

COSMOS CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 22, 1923

My dear General Currie

As you anticipated the Quebec Government has granted nothing for the Congress. As a matter of fact the news brought me a personal sense of relief. I was glad that it was so unambiguous for I now know where I am at and I can go ahead without losing any more time. I have already called the President of the International Mathematical Union

file

that the Congress will be invited to meet in Toronto.

My hope is that more money will be available from the Ontario Government or from other sources. In any case I am prepared to carry on and do what is possible with the \$25,000 promised by the Dominion Government. Of this \$20,000 can be assigned to transportation subventions and local expenditure can readily be kept within \$5,000.

For financing the printing of the Report of the Congress I shall look to the fees collected from those in attendance.

During the past week I have been in
New York, Philadelphia and Washington
securing lecturers for the Royal
Canadian Institute for next winter
and taking up matters relating to the
Congress and the Toronto meeting of the
B. A. A. S. with various scientific groups.
I visit New York again on Wednesday,
return to Toronto Thursday and sail for
Europe Saturday if nothing unforeseen happens.

Mr Taschereau's delays have rather
seriously dislocated my schedule. I owe
him no ill-will however and when I
think of some of his colleagues I can

only wish him luck.

Thanking you for your invariably
fair and impartial attitude throughout
the course of my Quebec venture

Yours sincerely
J. C. Fields

General Sir Arthur Currie G.C.M.G.
Principal, Mc Gill University
Montreal

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Matheson's
Congress

November
Twenty-seventh
1922.

Dr. J. C. Fields,
Royal Canadian Institute,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Fields:-

I have made inquiries at the
Provincial Government Office in Montreal with
reference to the duration of the present session
of the Provincial Legislature.

They can give me no definite
information, but fully expect the session to
end before Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

Principal's Secretary.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

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FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE,
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
D. A. MURRAY, PROFESSOR
C. T. SULLIVAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

April 24th. 1924.

Col. Wilfred Bovey,
Principal's Office,
McGill University.

Dear Colonel Bovey,

In reply to your note of April 9th, asking my advice about delegates to represent McGill University at the International Mathematical Congress to be held in Toronto, August 11th-16th next, following and concurrent with the meeting there of the British Association for the Advancement of Science August 6th-13th. I beg to recommend the following members of our mathematical staff to be chosen as the representatives of McGill:-

Dr. C. T. Sullivan
Assoc. Professor A.H.S. Gillson.

I would suggest that an allowance of sixty dollars (\$60.00) be made to each of these gentlemen to cover his transportation and expenses of attendance at the Congress.

Yours sincerely,

S. A. Murray,

Chairman of Dept. of Mathematics

Principal approves
MS
28
4
24

HONORARY PRESIDENT:
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LORD BYNG OF VIMY,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.
PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR J. C. FIELDS, Ph.D., F.R.S.
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR J. J. R. MACLEOD, M.B., D.P.H.
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CURATOR, Mr. H. JEWELL

THE ROYAL
CANADIAN INSTITUTE



198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

15th July 1923

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.
Principal, McGill University
Montreal, P. Q.

My dear General Currie:

A week ago to-day I left Montreal, returning to Toronto by way of Ottawa. It was impossible for me to absent myself longer as certain business connected with the 1924 meeting of the B. A. A. S. was not being attended to. I understood that there was to be a meeting of the Quebec Cabinet on Thursday, July 12th and, if I remember rightly, informed you to that effect.

Before leaving I saw Monsieur Montpetit who was expecting to go out of town. He was to make arrangements to have me informed by telegraph of the action taken by the Cabinet, and he was also arranging to have Monseigneur Piette get into touch with yourself. I have heard nothing. If the Cabinet has decided unfavourably, one is, of course, at liberty to go ahead and orient the Congress in any way he will. If the Cabinet has taken no action whatever, I presume that one is justified in regarding himself as equally free. If the Cabinet has actually taken favourable action, we are, I suppose, under obligation to make arrangements for the meeting in Montreal.

Because of the sequence of events, I shall not be greatly disappointed if the Montreal project falls through. In view of the probable outcome, I have provided myself with authority to invite the Congress to meet in Toronto but am holding the matter open until I know precisely what the status of affairs is in Montreal and in order to be sure that I do the fair and square thing by everybody. I shall funk no-

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G. - 2

thing. If in any way it would chance to be helpful for me to run down to Montreal, I shall do so. I intend in any case to visit Europe this summer on behalf of the Congress. In the meantime, I have to make a rush trip to the United States to secure lecturers for The Royal Canadian Institute for next winter. Mail addressed to The Royal Canadian Institute will be forwarded to me.

