

RG:0002,c.0048; FILE # 00515;
OBSERVATORY, 1921- 1932

FILE 515

OBSERVATORY

MEMORANDUM

FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

TO _____

*Observatory file
to Dr. Stedder
all our file
October 31st
by LWD*

RENTAL RECEIPTS

Annual Grants from Department of Marine & Fisheries:

General Grant	\$1300.00	
For rental of rooms	600.00	\$1900.00

Annual charges for time service supplied:

City of Montreal	150.00	
Harbour Commissioners	250.00	1190.00
Jewellery and other stores	790.00	<hr/>
		\$3090.00

Observatory

Time	Temperature	Barometer	Wind	Clouds	Humidity
5:00 AM	55	30.0	Light	0	85
6:00 AM	56	30.0	Light	0	85
7:00 AM	58	30.0	Light	0	85
8:00 AM	60	30.0	Light	0	85
9:00 AM	62	30.0	Light	0	85
10:00 AM	64	30.0	Light	0	85
11:00 AM	66	30.0	Light	0	85
12:00 PM	68	30.0	Light	0	85
1:00 PM	70	30.0	Light	0	85
2:00 PM	72	30.0	Light	0	85
3:00 PM	74	30.0	Light	0	85
4:00 PM	76	30.0	Light	0	85
5:00 PM	78	30.0	Light	0	85
6:00 PM	76	30.0	Light	0	85
7:00 PM	74	30.0	Light	0	85
8:00 PM	72	30.0	Light	0	85
9:00 PM	70	30.0	Light	0	85
10:00 PM	68	30.0	Light	0	85
11:00 PM	66	30.0	Light	0	85
12:00 AM	64	30.0	Light	0	85

M c G I L L U N I V E R S I T Y

RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS of the OBSERVATORY for the five years ending 31st May 1922.

RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>					<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>					
	<u>1917-18</u>	<u>1918-19</u>	<u>1919-20</u>	<u>1920-21</u>	<u>1921-22</u>	<u>1917-18</u>	<u>1918-19-</u>	<u>1919-20</u>	<u>1920-21</u>	<u>1921-22</u>	
				<u>11 mos.</u>					<u>11 mos.</u>		
Grants:-											
Dept. of Marine & Fisheries	2037.32	1700.00	1900.00	1750.00	1962.45	Balance carried fwd	561.84	733.41	1172.37	1542.43	2130.74
Transmission of Time Signals	327.65	1607.69	1220.47	1051.90	1180.00	Salaries	1700.04	2470.61	2350.01	2375.87	3109.98
Miscellaneous			7.25			Janitors & cleaning	59.59	44.01	71.09	41.92	63.37
Balance carried forward	733.41	1172.37	1542.43	2130.74	3162.90	Government work	88.38	12.87		60.08	
						Apparatus, tools, etc. New			60.85		30.58
						Mtce. of apparatus	14.63	116.62	12.39	47.43	72.85
						Repairs & Improvements	106.79	96.44	133.00	131.58	138.40
						Furniture	50.00		23.19		
						Transmission of Time Signals	27.70	561.10	246.60	55.10	159.60
						Light, Heat & Power	255.74	224.82	373.29	421.72	326.54
						Printing, Stationery & Postage	42.91	37.86	46.33	44.43	25.81
						Insurance	17.42	17.43	17.43		33.66
						Interest on alterations	66.74	66.74	66.74	66.74	66.74
						Miscellaneous	106.60	34.66	49.88	77.76	85.14
						Supplies & Materials		63.49	46.98	67.58	61.94
	3098.38	4480.06	4670.15	4932.64	6305.35		3098.38	4480.06	4670.15	4932.64	6305.35
Net Receipts	2364.97	3307.69	3127.72	2801.90	6305.35	Net Disbursements	2536.54	3746.65	3497.78	3390.21	4174.61

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

McGill College Observatory, Montreal, Que.
April 19th, 1921. 191

REPORT OF THE MCGILL COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, MONTREAL FOR
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1921.

To the Director,
The Meteorological Service of Canada,
Toronto, Ontario.

Sir:-

The year's work of this station has been uninterrupted and has been, as in former years, the carrying on of the weather and time service. The demands made by the City for information have not lessened and we are continually at a disadvantage in striving to answer inquiries of all sorts which are usually legitimate. Our facilities, equipment and staff are inadequate to fulfil that concept in the public mind of a properly supplied Meteorological or astronomical observatory. For a city of the importance of Montreal these services should be on a more adequate scale.

