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**FILE 511**

**NO -NT**

**DOCKET STARTS:**

NOBBS, PERCY E.

187  
February 23, 1921.

Professor Percy E. Nobbs, M.A.,  
Faculty of Applied Science,  
McGill University.

Dear Sir,

I have been instructed to ask you to submit to me a definite statement of the amount, if any, which McGill University owes you or the firm of Nobbs & Hyde for services rendered to date. The Board of Governors of the University deem it wise to ascertain just how they stand with you and with your firm.

Will you also state clearly what is your appreciation of what you call "vested interest" in the future building programme of McGill University?

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

187  
March  
Twenty-third  
1921.

Professor Percy E. Nobbs,  
Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

My dear Nobbs:-

I am returning herewith Mr. Vaughan's  
letter.

The matter of suitable memorials to  
Sir William Macdonald and Sir William Peterson is  
engaging the attention of the Board of Governors.  
When the present stress of work eases up I hope that  
we can decide on some definite line of action.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

April 27, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

When in Ottawa the other day, I saw something of Mr. Adams, the Housing and Town Planning man, and also of Dr. Robertson (once of Ste. Anne's) one of the Committee on Conservation.

It appears that the Committee on Conservation has been, or is about to be, abolished, and very little will be left of its machinery unless something is done. As to the Housing and Town Planning branch, as far as I can gather it will either be dropped (a penny wise pound foolish economy of \$15,000 a year), or it will be made an adjunct of the Health Department.

Now, nothing more idiotic was ever done than to put the British Housing Problem under Doctor Addison, and I cannot suppose that following this precedent at Ottawa would lead to better results. I take the view that the Office of the Housing and Town Planning Adviser on the abolishing of the Committee on Conservation, should be transferred to the Department of the Interior, as a new branch, to be in a position to advise any Government Department with regard to Town Planning and Landscape Architecture, and also continue to be available for advisory work to Provincial Governments.

Knowing the interest you take in the Town Planning movement, and the authority which your opinion would have with Mr. Meighen, in case you concur in my views, I would suggest the propriety of your communicating with the Premier. I am sure that Mr. Beatty's opinion on this matter would carry great weight with

Sir Arthur Currie..... Page #2

Apr. 27/21

Mr. Meighen, and I think it is likely that he would take the view above expressed. Perhaps you would care to sound him on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

*Percy S. Meighen*

PEN/6  
Enc.

According to the Canadian Municipal Journal, the federal Commission of Conservation of Canada is threatened with extinction by a sweeping "economy" campaign of the government. As a matter of fact, the cost of this commission to the government is exceedingly small; by far the greater part of its work during twelve years of activity was voluntarily performed by twenty of the dominion's foremost scientists and business men. Abolition of this commission would sweep away the town planning department which under Thomas Adams has become one of the most valuable organs of the state's activity for the public welfare and a world pioneer in the practical application of the most modern ideas on city and inter-city planning. Other departments of the commission, likewise, have contributed not a little to the best economic interests of the people of Canada; and many citizens believe that their administrative cost weighs very lightly in the balance against the value of natural resources saved by their work.

From THE SURVEY for April 9, 1921. p. 62.



157  
April  
Twenty-ninth  
1921.

Percy E. Nobbs, Esq.,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Nobbs:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of  
your letter of April 27th.

I am afraid I do not know very much  
about the Town Planning movement, nor Mr. Adams,  
who, apparently has been the adviser of the Govern-  
ment in such matters. I know that he lectured at  
McGill last winter, but unfortunately I was unable  
to be present on any occasion he was here. I  
have always considered that there was an increasing-  
ly useful service which such a Department could  
perform. I shall accept your suggestion and  
mention the matter to Mr. Beatty.

I may say that I have just paid my  
income taxes and my humour this morning is to  
abolish all Departments of the Government.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

January  
Twenty-third  
1923.

Dear Mr. Nobbs:-

I thank you very much for your  
letter of January 22nd.

I appreciate most highly the  
trouble you have taken to give me some idea of  
the relation between floor area and cubic  
contents.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

P. E. Nobbs, Esq.,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.,  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

January 22, 1923.

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

Dear Sir Arthur,

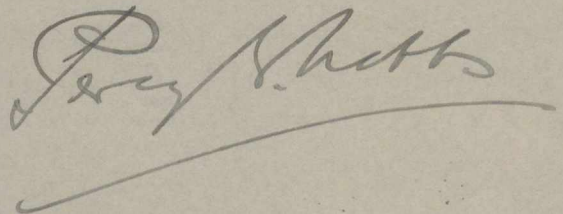
You will recollect asking me the other day what one had to add to the effective floor area or cubic contents of given requirements for a building in order to know the total size and cost.

I have arranged the analysis of several of our jobs in such a way as to show the relation of effective contents to total contents and the proportion that goes into the Walls, the Corridors etc., and the Heating arrangements, and I append a copy for your private information.

The jobs in question varied in cost from 16¢ a foot to 55¢, - the Engineering Laboratories at Edmonton being the cheapest, and the Medical Building there the most costly in the series.

I am,  
Yours very truly,

PEN/C  
1 Enc.



ANALYSIS OF TEN EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS  
BY MOBBS & HYDE, ARCHITECTS.

22/1/23.