Trusting that this Congress business has not worried you too much, and harbouring a secret hope that there will be no occasion to trouble you further with it.

Yours sincerely

J. C. Fields

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

THE MACDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING

June
20th
1923.

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

Dear Sir Arthur,-

The original plans of Dr. J. C. Fields with regard to the holding of the International Mathematical Congress for 1924 in Canada contemplated the financing of the scheme by the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments. It was hoped that the Dominion Government would provide \$35,000; the Ontario Government perhaps \$10,000 if the Congress agreed, after the meeting at Montreal, to have a joint session or sessions with the British Association at Toronto; the Quebec Government \$35,000; and the Western Provinces were to finance a trans-continental trip to the extent of \$40,000. The Dominion Government has, I am assured by Dr. Fields and Dr. Eve, agreed to furnish \$25,000; there is no hope of the Ontario Government doing anything if the Congress is held here; The Quebec Government is opposed to giving any provincial support; and I have little expectation that the Western Provinces will do anything.

To make the Congress a success and to justify its being called International, there should be a delegation from Europe of at least forty or fifty mathematicians of front rank. The Government of France would almost certainly and those of Czecho-Slovakia and Japan might probably send a few paid official representatives; possibly some other Governments might fall into line. Of this we have no definite assurance. Dr. Fields is now committed also to the invitation of a certain number of men in allied branches, such as Engineering, Physics, Actuarial work, etc. It was with the hope of winning the support of the Quebec Government that Dr. Fields enlarged the scope of the Congress to such an extent that he now hopes for an attendance of 1500. This was the number that he mentioned at the conference with the

To - Sir Arthur Currie, June 3rd, 1923.

Premier. Mons. Taschereau received the modified proposition in a most critical fashion, and my feeling was that such of the representatives of the Universite de Montreal, as cared to attend the meeting, were absolutely lukewarm. Some of the most representative men among the French Canadians who were to have been present failed to put in an appearance - e.g. the Rector of the Universite de Montreal, the Professor of Physics (Mons. Gendreau), whose opinions are supposed to have much weight with the Premier, another delegate (whose name has slipped my memory) who was expected to pledge the support of twelve Catholic Colleges, etc.

The enlarged scheme, if adhered to, will mean an enlarged deputation from Europe, and could only be feasible if backed by the enthusiastic support, both in the region of Finance and Organization, by bodies of Engineers, Physicists, Aeronauts, Meteorologists, Actuaries, etc. Dr. Fields has not produced any evidence that any such support would be forthcoming. On the contrary, I understand that the Council of the Engineering Institute of Canada has decided not to participate.

If McGill University is prepared to make itself financially responsible for the running of the scheme, the Mathematical Department would of course do everything in its power to make the thing a success. It is the opinion of every member of the Department that someone would have to be called in with full executive responsibility for all details with regard to arrangements and correspondence. He should have an office and a stenographer.

My advice is that the University should not undertake the responsibility unless it has \$50,000, at the very least, placed at its disposal.

The chief items of expense would be

- (1) Subventions to thirty or more mathematicians from Europe. These should be on a liberal scale.
- (2) The printing of Transactions \$10,000
- (3) Secretarial and stenographic work
- (4) Suitable provisions for housing and entertainment of the possible 1500.
- (5) The trip across the Continent.

Clearly if the University is not prepared to take over the running of the Congress on the money that may be raised by Professor Fields, it is

To - Sir Arthur Currie, June 3rd, 1923.

altogether out of the question for my colleagues or myself to undertake the task of handling an affair of this magnitude.

If my anticipation that McGill University does not see its way to taking full responsibility is correct, I advise that Dr. Fields be informed officially that in our opinion the Congress, if held, should not be held here.

Please note that time is an essential element in this matter and that unless sufficient funds are definitely assured before the end of this month, McGill University should entirely withdraw from the scheme.

Yours very sincerely,

J. Harkness

A. S. F. C.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:

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GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.

PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR J. C. FIELDS, Ph.D., F.R.S.

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THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE



198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

31st March 1923

General Sir Arthur Currie, G. C. M. G.
Principal, McGill University
Montreal, P. Q.

My dear General Currie:

The University of Montreal long-distanced Sir Charles Fitzpatrick yesterday with regard to a date for the deputation. He said that he would be unable to fix a date until after Monday next. The University of Montreal will long-distance him again next Tuesday, and will notify us as to what arrangements have been made.