We cannot but continue to insist that both the University and the Government should have in mind the necessity of an Observatory in Montreal, better located, better equipped and a greater service to the public and the University than the present McGill College Observatory.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

.....191

-2-

The Meteorological work done is that prescribed by the Meteorological Service, which directly concerns the public at large. Apart from visiting students, and the certain facilities provided some few of them by the Meteorological equipment, the University has little interest in or advantage from the Meteorological work. There are no Meteorological courses provided for in the curriculum. On the other hand the public addresses itself to the University as much as to the Meteorological Service for such information as we are always ready to impart. As an astronomical observatory, apart from the time service and the facilities for aiding the small classes in practical astronomy thereby provided, we have no equipment or pretensions.

The site is entirely unsuitable for astronomical observations and to some extent for Meteorological work.

The co-operation of the Government and University in providing a new Observatory on another site, largely given to Meteorological work, and with astronomy^{ical} equipment that might save^{er} for instructional purposes, if no more, might be expected. McGill University dependant on the public for financial support, might, we think, accept this means of better serving its interests and those of its supporters. And the Government duty is to provide a better Meteorological station for Montreal than the present.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

-3-

.....191

In view of our hesitation in asking for extensive alterations and additions to an antiquated institution on an unsuitable site no complaints are made of immediate condition of the equipment.

For the support of the staff however, the funds are continually deficient.

Our estimates for the staff, as at present are :-

Superintendent....	\$1000	annually.
Time Clerk.....	\$ 600	" "
Weather "	\$ 600	" "
Office Girl.....	\$ 840	" "

The superintendent, for personal reasons has found it wise to add the time clerk to relieve himself of a routine chore that demanded the surrender of all liberty. The necessity of having this assistance was always admitted, but whether the estimate will be approved is as yet uncertain.

The question of residence does not enter, as the Superintendent engineer of the University now has the privileges of the residence, and the writer rents his quarters in the building from the University

Having in mind the purpose for which the residence formerly stood, the writer applied for it, offering a reasonable rental, but no action being taken on his proposal for three months, he withdrew it and dismissed the subject.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

.....191

-4-

It may be said that while there exists in name an observatory department in the University there exists no defined policy with its regard.

The financial resources on which the observatory depends are those grants and supplies from the Meteorological Service, grants and supplies from the University, cash grants from the city, the Harbor Commissioners and the subscribers^{Admiral} for the time signals from the C.P.R. and G.T.R. Railways and some half dozen jewellers.

The revenues and expenditures are handled through the bursar's office entirely. Financial statements to be forwarded will be requested and forwarded as soon as available.

No new apparatus was added in the year. An old Friez thermograph was replaced with a new one from the Meteorological Service and all minor supplies requested were promptly provided.

The four astronomical clocks, two sidereal and two mean time, were kept regulated and have performed satisfactorily.

The results of 17 time exchanges with Toronto were separately submitted a few days past. We have supplied the Railways and City with time signals with no complaints. We must however again draw attention to the Harbor Time Ball. We have attended to the switch every week day noon without fail. Frequently the ball is not up, or there is no current in the loop, and we learn that the attendant at the

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

.....191

-5-

Harbor does not regularly raise the ball except in the navigation season. We have had to write the secretary of the H.C.M. accepting as our responsibility only the throwing of the switch. We however continually report to the Harbor Office or the Wire Chief the lack of current on the loop. The Time Ball is so exposed as to be quite invisible to a large part of the shipping.

In the course of the present month, the re-erection of several poles, and repairs to the cable here from the Mount Royal Tower where the anemometer is exposed, were attended to at our request by the college laborers. The account of this we have asked for, and expect to have it rendered to the Meteorological Service.

The Calendar recorder of differences of temperature between the mountain and campus is being kept in operation. We find the records not amenable to analysis and have failed to draw any systematic conclusions from them. The erratic results confirm our belief that the compensation is not perfect, nor the exposure on the hill suitable.

We do not allow the local adoption of Daylight Saving Time to affect our taking of records. It causes inconveniences with the Staff in the taking of observations and sending of Time Signals however.

That discussion and conference between the Head of the Meteorological Service and the Principal and Governors of the University

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—CANADA.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE,
CENTRAL OFFICE, TORONTO.

.....191

-6-

regarding the future status of the observatory would lead to a clearer definition of policy, we respectfully submit.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

May 27th, 1921.

Sir Arthur W. Currie.
Principal of McGill University.
M O N T R E A L.