BUILDING	PLACE	TOTAL CONT. C. F.	EFFECTIVE CONTENTS C. F.	%	PASSAGES STAIRS, &c. CONT. C. F.	%	ENGINEER- ING ACCOM. C.F.	%	WALLS, FLOORS, DUCTS, IN C.F.	%
Strathearn School	Montreal	870,000	421,000	48.3	132,000	15.2	40,000	4.6	277,000	31.9
Bancroft School	"	1,264,000	610,000	48.1	171,000	13.6	69,000	5.5	414,000	32.8
Peace Cen- tennial School	"	1,440,000	698,000	48.5	204,000	14.2	73,000	5.0	465,000	32.3
Arts Building Univ. of Alberta	Edmont- on	1,290,000	600,000	46.5	226,000	17.5	50,000	3.8	414,000	32.2
Medical Bldg., Univ. of Alta.	Edmon- ton	1,690,000	900,000	53.0	199,000	11.7	25,000	1.5	566,000	33.8
Engineering Building	Montreal	1,120,000	706,000	63.0	70,000	6.2	10,000	.9	334,000	29.9
Pathology Building	Montreal	804,000	444,000	55.2	91,000	11.3	21,000	2.5	248,000	31.0
Laboratory (Single)	Edmonton	195,000	152,500	78.5	11,800	6.1	P.H.		30,700	15.4
Laboratory (Double)	"	216,000	171,500	79.2	8,900	4.1	P.H.		35,600	16.7
WORKMAN Building	Montreal	650,000	435,000	66.9	37,000	5.7	10,000	1.5	168,000	25.9

*AM*

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

March 24, 1923.

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

Dear Sir Arthur,

I enclose MS for a short article  
on Sir William Macdonald, for the publication  
of which the time seems to me propitious.

However, this is a matter in  
which I would defer to your judgment, if you  
care to express a view.

Yours very truly,

*Percy E. Nobbs*

PEN/C  
1 Enc.

SIR WILLIAM MACDONALD.

SOME REMINISCENCES - BY P. E. NOBBS.

- : : -

A bust of the late Sir William Macdonald was recently installed in the Engineering Building at McGill, and the tale of his benefactions was duly recited. This event stimulated an account, by ~~a recent number~~ a Toronto weekly, of the great business which Macdonald founded, and so this grand old man tends to pass into the history of our time, summed up a little too much in terms of financial prosperity and material benefactions. Of his spiritual attributes ~~of the~~ ~~man~~, not quite enough was said. Perhaps this was because of the legend of a hard grain in the texture of the man, which was generally current these twenty years past - a legend stimulated by somewhat negative evidences:- he did not entertain; he lived frugally and aloof, with a certain dignity, it is true, but no advertisement of wealth; he took no visible part in politics; he outraged no conventions; he had but little affinity with <sup>his</sup> relatives; he laid no special claim to culture, nor to learning. But he was wise, very wise, and what he did for education, no less than what he did for his business, bears fruit an hundred-fold unto this day. What is not so generally realized, as it might be, is, that he was also a very kind, a very enthusiastic, a very punctilious, and a very modest old gentleman; in a word, that he had warm blood in his veins.

The students of from thirty to ten years ago probably never realized that behind a door in Prince of Wales Terrace there lived their best friend - a man whose affection for them might have been more demonstrative but for a gentle shyness and delicacy of disposition wholly charming. The motive that impelled his many wise endowments was not, I think, directly felt as the good of the state, the advancement of learning, and emphatically not as the fame on the donor. While he did nothing without that eye to the good of Canada as a whole, which in these

decades of accelerating expansion infected the great men who had the making of our world, with a fervid emotion, the direct stimulus was Sir William's simple and sympathetic affection strongly felt for all young men entering the Battle of Life with serious intent.

My first introduction was a formal call, in virtue of my appointment to one of the Chairs he had founded, a call he returned with old world courtesy at my Department in the first Engineering Building. Shortly afterwards, on another visit, he remarked on a cast from a headless Egyptian figure, with a tablet upon his knees whereon was traced the plan of a temple. On my explaining that this was an Egyptian official architect, he sighed: "What, another architect without a head!" Sparks flew, but honours, I think, were easy.

Shortly afterwards the Principal informed me that Sir William was coming to see me regarding the design of the Union, the site for which was being quietly purchased. When he came, his announcement was characteristic: "Lord Stratheona and his friends are putting up a building" (the Stratheona Hall) "for the Christian young men of McGill. I want a building for all the young men of McGill." As a client he proved difficult, and this in an unusual way. The Committee (consisting of the late Mr. E. B. Greenshields, the late Professor McLeod, Mr. Fleet - the late Mr. Falconer taking Mr. Fleet's place later - and Dr. Adami) were struggling, as all Building Committees do and must, to cut the coat according to the cloth, and Sir William manifested his interest by consulting directly with me regarding costly possible improvements in the scheme for which he would give his word of approval. I did not know ~~this~~ then, of course, as I was to learn later, that an architect's certificate against him was as good as bullion throughout the building trades, and that he paid such things as building accounts in cash.

I recollect particularly one Sunday afternoon at Prince of Wales Terrace, when a change from brick to stone throughout, and an addition of five feet to the height of the building had been thoroughly considered and decided ~~on~~

on its merits in about ten minutes of time, and it then came on to rain hard. <sup>Sir William</sup> ~~The old gentleman~~ insisted on hunting for some stout paper and string for the protection of the drawings. I opened my eyes in some astonishment at this quaint old man who added twenty per cent to the cost of a building and made up rolls of old string with scrupulous care. This he noted, no doubt, for on handing the wrappings to me he remarked, in a casual way, looking past me out of the window: "Mr. Greenshields collects Dutch paintings, and Sir William Van Horne collects Japanese snuff boxes; but I collect string." Then turning those gimlet eyes of his on me at full power "What do you collect?" Being a bit of a numismat in those days, and interested in Greek coins, I murmured confusedly, "Coins, Sir William". "Coins, yes; so do I; so do I," was the rejoinder, and I left, moralizing that the gentleman who collected string could incidentally patronize the living arts.