Yours sincerely

J. C. Fields

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UNIVERSITY CLUB OF MONTREAL

Sir Arthur Currie Saturday June 29
President, McGill University
Montreal

Dear Sir

The International
Mathematical Congress will meet
in America in 1924. It has
been suggested that the meeting
be held in Canada. The Americans
are willing to concede it to us if
we can finance it. The opportunity
is a rare one and should not be
missed.

To finance it we shall need the
assistance of the Dominion Government

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum addressed to the Premier of Canada. The Premier tells me that he will take the matter up just after the close of the session. This may mean any time after the middle of the coming week.

Sir Robert Falconer and President A.S. Mackenzie are supporting the proposal. Might I ask whether you would be so good as to write the Right Honourable Mr King in case the request for financial assistance contained in the memorandum meets with your approval?

It had been my hope that I might have the opportunity of

discussing the matter with you
personally. I am due however in
New York on Monday and will
have to spend the latter part of
the week in Washington.

Yours sincerely
J. C. Fields

COPY

Toronto, June 13, 1922.

To

The Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, P.C., C.M.G., L.L.D.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. King:

This letter is intended to serve as a memorandum of the conversation which I had with you in Ottawa over three weeks ago when I spoke to you about the proposal to hold a meeting of the International Mathematical Congress in Canada in 1924. Before the war the Congress met once in four years, the meeting taking place in one of the great scientific centres of Europe. Among other places it has met in Paris, Rome and Cambridge. It has not as yet met in America.

Two years ago the Americans extended an invitation to the Congress to meet on this side of the Atlantic in 1924. This invitation was accepted. The meeting place was not specified but it was, of course, expected by both European and American scientists that it would be one of the great University centres in the United States.

It came then as a great surprise to me when it was suggested that it might be possible to arrange for the Congress to meet in Canada. This suggestion, I might say, had its origin on the other side of the line, and is to be attributed to the very exceptional success which attended the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of science held in Toronto last December. Not all the Americans, however, acquiesce in the idea; some of them are
strongly

To
The Right Honourable W.L.Mackenzie King, P.C. C.M.G., L.L.D.

strongly of the opinion that the first American meeting of the Congress should be held in the United States. New York wants it. Philadelphia has asked that the meeting be postponed until 1926 and that it then be held in conjunction with the World's Exposition which is to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary following the Centennial. We Canadians, however, can have the Congress if we can finance it. The holding of this Congress in Canada would mean a great intellectual stimulus to the country. It would enormously enhance the prestige of Canada in the eyes of intellectual Europe. Delegations might be expected from the several allied countries and from the neutral European countries. Naturally the principal continental delegation would come from France. If we were in a position to properly finance the delegations from continental Europe it is practically certain that the French delegation would be the most distinguished in attendance at the Congress, for while France attaches great prestige to intellectual achievements of all kinds she has herself always taken a particularly high rank in the Mathematical Sciences. Opportunity should be offered our French-Canadian fellow-citizens to welcome the distinguished visitors of their own blood and language in Quebec City and again in Montreal in conjunction with their English speaking brethren. We of the two languages and one country would find ourselves on common ground in welcoming our guests from overseas and the occasion would afford a concrete example of the entente cordiale which, for the time being, would be extended to include also our newly arrived guests.

From all points of view it would be a great pity to let the opportunities offered by the Congress pass because of the lack of funds. Considerable money, I understand, has
on

To

The Right Honourable W.L.Mackenzie King, P.C. C.M.G., L.L.D.

on occasion been spent and justifiably spent by the Canadian Government on a single delegation to a conference in a foreign country. In the present case a dozen delegations from as many different countries would get a concrete vision of Canada which they could not otherwise obtain. They would see Canadians as a nation at home in their natural setting and not be dependent for their ideas of Canada on a passing contact with a small group of Canadians seen abroad. We do not need to be ashamed of our country. It can stand scrutiny at first hand. The deductions, too, at first hand of such a body of men, carried back to their native countries would do more to make the advantages of our country known to those whom we would wish to have attracted to it and to give us prestige in the eyes of those whom we would wish to think well of us than any other form of advertisement which could be devised for the same outlay.