Sir:-

I beg that you will kindly relieve me of the supervision of the McGill College Observatory.

Communication of this request to Sir Frederic Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service, will you kindly have in mind.

I find it necessary to preserve my health, professional reputation and self-respect, none of which are secure if I continue accepting the responsibilities of this position under the handicaps of inadequate assistance and lack of appreciation.

I beg to acknowledge the pleasure I have had in the past few years in receiving daily many expressions of thanks from the citizens of Montreal for services we have been able to render.

Yours respectfully,

James Weir

JW/MG

May
Twenty-seventh
1921.

James Weir, Esq.,
Superintendent McGill Observatory,
McGill University.

Dear Sir:-

Having reference to our conversation this morning, I have decided to recommend to the meeting of the Finance Committee to be held on Monday next that the salaries and appropriations, as applied for by you for next year, be approved.

Under these circumstances, please let me know whether you still desire your resignation as Superintendent of the Observatory to be dealt with by the Board of Governors.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

May 28th. 1921

Sir Arthur W. Currie,
Principal of McGill University,

Dear Sir:

After the consideration you have shown me following my impatient attitude over Observatory matters, I shall be very content to have you do as you judge wise in the matter of the resignation I left in your hands. I beg however to withdraw any portion of it that implied a lack of appreciation; Permit me to thank you for the confidence in our work shown by approving our estimates where we had perhaps no right to expect.

It is well that the exact nature and limitations of the McGill Observatory be again examined when more pressing claims have been met. In the meantime the humble work being done, I am sure, has been rendered more agreeable to the "Superintendent" of the McGill Observatory as it is, no matter who he may be.

Yours respectfully,
James Weir

226

House built 1881

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

October 10, 1922

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

Sir,

As Superintendent of the Observatory, we have requested the use of three of the twelve rooms in the Observatory residence. Will you be good enough to inform us why we do not get these.

rent?
1
2
3
\$66 2/3 per annum

To assist you to clear away the misrepresentations of the secretary and his protégé, the Superintendent Engineer who has confiscated eleven rooms of this building without right, rent or reason, we beg to make clear that all reports and minutes of the University show this residence was intended for the Observatory Superintendent. Observatory funds are being used even yet to pay for its first cost. Our rental cheques and receipts show payments made for rental of observer's house. It has always been occupied in whole or lately in part by the Superintendent of the Observatory.

4

We have Sir Wm. Dawson's statement that "The Observatory residence was built to aid the Superintendent in his work." We recall the late Sir Wm. Peterson's advice to us to occupy what part of it we needed as the University wished to make us comfortable in our work. We have the requirements of the Civil Service Commission that in first class meteorological stations the man in charge is to reside where the instruments are exposed. We have the advice of Sir Frederic Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, that long experience has proven amply the necessity of this. This is not interference on his part, for the service he directs pays for the maintenance of this Observatory more than the University does.

We have the opinion of Dr. Klotz, Director of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, who has collaborated with the late Prof. McLeod in this Observatory and has written an historical account of it, that to allow anyone else than the Superintendent to occupy the residence is most extraordinary and absurd, and certainly not in keeping with the spirit of a University. We have our own convictions as Superintendent of this Observatory that we cannot and will not supervise it from a distance.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

No. 2. Sir Arthur W. Currie, K.C.M.G., L.L.D. 10/10/22.

3/18
15/4
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6
7
8
We charge the Supt. Engineer with indifference amounting to incompetence in allowing our office to be run at temperatures averaging about 50° in the winter. We charge that excessive fuel and power charges are accumulated against us. We charge that Mr. Lawrence's claims that he heats the Observatory are incorrect. We charge that our rentals are not properly credited to the Observatory funds. We charge holding up of our communications in the office, delays in our requisitions, and in general an intolerable interference within the University in Observatory matters.

9
We have at the present moment some grounds for action for damages against the University if it longer allows Mr. Lawrence to succeed in making uncomfortable and unsuitable the quarters occupied by Mrs. Weir and myself in the residence for which we pay rental.

7
7
The University paid a deficit last fiscal year of \$1,000. for its share of the Observatory. No department can show that its receipts were three-fourths of the cost of maintaining it. No Observatory ever was self-supporting. We require what observatory facilities we have as a minimum for our University courses in practical astronomy. We must have it for the time service rating chronometers, basis for our longitude work, facilities for teaching deficient students on the campus and for the contracts the University has to supply time to the City, to jewellers and to the railroads. We received \$2600. for doing half the work of the Surveying Department. Our colleague receives \$3,500. for the other half. We receive \$1,000. for being custodian of all the astronomical equipment at McGill, concerning which the calendar may be consulted. The four weeks work we do in September is largely observatory work conducted on Westmount but requiring observatory facilities as a base. Our lectures in practical astronomy & geodesy require the materials we have from the Observatory.