Throughout the affair of the Union I had abundant opportunities of realizing where my client's heart lay. The young men, whom he loved, were to have a Club, without ostentation or luxury, but with due dignity and substantiality. He was rather like a mother arranging her daughter's trousseau, taking a most lively interest in the whole equipment of the building, teaspoons, table cloths and all.

We had Inigo Jones to help us, with the ideal he had set himself about the year 1640, when he announced his theory of architecture in the words "solid proportioned according to the rules masculine and unaffected." Sir William loved a plain building. In architecture, as in the sciences, he made no pretension of abstruse knowledge, but what he knew was derived directly through the contacts of his benefactions. We owe him much of the grey limestone, which is not the least of the glories of McGill.

In this connection, Rutherford's successes may be referred to. While the founder of the Physics Building did not follow these famous experiments, any more than we of the other Departments were able to do, he was as strongly affected as any



of us by this pushing back of the curtain of mystery. Perhaps the old-fashioned word "bowels" is the right one to use here. Sir William had 'bowels'; he could feel intensely. When interested his eyes glowed, and the slightly opened mouth, square as it was in all its outlines, told of quickened breath and a beating heart. The Rutherford dinner which Sir William gave, with characteristic shyness but/did not attend, was by far the most successful social function McGill has held in the last twenty years, perhaps in all her history.

Sir William's quarrel with the Church of his forefathers was a private affair, and of the intellect rather than of the heart. It was singularly free of the passion which might have led a man of his strong likes and dislikes into a rival fold. His great influence in the affairs of the University was not negative against religion, but positive for freedom of thought, and there was no little need of such influence at the time when it came to be exerted. Nothing in the nature of the British legislation of 1871 affecting religious tests at the Universities has even yet become possible in English-speaking America, north or south of the line, and writing in the first decade of this century, Professor J. B. Bury, in his "History of Freedom of Thought" was compelled to state: "It is notorious that free thought is still a serious handicap to an American even in most of the Universities."

We may recall the case, not twenty years ago, of a Toronto paper which solicited the advertisement of the University with the alternative of an "exposure" of McGill as a free-thinking institution, an exposure, which was accepted as the lesser evil, thus vindicating that liberty of conscience which is after all of the essence of the Protestant complexion provided for in the University charter, and which the devout of all creeds and degrees of belief connected with the institution would do well to ever bear in mind. Twenty years ago McGill could already claim the position of the freest Seat of Learning in North America as to matters of faith, politics and caste, a position very aptly symbolized by the appointment of the late Principal, then Dr.

Peterson, as Chairman of the Carnegie Pensions Board.

An incident illustrating Sir William Macdonald's sense of the fitness of things in this context, occurred at a Convocation ceremony. ~~Let my memory serve me right,~~ If my memory serves me right, the occasion was the granting of the L.L.D. to Mr. Carnegie. The students were in jovial mood, and their programme of enthusiastic accompaniment once started, got a little ahead of the game, and the reverend gentleman who opened the proceedings with prayer, did not secure the decorous silence appropriate to his office. Sir William was deeply and sincerely mortified.

When the student body got out of hand in those days, and removed the Star bulletin boards, or fell foul of the police, the old gentleman was inclined to take the matter almost as a personal affront and I mention this, not to recall past lapses of deportment by our student body - no student body at a first-class University has fewer or milder lapses - nor to dwell upon an old man's amiable foibles, but to illustrate my main thesis, which is that the motive of Sir William's generosity was a very human and quite tremendous emotion of responsibility and affection for the young men of his time and country. He had <sup>no</sup> family, and so, dedicating the increment of his fortune to the rising generation, he felt very much as a decent parent does when his children appear indifferent to such advantages as he has provided for them. Impersonal charity was not in him. He delighted in the sight of the crowded campus, more especially so long as the crowded campus behaved decorously.

There was a fine style about Sir William. On the small, finely arched feet, so characteristic of a high-bred Highlander, he wore the shiniest of boots, and it was a sight to see him skip, with antelope dexterity, across the March mud of Sherbrooke Street (macademized and rutted in those days) and arrive with unspiked footgear on the far pavement.

He could spend hours on a building under construction, from wallhead to basement, without bumping his tall grey felt hat or rubbing plaster on an elbow. Moreover, his visits never did the conduct of the work any harm, and often much

good. General inspection is a gift, and a client who isn't sure he has it is well advised not to venture too freely on his own works.

The nicety and fastidiousness which were so characteristic of Sir William led to one amusing inconsistency of view, which his frankness saved from a harsher designation. "Do you smoke?" he would ask, and on receiving an affirmative answer would add, "But you don't chew, I hope; that's a filthy and disgusting habit!" all oblivious of the *raison d'etre* of the foundations of his fortune.

Sir William took some pains to make it clear that he was no believer in the efficacy of prayer, objectively or subjectively. But he had an abounding faith in the efficacy of work as a double blessing, and his conception of work had something of the busy industry and single purpose of the beaver about it. On ultimate analysis, he was the kind of man (and the world would be none the worse of more of them) who subscribes to the maxim "Work is worship" and is prone to adopt the bee or the ant as his totem. He also believed in the reward of labour, which he found quite comfortable, with the principle of neither asking nor giving quarter, and with the conviction that this made for integrity. It is on record that a British firm which provided some heavy experimental machinery for McGill came out very badly on the deal, but stood by its agreements and completed the installation in style. Sir William (afterwards hearing) of the transaction, not only insisted on paying the full costs, but a reasonable profit over and above.