The amount which I would suggest as a minimum grant from the Dominion Government is \$20,000. The money would not be needed until 1924. None of it would be spent on entertainment. The major expenditures would be for transportation and printing. It is estimated that the printing of the more important papers presented at the Congress will require \$10,000. Members of the Cabinet will themselves have some idea as to how far \$20,000 would go in transportation alone when there is question of crossing the Atlantic, and when we would wish to have the majority of the European countries represented, each by a group of its most distinguished men in the Mathematical Sciences. The men in question are as a rule in receipt of moderate salaries. Some of them are in straitened circumstances as a result of the war. Few of them could afford to defray the expenses of the journey to Toronto without the aid of a subvention.

Canadians

To
The Right Honourable W.L.Mackenzie King, P.C. C.M.G., L.L.D.

Canadians and Americans in attendance at the Congress would receive no subvention. The same would be the case with the Japanese who would probably send a delegation. Transportation expenses would be provided only for those coming from the other side of the Atlantic.

The grant from the Dominion Government for transportation and printing would have to be reinforced by contributions for the same purposes derived from other sources. Entertainment would have to be financed locally and special provision would have to be made for office help and other expenses incidental to the holding of the Congress.

The British representatives to the Mathematical Congress we would expect to come out with the British Association for the Advancement of Science which, as you are aware, is to meet in Toronto in the summer of 1924. The Congress would co-operate with the British Association and hold its meetings coincidentally with those of the latter or immediately before or after.

As soon as I am assured of the financial possibility of holding the Congress in Canada it is my intention to cross the Atlantic and confer with British and Continental Scientists in regard to ways and means of making the meeting a success.

The University of Toronto will, of course, co-operate with the Congress and provide the halls in which these meetings will be held. It is our desire, particularly under present financial conditions, to manage the whole affair as economically as possible, and in view of the magnitude of the undertaking it is evident that we are skimping matters in not asking for a larger grant.

Looking

To

The Right Honourable W.L.Mackenzie King, P.C., C.M.G., L.L.D.

Looking to the internal benefits which would accrue to Canada from the holding of the Congress in our midst and in view of the external prestige which would be associated with it, we trust that the Dominion Government will see its way to extending the requisite financial assistance.

The President of the University of Toronto wishes to be associated with me in making the request contained in this letter and I am sure that Canadian Scientists and University men in general, as well as other classes of our countrymen, would be only too glad to see all necessary steps taken to secure the Congress for Canada.

Yours sincerely,

J.C. Fields.



Quebec Seminary, 15th April, 1923.

Lieut-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G.

Principal,

McGill University,

Montreal.

Dear Mr the Principal;

The Honourable Mr Taschereau will receive the delegation on behalf of the International Mathematical Congress on Thursday, 19th April.

Yours truly,

L. N. Gariépy

Rector of Laval University.

9.20
4.45

26th in Mr Taschereau's office

HONORARY PRESIDENT:
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LORD BYNG OF VIMY,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.
PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR J. C. FIELDS, Ph.D., F.R.S.
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THE ROYAL
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198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

January 13, 1923.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal, McGill University,
MONTREAL, Quebec.

My dear General Currie:

Enclosed you will find copy
of letter to Mons~~ie~~igneur Gauthier. I have just received
a letter from Mr. David in which he acknowledges receipt
of a letter and statement from myself. He says that
he will have a talk with the Premier and afterwards
communicate with me. He commits himself neither one way
nor the other.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Fields

Copy for Sir Arthur Currie

January 13, 1923.

Monseigneur Gauthier,
Rector of the University of Montreal,
M O N T R E A L, Quebec.

Dear Monseigneur Gauthier:

This note is written to correct a misapprehension in regard to the financing of the International Mathematical Congress. I have been informed that you received the impression that the plan for financing the Congress contemplated contributions from the University of Montreal and McGill University. Nothing was further from my mind and I am sorry if any lack of clearness in my explanation of what was proposed should have been responsible for this misunderstanding. It was not my intention to suggest the contribution of a single dollar to the expenses of the Congress either by the University of Montreal or by McGill University. The total expenditure contemplated from within the Province of Quebec was \$35,000 this all to be furnished by the Government of the Province. Additional funds would be provided by the Dominion Government.

I would be glad to clear up any point in connection with the plan for the Congress which may appear to be obscure.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J.C.Fields.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:
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198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

January 12, 1923.

General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B.,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L, Quebec.

My dear General Currie:

Your letter of January 10th has just been received. Its contents are of course very disappointing. Neither in conversation with Monseigneur Gauthier nor in writing him was any suggestion made of a contribution to the Congress on the part of McGill University or the University of Montreal. It was solely a question of a contribution by the Government of the Province of Quebec. In no connection whatever was a sum of \$12,500 mentioned.

