than we could accommodate and classes had to be divided. The falling off in numbers has been due to conditions which are well known, and which I have analysed and reported on from time to time.

As Professor of Bacteriology I have never given less than six lectures a week, frequently many more, with the addition

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

15th July, 1926.

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of considerable laboratory work. I have published many original papers during these years more than any two others of the senior members of the staff, a list of these may be inspected in your office. Among the most important have been the life history of the legume bacteria, a method of growing them for distribution to farmers <sup>a method</sup> followed by all commercial firms at the present time; a comprehensive study of the Montreal milk supply which called attention to the poor conditions existing and has resulted in bringing in much needed reforms. The investigation of two of Canada's export products, dried cod fish and canned lobster; remedies have been outlined as a result of these studies which have enabled the trade to produce a better product - an estimate of some well-known packers informs me the study has saved the industry half-a-million a year.

The burden of these multifarious duties has been heavy, and of late years I have not been in the best of health. I am therefore asking you if I may be relieved of all administrative duties at Macdonald College, and such arrangements made as will permit me to devote my time to research work and the training of graduate students.

Naturally after being associated with Macdonald College since its commencement in 1905 I have many regrets at leaving, but believe that you will appreciate the heavy load I have been carrying for many years, and that you will express to the Board of Governors my thanks for their support in the past, and hope that this action

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

15th July, 1926.

will meet with their support and endorsement without undue sacrifice in my financial condition.

Finally, I wish to express to you, Sir, my hearty thanks for your kindness, and the friendship you have so generously manifested since you came to McGill.

Sincerely yours,

*J. C. Harrison,*

Principal.

L.

HENRY BIRKS & SONS  
LIMITED  
PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

Montreal, Sept. 5th, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
C I T Y.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

You and I will probably cross in mid-ocean as I understand you sail from Liverpool on the 11th, the same day that I sail from Quebec to spend the winter in the Old Country.

This is not only to welcome you and your family home, but to take the opportunity of expressing the hope that the relieving of Dr.Harrison of the Principalship at Macdonald College can be done in a way to save his "amour propre".

As I am told he is a first class scientist, in addition to his Chair of Bacteriology, would it be possible to promise him the reversion to the Deanship of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research when Dr.Ruttan resigns.

I see that Dr.Harrison's age is 55 while Dr.Ruttan is in his 70th year.

I, of course, do not wish to give any hint to hurry Dr.Ruttan's resignation.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

HGB:HB.