Sir William Macdonald was a devoted friend and admirer of Sir William Dawson, through whom his interest in the University was first aroused; but it was in close association with Sir William Peterson as Principal that it fell to his lot to do so much for McGill. Both were lonely, proud-hearted men, and there were many dramatic moments in their intercourse. Each, in his own aloof way, had his soul bound up in McGill.

Now, Peterson had no illusions as to the possibility of "making omelettes without breaking eggs" and knew also that he had the support of Macdonald in shaping the institution for more than mere provincial functions. Within the space of twenty-four hours I have heard Sir William Macdonald speak of "Your terrible Principal" and Sir William Peterson speak of "that dear old saint" - a great partnership to conceive and to carry out. Between them, they <sup>left</sup> ~~achieved~~ something more important than lands and buildings and endowments, both for Macdonald's young men and for Peterson's Dominion ~~University~~ - the essential freedom which McGill enjoys.

*Historical  
Macdonald*

March  
Twenty-sixth  
1923.

Professor Percy E. Nobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Nobbs:-

I have read with pleasure your  
MS of "Some Reminiscences of Sir William Macdonald".

I was much interested and consider it  
a very appropriate article to publish. Please tell  
me who are publishing it for you and also if you desire  
the return of the MS.

Yours faithfully,

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

October 13, 1924.

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

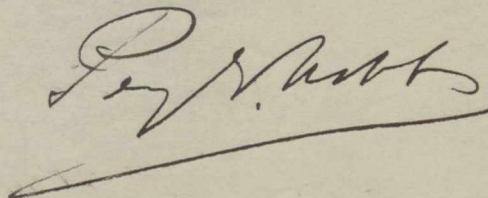
Dear Sir Arthur,

Doctor Porter tells me that he had a conversation with you regarding the property on McTavish Street, now jointly owned by Mr. Duggan and himself. I enclose, for your information, a small scale sketch of the land, showing the adjoining houses. Dr. Porter desired me to give you our views.

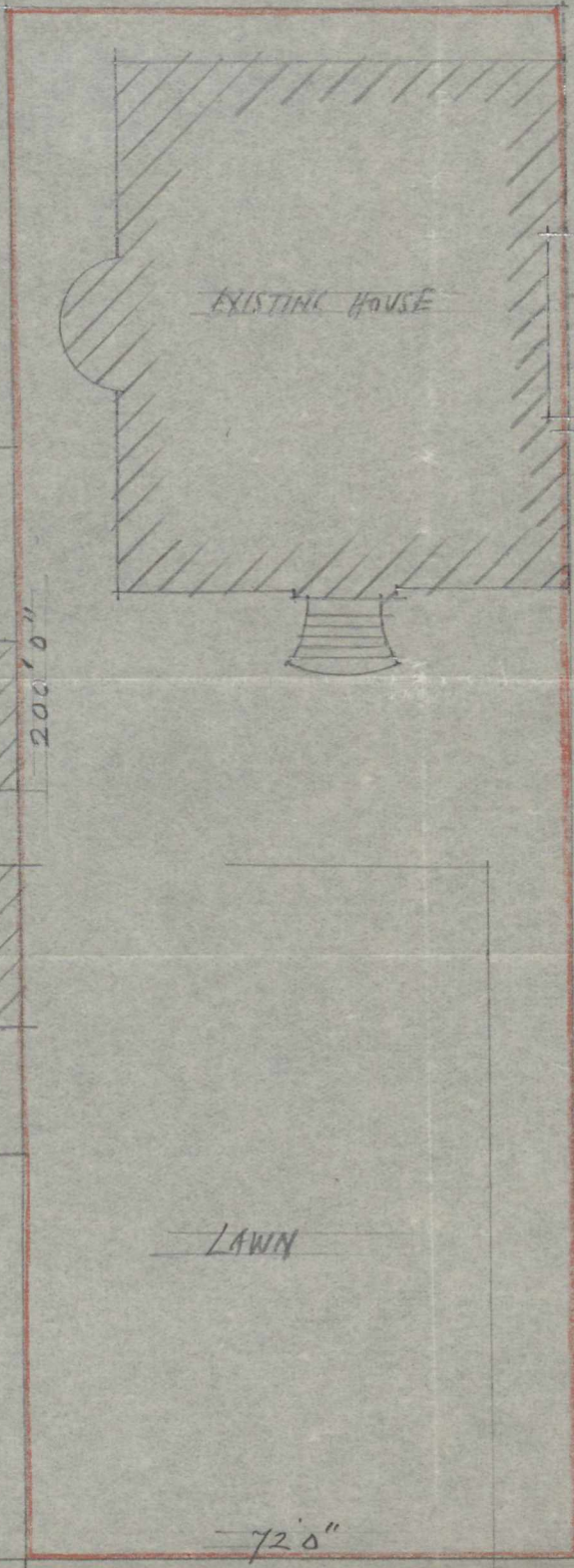
On behalf of the owners, we have been looking into the possibilities of developing this property, by removing the old house, building a fair sized house to the front and three smaller houses to the rear, and it looks as if such a use of the property would be highly profitable, considering the low cost of the land.

I gather that the owners are willing to sell outright, with certain servitudes, instead of undertaking this development. At the price, this property is undoubtedly good value, either for the purpose of reconditioning the old house, or for a project of the kind above referred to.

Yours very truly,



PEN/C  
1 Enc.



MR. DUGGAN

EXISTING HOUSE

DR PORTER

LAWN

McTAVISH STREET

SCALE 25 FEET EQUALS ONE INCH

October 15th, 1924.