To what Monseigneur Gauthier's misunderstanding is due I do not see. I spoke with him in English and it is possible that I assumed too complete an understanding of that language on his part with the result that he misinterpreted something that I said. He may perhaps have somehow got mixed on the figures in my typewritten financial statement and have drawn wrong inferences. The total sum asked from within the Province of Quebec was in each case \$35,000, the whole of this amount to come from the Government of the Province. In regard to the Dominion Government it is definitely committed in writing to a grant of \$20,000. This was all that I requested at the time. The request in my letter to the Premier reads "The amount which I would suggest as a minimum grant from the Dominion Government is \$20,000". This sum was granted one might say with a smile. Probably it would be advisable for us to go ahead and ask the Dominion Government to raise its grant to \$35,000 that being the amount which is to be appropriated for the B.A.A.S.

I have not written the Premier since my return from Europe. It is my intention, however, to see him shortly or to write him and inform him of the favorable

General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B., (continued)

prospects from the European end.

Your letter being personal I do not know whether I should write Monseigneur Gauthier in regard to the misunderstanding? Possibly you could inform him in regard to your understanding of the matter as confirmed by this letter?

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Fields

P.S. The above was dictated hastily. On second thoughts it appears to me to be best to drop a short note to Monseigneur Gauthier to correct his misapprehension in regard to University contributions to expenses of Congress. I shall send you a copy of note.

J.C.F.

January
Tenth
1923.

Dr. J. C. Fields,
198 College Street,
Toronto, Ont.

My dear Professor Fields:-

Let me acknowledge receipt of
your letter of January 6th with Memorandum attached.

After ascertaining that the Hon. Mr. Taschereau would not be in Montreal on Monday last (Monday is the day he sets aside for business in Montreal) I talked with Monseigneur Gauthier re the Mathematical Congress being held in Montreal next year. I found that the Bishop would not lend his support to the proposal in any way. He also told me that in conversation with the Hon. Mr. David the latter had conveyed to the Bishop the intimation that the Government of the Province of Quebec would not look upon the proposal favourably.

I know that this news will be very disappointing to you, but I feel that without the support of the University of Montreal there is absolutely no hope of getting anything from the Government of the Province of Quebec. I do not know whether there is any use entertaining further hopes that something may yet be done. Possibly definite action in the way of a grant by the Dominion Government would help considerably. I have always gathered that you were not very sure just what would be the extent of their support.

Bishop Gauthier also told me that he understood that the Universities of Montreal and McGill were expected to donate \$12,500. each towards the expenses of the Congress. I had not heard of that before.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:
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THE ROYAL
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198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

January 6, 1923.

General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B.,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L, Quebec.

My dear General:

Enclosed you will find copies of a letter and statement with regard to the International Mathematical Congress which I sent to the Honourable Mr. Taschereau. They contain pretty much what was contained in the memorandum which I enclosed with my letter to you dated December 2nd. They may however supplement in some measure that memorandum.

Wednesday, January 10th, as I think I informed you, was the date mentioned by the Honourable Mr. Taschereau for the meeting of his Cabinet when he said he would bring up the question of an appropriation for the Congress.

Hoping that he and his colleagues may have the vision to see what the Congress may mean for Canada and Quebec and that things may turn out according to our desires,

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Fields

Enclosures.

COPY

December 23, 1922.

The Honourable L.A. Taschereau,
Prime Minister of Quebec,
QUEBEC, Quebec.

Dear Mr. Taschereau:

It is proposed that the International Mathematical Congress meet in Canada in 1924.

Before the war this Congress held its meetings once in four years, the meeting places being the more important university and culture centres in Europe such as Rome, Paris, Cambridge. It has never met in America. Two years ago the Americans invited it to hold its meeting in 1924 on this side of the Atlantic. The precise place of meeting was not specified but it was understood that it would be in New York or vicinity.

After the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Toronto last December the Chairman of the American Committee having the matter in charge wrote me suggesting the possibility of the Congress meeting in Canada in the case we were in a position to handle it. I had an interview with the Honourable W.L. MacKenzie King in regard to the matter and saw a number of the members of his Cabinet including a considerable proportion of the French Canadian members. They were all favourably impressed with the possibilities of the Congress and the Government has promised financial support. During the past summer I visited Europe with a view to seeing what the prospects were for a successful meeting in Canada. I saw a number of the British and Continental mathematicians who promised their support and everything looks most propitious from the European end. All that is necessary to make a success of the Congress is sufficient funds.