Professor P. E. Nobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Nobbs:-

Thank you very much for your  
letter of the 13th re the McTavish Street property.

Frankly, the suggestion made by  
Dr. Porter did not appeal to me very strongly, though  
I do not know what the Board of Governors will do. I  
have had no intimation yet from the owners of the  
Gault property that 'Rokeby' has been sold. From  
other sources I learn that all that has been done is  
the giving of an option.

Yours faithfully,



NOBBS & HYDE

ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.

GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., R.S.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE

MONTREAL

November 1, 1926.

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

re: ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY FREE LIFE CLASS

Dear Sir Arthur,

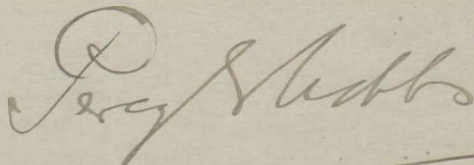
Last Thursday it fell to my turn as Academician to visit the evening Life Class at the Art Association. You will recollect that you were kind enough to interest yourself in the matter a year ago, and that McGill made a contribution to the expenses.

Last year we had some difficulties and disappointments, and some of the more independent spirits started a rival entertainment. Conditions now are entirely satisfactory. There were twenty-five students working last Thursday night, all of a good average, and several showing talent of a high order. The defection of last year has been atoned for, as they are all back and working in the way Mr. Dyonnet advises. There were half a dozen McGill students taking advantage of the arrangement.

I am thus able to assure you that the joint effort of the Academy, the Art Association and the University in this matter is now an unqualified success, and full advantage is being taken of Mr. Dyonnet's great talent as a teacher.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours faithfully,



PEN/C

MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR  
L. W. DOUGLAS

June 23, 1938

Dear Professor Nobbs,

Many thanks indeed for sending me the documents about the Housing Legislation and your own efforts in behalf of bettering the conditions which exist.

With all kind wishes for a pleasant summer,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Professor P.E. Nobbs,  
1200 Phillips Square,  
MONTREAL, QUE.

Fidelity Onion Skin  
ESLEY & CO. MFG. CO.  
MADE IN U.S.A.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc. S.B. F.R.I.B.A.

1240 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

June 15th, 1938.

Dr. Lewis W. Douglas,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear Principal,

You, no doubt, have noticed that Housing Legislation is before the House at Ottawa. Besides myself, on whom great responsibility in this matter has fallen, Professors Flemming, Dawson and March have had a hand in this pie; so McGill has done its part.

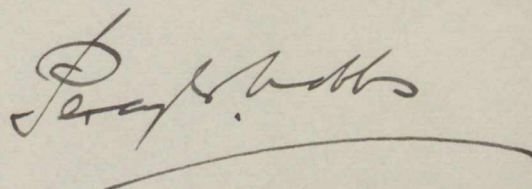
I think we have managed to bring about adequate legislation for this purpose without committing the country to any of that "veiled inflation" which is my interpretation of the U.S.A. Housing effort.

The enclosed documents give you the story.

- (1) The Board of Trade & C.I. League Joint Report, 1935.
- (2) Survey of Location of Housing of Unemployed, 1936.
- (3) The Project for a Montreal Housing Estate, 1937.
- (4) The Bill now before Parliament, 1938.

Yours faithfully,

PEN/dc.



**DOCKET ENDS:**

NOBBS, PERCY E.

**DOCKET STARTS:**

NOBEL COMMITTEE

C O P Y of Dean Pound's letter

Tower Building,  
Washington, D. C.  
January 11, 1930.

The Nobel Committee,  
The Norwegian Parliament,  
Drammensvei, 19,  
Oslo, Norway.

Gentlemen:

I beg to present for your consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1930 the name of the Honorable Frank Billings Kellogg, sometime Secretary of State of the United States of America. I venture to think that his achievement in bringing about the execution of the Pact of Paris, by which the high contracting parties forever renounced war as an instrument of their national policy and agreed to seek the solution of all controversies which might arise between them, of whatsoever character, by peaceful means exclusively, is nothing less than an epoch-making event toward lasting peace. No doubt the idea was not original with Mr. Kellogg, yet it was his recognition of the possibilities of the idea and his energy and determination in turning a proposal for an agreement between two nations into a treaty joined in by fifteen and open to all, and indeed since accepted by substantially the whole world, which has made this idea a reality. May I express the opinion that bringing about an agency of peace of this magnitude qualifies him conspicuously to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

With much respect, I have the honor to be,

Yours sincerely,

Carter Professor of Juris-  
prudence and Dean of the  
Faculty of Law of Harvard  
University

President's Office.



Nobel Peace Prize 1930

February 7, 1930

My dear Sir Arthur:

I am sending you a copy of a letter from Dean Pound, which has been forwarded to me by President Cowling of Carleton College, Minnesota. He asked me to write to the Nobel Committee in support of the nomination of Mr. F. B. Kellogg for the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1930. That I have done.

He also said, however, that he would like me to send the letter on to you, as he understood that McGill University had conferred an honorary degree upon Mr. Kellogg, and therefore that perhaps you might be willing to support the nomination.

I hope that you are keeping well this winter, and that the affairs of the University are prospering. With kind regards to Lady Currie and yourself,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Robert Falconer*

President.

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

President's Office.



February 14, 1930

My dear Sir Arthur:

I rather sympathise with your view in regard to the suggestion that you should write on behalf of the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Kellogg. It had not occurred to me but now that I think of it I am quite sure that the suggesting of names for the Nobel Prizes is out of order, and had I not written myself to President Cowling, whom I know quite well, I should now not do so. I will, however, tell him your view on the matter and it may be salutary.