The holding of this Congress in Canada would mean a great intellectual stimulus to the country. It would enormously enhance the prestige of Canada in the eyes of intellectual Europe. Delegations might be expected from the several allied countries and from the neutral European countries. Naturally the principal continental delegation would come from France. If we were in a position to properly finance the delegations from continental Europe it is practically certain that the French delegation would be the most distinguished in attendance at the Congress, for while France attaches great prestige to intellectual achievements of all kinds she has herself always taken a particularly high rank in the Mathematical Sciences. Under the circumstances the French Canadians should play a prominent role in connection with the Congress and ways and means to that end should be discussed. It offers also a splendid opportunity for cooperation between the French and English speaking Canadians.

The only centres in Canada which could come under consideration as possible meeting places for the Congress are Montreal

The Honourable L.A.Taschereau, (continued)

and Toronto. In view of what has been said above it might be well to locate the Congress in Montreal if the Province of Quebec felt itself in a position to furnish an adequate subsidy to supplement what will come from the Dominion Government.

The principal expenditures connected with the Congress will be for printing and transportation. It will probably cost \$10,000 to publish the more important papers read at the Congress. The transportation bill will be much higher. Trans-Atlantic rates are at present exorbitantly high. Men of science are as a rule in receipt of very moderate salaries even in normal times. Continental scientists are just now in very straitened circumstances as a result of the war. Few of them could afford to defray the expenses of the journey to Canada without a subvention. Canadians and Americans in attendance at the Congress would receive no subvention. The same would be the case with the Japanese who would probably send a delegation. Transportation expenses would be provided only for those coming from the other side of the Atlantic.

The British representatives to the Mathematical Congress we would expect to come out with the British Association for the Advancement of Science which, as you are aware, is to meet in Toronto in the summer of 1924.

I should like to have opportunity to discuss the possibilities of the Congress with you personally in the near future either in Quebec or Montreal, perhaps in the latter city, as I understand you have frequent occasion to come up from Quebec.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) J.C.Fields.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE 1924 MEETINGS OF THE
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL
MATHEMATICAL CONGRESS

The British Association for the Advancement of Science meets in Toronto from Wednesday, September 3rd to Wednesday, September 10th, 1924. To defray the expenses of this meeting the Dominion Government has pledged \$35,000, the Government of Ontario \$25,000. Of the aggregate of \$60,000 a sum of \$50,000 is assigned to ocean transportation, leaving \$10,000 for the various local expenditures in connection with the meeting.

It is proposed to hold the International Mathematical Congress in Canada immediately antecedent to the meeting of the B.A.A.S.. For various reasons it would seem appropriate that the meeting place should be Montreal. A large proportion of the papers presented by continental mathematicians will be in the French language. The French deputation will be the largest from the continent and should also be the most distinguished of all the deputations in attendance.

The Congress besides being a great stimulus to the intellectual life of the country would bring prestige to Canada in general and to Quebec in particular. It would place our country on a higher level in the eyes both of the United States and of Europe. It would be incomparably the greatest event in the history of the mathematical sciences which has taken place in America. It would be one of the historic events in science on this continent and would be known as "The Congress of Montreal" as the preceding Congresses are known as those of Rome, Paris, Cambridge, etc.

It would seem just that the financing of the Congress should be on a parity with that of the B.A.A.S. It would be equitable to ask the Dominion Government to accord the same treatment to Montreal and the Congress as that accorded to Toronto and the B.A.A.S. It would be in place then to request the Federal Government to make a grant of \$35,000 for the Congress. If the Province of Quebec would contribute a like amount it would be possible to assign \$50,000 to subsidies for ocean transportation as has been done in the case of the British Association. There is, it may be pointed out, an estimated expenditure of \$10,000 for the printing of the more important papers presented at the Congress, there being no corresponding item of expense to be provided for in connection with the B.A.A.S.

It may be pointed out that when the possibility of selecting Canada as meeting place for the Congress was first suggested the Ottawa Government was approached with the request for \$20,000 as a minimum grant and gladly pledged itself to this amount. This left the way open to ask for a larger grant and there can be little

doubt as to the outcome if Montreal asks for a grant equal to that pledged for the Toronto meeting.

The suggestion of the possibility of holding the Congress in Canada came from the Americans and it was in order to satisfy them that we could make a beginning at financing it that the sum of \$20,000 was first asked for. Prospects based on later information are for a very successful Congress and fully justify the request for the larger sum.

The expectation would be to have the Congress meet immediately in advance of the British Association. If antecedent to the meetings any extended excursion through the West for the members of the B.A.A.S. were projected by the Western Provinces it would naturally be expected that members of the Congress would be invited to participate.

With regard to the number who may be expected to attend the Congress I might say that a moderate estimate would place it at not less than five hundred. From the other side of the Atlantic the number should not be far short of one hundred and fifty counting the contingent from Great Britain and the deputations from the various European countries. The latter would include official representatives of a number of the continental governments in addition to those receiving subventions. The Japanese Government would be invited to send a delegation and the number of Americans in attendance should be at least three hundred without counting the Canadians.

As a classification of the \$35,000 requested from the Quebec Government as an appropriation for the purposes of the Congress I might suggest \$15,000 as a transportation subvention, \$10,000 for the printing of the more important papers which would constitute the Report of the Mathematical Congress of Montreal and \$10,000 for the local expenses incidental to the holding of the Congress, including clerical and other office help antecedent to as well as during the Congress when it would also be necessary to provide personnel and equipment for various purposes and provide entertainment in some measure. The total appropriation from the Dominion Government could be allocated to transportation costs. It may be said that the only money required before 1924 would be a moderate advance to pay for expenses incidental to correspondence and preliminary arrangements.

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HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LORD BYNG OF VIMY,
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THE ROYAL
CANADIAN INSTITUTE



198 COLLEGE STREET
TORONTO

December 22, 1922.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal, McGill University,
M O N T R E A L, Quebec.

My dear General:

It is my expectation to be
in Montreal Tuesday next, December 26th, on my
way to the scientific meetings in Boston. I
shall also probably return from Boston by way
of Montreal at the end of the week.

I have just written Mgr. Gauthier
with regard to the Congress and hope that I may be
able to see him on Tuesday.

Trusting also that I may have
the good fortune to see yourself on one or both
visits,

Yours very truly,

J. C. Fields

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December 2, 1922.

EDITOR, PROFESSOR J. H. FAULL, Ph.D.
LIBRARIAN, PROFESSOR A. G. HUNTSMAN, M.B.
CURATOR, MR. H. JEWELL

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal, McGill University,
M O N T R E A L, Quebec.

My dear General:

Enclosed you will find the Memorandum
on the International Mathematical Congress which I was to send
you.

I am in receipt of cablegram from M.
Émil Picard, President of the International Research Council
which reads as follows:

"Transfert Congrès au Canada possible si Canada
adhère a l'Union Internationale Mathématique.
Attendre prochaine lettre avant de lancer aucune
invitation."

This practically assures the Congress to
Canada. The qualification "si Canada adhère a l'Union Inter-
nationale Mathématique", I take it, has reference to the ex-
clusion of the Central Powers and payment of certain dues.

Two days after my conversation with Mr.
E.W.Beatty, representatives of the Canadian National and Canadian
Pacific Railways called on me in Toronto. They did not seem
inclined to give any special rates for the proposed combined
transcontinental trip for the B.A.A.S. and the Congress. The
rates quoted were simply the regular tourist rates which are in force
at the time of year when we would wish to hold the excursion.

From my interview with Mr. Beatty I had
hoped for better things and had thought that the Railways might
have asked the Railway Commission for permission to give us a
special reduced rate. The Commission cannot initiate. A move
for a special rate would have to originate with the Railways and
be passed on by the Commission. It would look as though nothing
would come unless it were found possible to impress the Railway

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., (continued)

administrations with the desirability and feasibility of doing something. The Railway representatives found difficulty in the precedent it would create. There are of course from time to time transcontinental tours undertaken by British groups which might point to the precedent if only the B.A.A.S. were favored. It would be a long time however before the Railways would be called on to do anything for such a representative international group. Whether for the higher administration officials of the railways the precedent argument would in any way be modified by this fact I do not know. There is also of course the fact that the inability of the members of the deputations to finance long excursions out of their own pockets is due not alone to war conditions but to these combined with their having adopted a profession which implies renunciation of emoluments and hard work for the benefit of all.

After receipt of M. Picard's letter I expect to know better what will meet the wishes of the International Research Council and the International Mathematical Union in regard to form of procedure. Would it seem well to you for the Congress to regard as their hosts McGill University, the University of Toronto and the Royal Canadian Institute together with the University of Montreal in deference to the French Canadians?