I had intended this morning to write and congratulate you and McGill on Collip's discovery which was announced in this morning's paper. I am sure that our University will join me in sincere congratulations to a sister institution on this happy result.

It is a pleasure also to know that your own health is so greatly improved. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*A. A. Falconer*  
President.

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



February Thirteenth,  
1930.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,  
P r e s i d e n t ,  
University of Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert,

I have your  
letter of last Friday with reference to  
Mr. Kellogg and the Nobel Peace Prize.

It is true that  
Kellogg received an honorary degree from Mc-  
Gill. This was in 1913 on an occasion when  
the American Bar Association met in Montreal.  
At that time a number of honorary degrees  
were conferred by the University on distin-  
guished members of that Association.

I have decided  
(and in this I am supported by the Corporation  
of the University) not to press upon the Nobel  
Peace Prize Committee any claims which Mr.  
Kellogg's friends think he has.- I am afraid  
this all comes as rather a rude shock to me.  
I was not aware that any wire-pulling was  
necessary in connection with such things as  
the Nobel Prizes. It savours a little of  
experiences I had in the War, when friends  
of officers sometimes asked that military  
decorations be awarded.

Then, what would we do about Ramsay Macdonald? He also has an honorary degree from this University, and I have heard his name mentioned in the same connection. And then, too, there comes to my mind the name of Jim Shotwell, a graduate of yours and an honorary graduate of ours, who, in my opinion, had more to do with the Kellogg Peace Pact than any other man on this side of the water. I am inclined to think Mr. Kellogg has had all the credit he is entitled to receive.

Everything is going very well at the University; in fact, it has been a particularly active session in which my health has permitted me to take my full share. I really feel better than I have at any time in the past two years.

Collip is satisfied that he has discovered something of great value, some mention of which is made in this month's issue of the Canadian Medical Journal.

With all kind wishes to Lady Falconer and yourself,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

ERNEST S. GREENE

~~384 SECOND AVENUE~~

NEW YORK CITY

Dec. 18, 1931.

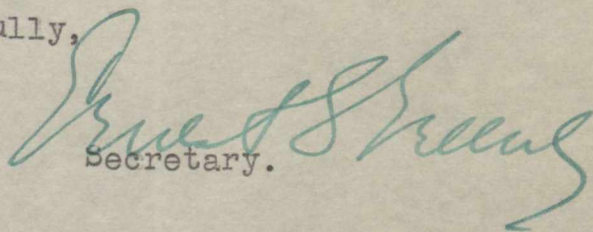
47 Horatio Street.

Sir Arthur William Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the committee which has been formed to recommend the name of Upton Sinclair for the Nobel prize for literature, I submit to you the enclosed document, with an invitation for you to add your signature, as a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Respectfully,

  
Secretary.

The undersigned holders, or former holders of academic positions, join in recommending to the Swedish Academy of Letters the name of Upton Sinclair as candidate for the award of the Nobel prize for literature.

The terms of the Nobel bequest provide that the award shall be made "to one who has produced in the field of literature the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency." For thirty years Upton Sinclair has been making contributions to American literature which seem to us to come under this classification. He is the author of some forty volumes of fiction, drama, economics, and social and literary criticism, and is unquestionably the most widely read of writers living today: his books have been translated into more than thirty languages, and have profoundly affected the thinking of both the masses and the more alert portion of the cultured world. We consider his greatest novels, as "The Jungle," "Love's Pilgrimage," "Oil," "Boston," an outstanding achievement in the contemporary fiction of all lands, for their mastery of fact, for their social vision, for consistent, honest and courageous thinking, for humanitarian passion, for originality in the technique of presentation, and for vitality and sweep of creative art.

HARRY ELMER BARNES  
(New School for Social Research)

JOHN DEWEY  
(Columbia University)

PAUL H. DOUGLAS  
(University of Chicago)

ALBERT EINSTEIN  
(University of Berlin)

PAUL S. EPSTEIN  
(California Institute of Technology)

ROBERT HERRICK  
(University of Chicago)

R. F. HOERNLE  
(University of Witwatersrand)

H. J. LASKI  
(University of London)

WILLIAM ELLERY LEONARD  
(University of Wisconsin)

ROBERT MORSS LOVETT  
(University of Chicago)

EDWIN MARKHAM  
(Member American Academy)

WILLIAM McDUGALL  
(Oxford University)

REGIS MICHAUD  
(University of Illinois)

FRANZ OPPENHEIMER  
(University of Berlin)

EDWARD A. ROSS  
(University of Wisconsin)

BERTRAND RUSSELL  
(Cambridge University)

FREDERICK C. S. SCHILLER  
(Oxford University)

J. G. SLEESWIJK  
(University of Delft)

HARRY F. WARD  
(Union Theological Seminary)

FRITZ WITTELS  
(New School for Social Research)

51 McKinley Crescent,  
BROOKLYN,  
WELLINGTON,  
NEW ZEALAND.  
17th April, 1936.

The Secretary,  
Dr. Nobel's Peace Prize Essay Competition,  
C/o Parliament House,  
STOCKHOLM.

Hon. Sir,

The Minister of Education in England called together a Commission to enquire into "The Teaching of English in England". A Government Report of the proceedings of the Commission was published under the above title. Over 200 educationists gave evidence. The Report recommended - amongst other things - that "a greater place should be given in the schools to the study of the Bible as literature over and above the 30 minutes set apart daily for the usual Bible lesson, as an aid to the formation of high character.