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Fields

MEMORANDUM ON THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL CONGRESS

Before the war the International Mathematical Congress met once in four years, the meeting taking place in one of the great scientific centres of Europe. Among other places it has met in Paris, Rome and Cambridge. It has never met in America.

Two years ago the Americans extended an invitation to the Congress to meet on this side of the Atlantic in 1924. This invitation was accepted. The place of meeting was not precisely stipulated but it was understood of course that it would be held in the United States and the expectation was that the meeting place would be one of the great university centres south of the border.

After the very successful meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Toronto last Christmas week it was suggested that the Congress might meet in Canada. Some of the Americans were not content with the proposition. The majority of the committee having the matter in charge however decided favorably and the Chairman has requested the International Mathematical Union to transfer to Canada the privilege of inviting the Congress to meet within her borders. The International Mathematical Union through which such arrangements must be made has signified its readiness to make the transfer and Canada will shortly be formally authorized to go ahead and organize the Congress. It behooves Canada then to make a success of the Congress thereto adequate funds are requisite. The Dominion Government has promised financial aid and one must look to other sources also for assistance.

What the Congress would mean for Canada:

1. It would serve as a great intellectual stimulus to the whole country. There would probably be deputations present from about fifteen European countries. Hundreds of American mathematicians would attend. It would be by far the largest and most distinguished gathering of representatives of the mathematical sciences which has ever been held on this continent.
2. It would afford a unique opportunity for cooperation on the part of the English and French speaking Canadians in welcoming our European guests. It should make a strong appeal to our French-Canadian fellow-citizens in view of the fact that the most numerous and most brilliant delegation from the other side of the Atlantic would be that from France, for while France attaches great prestige to intellectual achievements of all kinds she has herself always taken a particularly high rank in the mathematical sciences.
3. Canada would also be doing a service to the Empire inasmuch as she would provide at the same time the occasion for fraternising between the English speaking peoples and the opportunity for the manifestation of goodwill and understanding between them on the one hand and the allied and neutral nations of Europe on the other, for the British

Association for the Advancement of Science would also be meeting in Canada in 1924 and cooperation between it and the Congress would be established.

4. The Congress would furnish a rare opportunity of making Canada known to the educated classes of the different states of Europe. It would create a favorable impression with regard to the cultural conditions existing in our country. It would react advantageously on immigration and enable us the more readily to reach those whom we would most desire to attract from the various European countries.

It would heighten the intellectual prestige of Canada among the nations at a time when she is beginning to take a larger share in international conferences on political and economic questions and when she is establishing her status as a nation.

5. It would afford the opportunity of visualizing the natural resources of Canada to a large number of deputations of men sufficiently intelligent to look a little into the future and realize the advantages which might accrue to their respective countries through cultivating good relations with Canada both political and economic.

To utilize the occasion effectively, to impress the visitors with the vastness and variety of our country and the multiplicity and magnitude of its resources, it would be necessary, in addition to short local excursions, to organize a trans-continental trip. A valuable aid thereto would also be a hand-book which would set forth in systematic fashion the conditions and resources of the country. A copy of this hand-book should be placed in the hands of each one attending the Congress and of every visiting member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prospects for a successful Congress are very excellent indeed. The mathematical scientists in the different countries of Europe are ready to lend a helping hand. The Americans are anxious to cooperate in making a success of the Congress. All that is necessary to make it a brilliant function and an event memorable in the history of Canada is the wherewithal to finance it.

Academic and scientific men are usually, even in normal times, in receipt of very moderate incomes. European scientists have been very hard hit by the war and few of them would be in a position to make the trans-Atlantic journey at their own expense, with ocean rates at anything like their present level. It would be necessary then to furnish subventions toward transportation costs to the members of the deputations from the several European countries. No such subventions however would be available for American, Canadian or Japanese delegates.

A combined trans-continental trip for the Congress and the B.A.A.S. should constitute a part of the programme. It would be a pity to forego the opportunity thereby offered of presenting to our overseas visitors a vision of the resources of Canada, - mineral, wheat, timber, fisheries, etc. The expenses of such a trip might well be defrayed by the Dominion

Government in cooperation with the western Provincial Governments. It would help greatly if the railways could see their way to giving a greatly reduced rate for the occasion.

Another considerable item of expense would be that for printing the more important papers read at the Congress. The publishing of these papers, it is estimated, would cost about \$10,000. It would also cost something to prepare and print a competent Handbook. Shorter excursions would have to be provided for. A certain amount would be needed for office and clerical help. There would also be expenditures for entertainment which would be financed locally.