I sent to you some time ago a suggestion that your Commission might offer a prize for the best essay explaining a plan or system for getting the Bible read in the public schools, in the interests of character building and general culture, with arguments in support. Of course, entrants for this suggested Peace essay would write regarding the Bible of his own particular country. Russians would write of the Bible of the Greek Church; Germans of the Lutheran Bible; Roman Catholics of the Douay Bible; and British and American entrants of the Authorised Version or of the Revised Version of the Bible.

This suggested essay would deal:

- First, with the historical value of the Bible. Froude, the historian, states that no race has left such a mark on history as the Jewish race has.
- Second, the value of the Bible as literature, because there is scarcely one outstanding speech uttered or important book or article written but which makes use of a Bible quotation to strengthen an argument.
- Third, Educationists of the leading universities and other leaders in the scholastic world, are agreed that the chief aim of education is the formation of character; and they are also agreed that you cannot form character without referring to the Bible.
- Fourth, There is no book in the world which sets out the blessings of peace as does the Bible: therefore its peace teachings should have a place in every school under Western civilization.

Sir, in answer to the above suggestion you replied that Dr. Nobel had made no provision in his will for giving a prize for theology. But, Sir, an essay based on the above suggestion would not deal with, or bring up, the question of theology (Theos, God; logos, science). which is usually interpreted at the present day as discussion of creeds and dogmas. An American Court has ruled that the Bible could be read in the schools as it is itself an unsectarian book, but people make creeds and dogmas out of it. Also about 80 per cent. of the Bible is of a secular nature, dealing as it does with our duty to our fellowmen; in fact, nine of the Ten Commandments are of a secular character, and Christ's teachings were mainly of a humanitarian nature.

In the past the Church thought it had a monopoly of the Bible. each stressing its own sectarianism, which made the Book unpopular. A renaissance seems to be coming in the more extended reading of the Bible: even the leading rationalists and evolutionists have declared emphatically on the use of the Bible in the schools as a classic and for its moral teachings. (See, "Bible and Religious Instruction" in the index of each of the following rationalistic books:- Haeckel - "The Riddle of the Universe"; Huxley's essay on School Boards; and Leckie's "Democracy and Liberty"; Fairchild-Osborn's "Evolution", and Marvin's "Life of Tolstoy.")

You may wonder why I suggest as above seeing that the Bible is read in most of the schools of Europe; but the Bible has never been read in the schools of Russia, with the exception of the New Testament, owing to the opposition of the Greek Church - so Tolstoy said. And to-day the Communists keep the Bible out of the schools, largely because of their hatred of the Greek Church. France will not allow any Scriptural instruction in the schools, though Mussolini has placed Scripture instruction on the syllabus of the Italian schools, and Italy had been without Scriptural instruction in her schools for fifty years.

I have visited Western Canada, the Western States of the United States of America and Australia, and have found that the Bible was not generally read daily in the State schools of these States and Provinces, largely owing to apathy, and, being new countries, the people seem to be more interested in schemes for the development of their respective countries than in anything else. One Canadian has remarked that "the resources of a country will not make a great nation but the high character of its people will." But, as a Colonial, I say: "How can you form character without teaching morals and you cannot teach morals effectively without reference to the Bible." If you try to teach morals without appeal to the Bible, the pupil is apt to ask: "What is your authority for telling me this, or that?" (So a New Zealand barrister expressed himself.)

The United States of America have a splendid materialistic system of education but they also have a very high juvenile crime rate which, educationists say, is the result of dropping the Bible from the schools. The American system of education is not a fair or just one to the child. Roman Catholics and Jews do not get grants to support their schools as they do in England and Scotland, therefore they oppose the Bible being read in the schools, and consequently the child suffers. And again, I found that where Bible reading was given in the American public schools, it was of a very meagre character - simply the opening of the school with the reading of the Bible by the Superintendent; the scholars did not need to have a Bible (as in England); no Bible syllabus is provided for teachers; scholars are not made to memorise portions of the Bible, such as the Ten Commandments; therefore, Sir, an essay on this great subject of Bible reading in schools may in the end affect the moral training of millions of children in the schools who are at present growing up in ignorance of the great laws and high ideals of the Bible.

The total exclusion from the State schools of New Zealand, for about 60 years, of the Bible with its moral instruction lessons has had its effect upon the national character, as is evidenced, partially, by the high illegitimate birth rate. Of the first births of mothers under 19 years of age one in three is illegitimate. For verification of this statement, please see Mr. Butcher's two books entitled "Education in New Zealand", paragraph headed "Illegitimate Birth Rate."

I trust you will consider this question again on account of the Bible's ethical value in schools for the inculcation of moral ideals.

Yours truly,

*Samuel Pearson.*

Samuel Pearson.

RECEIVED  
MAY 20 1936

51 McKinley Crescent,  
Brooklyn,  
WELLINGTON. New Zealand.  
18th April, 1936.

The Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir,

I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you copy of a letter which I am sending to the Nobel Peace Prize Essay Commission in Sweden. I would feel very grateful if you would have the suggestion contained in it discussed by your senate and by your Professors as it is a world-wide question dealing with education. Instead of replying to me I would be obliged if you would send your recommendations to the Nobel Peace Prize Essay Commission in Stockholm, Sweden, you being so much nearer than I am. (Care of Parliament House, Sweden).

Trusting you will excuse this liberty,

I am,

Yours truly,

*Samuel Pearson.*

Samuel Pearson.

late Secretary to the Citizens' Committee to get daily Bible reading (without sectarian comment) into the State schools of New Zealand.

P.S. I would be very pleased to have an expression of opinion from yourself and your professors on the subject of Bible Reading in schools in the interests of character building; and other arguments in favour.

Also I would be glad if you would kindly send a copy of your reply and enclosed letter to your leading newspapers.

*S.P.*



**DOCKET ENDS:**

NORWEL COMMITTEE

June  
Fourth  
1920.

The Manager,  
Noiseless Typewriter Company,  
253 Broadway,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

In a conversation which I had with Dr. Colby immediately before he left for England, he informed me that he would be back in America before this.

He was to look up some matters for McGill University when on the other side, and I am now writing to ask whether you will be good enough to let me know when he is expected to return, as I am anxious to see him as soon as possible after his arrival.

Yours very sincerely,

Acting Principal.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR  
L. W. DOUGLAS

Fidelity Onion Skin

May 17, 1938

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 14th May, may  
I say that the University does not include the subject  
of Typewriting in its curriculum.

Yours very truly,

Mr. L. G. Eschenberg,  
University of North Dakota,  
University Station,  
Grand Forks, N.D.

THE UNIVERSITY



OF NORTH DAKOTA

UNIVERSITY STATION  
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

May 14, 1938

President W. H. Brittain,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear President Brittain:

I should like to inquire as to the status of the teaching of typewriting in your college, with a view toward discovering the best practice. We have found that when it is required here without credit, some students lose interest in doing a high quality of work, and they cut class frequently at certain seasons of the year, in favor of other attractions.

Perhaps you have a better practice which, if known, will bear emulation. Your cooperation is sought in replying to a few inclosed questions to help determine the status of typewriting in a number of higher institutions when taught as a college or university subject.

This investigation has the approval of Dean J. V. Breitwieser and Dr. A. V. Overn of the School of Education here. Your reply will be much appreciated, and you will be supplied with the results of the study if you so indicate on the question blank.

Yours very truly,

*Louis G. Eschenberg*  
Louis G. Eschenberg,  
Instructor of Typing.

LGE:JPD

Typewriting Survey

Please fill out and send to Louis G. Eschenberg, University Station, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

These questions are in reference to typewriting in the School of Education. Answer all questions of attitude purely in the light of your experience of typewriting in your own institution.

Underscore your answer

1. Do you offer a major course in teaching commercial subjects in education?  
YES. NO.
2. Do you offer a minor course in teaching commercial subjects in education?  
YES. NO.
3. Do you offer a typewriting course? YES. NO.
4. Is your typing course required for commercial majors? YES. NO.
5. Is your typing course required for commercial minors? YES. NO.

Fill in the blanks or underscore your answer

6. The amount of typewriting required? For major \_\_\_\_\_ minor \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is it a credit course? YES. NO.
8. Is it a non-credit course? YES. NO.
9. How much credit do you allow? Semester Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter Hours \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many days a week is class held? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How long are the class periods? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have laboratory periods? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you charge a typing fee (YES, NO). If so, how much? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you allow other than commercial students to use the machines? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What text are you using at the present time? \_\_\_\_\_
16. In your opinion what would be the advantages, if any, when the course is offered without credit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. If non-credit course, what disadvantages do you find? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. Do you think giving credit would raise the morale or type of work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. Your comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Do you wish a report of this data? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

May 21, 1925.

Charles A. Plumley, Esq.,  
Norwich University,  
Northfield, Vermont.

Dear President Plumley:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 16th. Although I have made enquiries I am sorry to say that I have not yet been able to find any one with the qualifications you are asking for, indeed there are very few French Canadians who possess them.

Curiously enough, however, we have just had a letter from a young man in England who has seemingly the qualifications you require besides some more. His specialty seems to be Economics not Languages. I enclose herewith a copy of his letter.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.

Norwich University  
Northfield, Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 16, 1925.

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
President McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

My dear Sir:

Will you pardon me for asking you to hand this letter to the head of such department in your University as may be interested therein.

We are endeavoring to find an Assistant Professor for our Modern Language Department. We wish a man competent to teach French and Spanish, and incidentally some German. We prefer a Canadian-Frenchman rather than a Parisian Frenchman.

Norwich is a military institution, as you may know, over one hundred years of age, with traditions and customs which, with all due respect to the gentleman named, it nevertheless may be said, a Parisian Frenchman cannot seem to comprehend. He doesn't fit into our system, as we have learned from two experiences.

We must have a man of some teaching experience, as the position which he will occupy is next to that of the head of the department. We expect to pay not less than \$2000, and possibly a little more, the first year. We supposed we had the vacancy filled but were advised otherwise yesterday.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. Pomeroy*

President.

7

OFFICE OF  
THE SUPERINTENDENT  
ONTARIO BRANCHES

BANK OF MONTREAL  
TORONTO

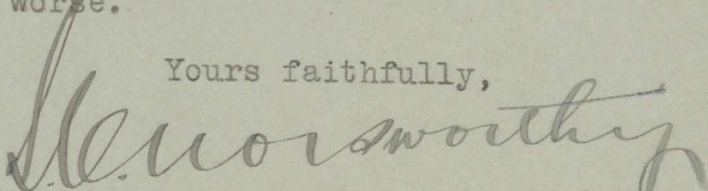
March  
Twenty-third  
1926

Dear Sir Arthur,

I am obliged for your letter of 20th instant and thank you for your promise to send me some time during next week copy of your notes for your recent address before the Canadian Club.

I heard Lord Allenby speak in Massey Hall here last Saturday. He is a big, handsome man but I would judge less clever and less modest than Lord Byng. One wonders whether his present tour of Canada with Lady Allenby during which they are certainly not sparing themselves as regards public engagements, foreshadows his appointment to succeed Lord Byng next July. We might do far worse.

Yours faithfully,



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