1
Astronomy otherwise at McGill is disgracefully deficient. Let the University see to it that a proper college Observatory project under suitable guidance takes ^{root} seed and grows. There are qualified men in the University to direct. In the meantime our equipment for practical astronomy for engineers is the envy of other colleges in America and requires Observatory facilities. The \$1,000. deficit is nothing compared with our needs to keep this course properly equipped.

1
excepting one course for students, few in numbers, in Honour Mathematics.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

OBSERVATORY.

No. 3. Sir Arthur W. Currie, K.C.M.G., L.L.D. 10/10/22.

*What what
you are paying for*

In the name of McGill we use our professional knowledge a thousand times a year in satisfying inquiries that come to us in the absence of a University Observatory.

Q. Lawrence

We cannot put a member of the staff in our room to supervise. Our weather observer at \$50.00 monthly goes when a position offers. We have coached five in four years practically doing their routine work for months in each case. Our latest has just departed and we again do this chore. Our time clerk at \$50.00 monthly does his duties at such times as he can morning and evening. He lives at home. He depends on Mr. Lawrence for three times this amount of salary. The Secretary had the insincerity to oppose our estimates for this item on the grounds that no advances for staff were permissible. Did he oppose Mr. Lawrence's securing him at \$150. a month immediately after? To place him in charge would be to surrender the last control of the Observatory to these two officials who suppress us.

*Answers
10/11/22
rdh*

If it is of paramount importance for Mr. Lawrence to live on the campus, there is the house occupied by his foreman, Mr. Graydon.

As winter is coming, we trust you will in the meantime instruct Mr. Lawrence to vacate two rooms of his eleven, to enlarge the 19 inch slit by which we enter our rooms, to enclose an open gallery, to attend to urgent requisitions he is ignoring. We are paying rental where these are needed. Our furniture is awaiting entry through a normal door. We trust you to instruct him to heat our offices. If these things cannot be done, we shall have to resign from the Observatory or, if loyalty to Alma Mater allows it, advertise this situation and seek legal recourse.

Yours respectfully,

James Weir

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

OBSERVATORY.

Nov. 1st, 1922.

Sir Arthur W. Currie G.C.M.G., LL.D.,
Principal,

Sir:— Re Observatory.

Supplementing our discussion regarding the Observatory residence, I beg to suggest that if the gallery be enclosed, a door enlarged and the office room used by Mr. Lawrence placed at our disposal, Mrs. Weir and I can continue to reside here.

This compromises to the extent of asking only one room and makes a partition unnecessary.

If this minimum however cannot be arranged, kindly allow me to resign my Observatory duties as soon as conveniently possible.

Yours respectfully,
James Weir.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

OBSERVATORY.

November 13th, .922.

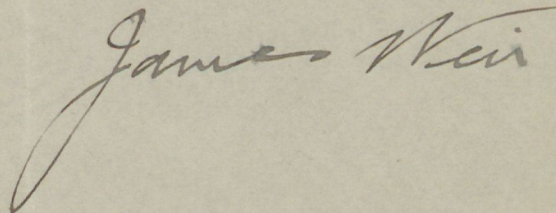
Sir Arthur Currie G.C.M.G., LL.D.
Principal,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L.

Dear Sir:-

I regret to have no reply to my communication of the 1st inst. re room for my family in the Observatory and as our present position is no longer tenable I have to inform that I intend this evening to sign a yearly lease for an Outremont apartment.

If this ^{is} contrary to any plan being made in the matter I shall be glad to know in the course of the day.

Yours respectfully,



JW/MG.

November
Thirteenth
1922.

James Weir, Esq., B.Sc.,
The Observatory,
McGill University.

Dear Mr. Weir:-

I frankly apologize for not giving before this formal acknowledgment to your letter of November 1st, but the matter of arranging satisfactorily the accommodation provided by Observatory House has given me great concern, and I see no other solution for it than what I proposed to you at the time of our meeting the other day.

The accommodation occupied by you at present is not satisfactory to you and if I take away from Mr. Lawrence any of his accommodation it makes the house as a place of residence unsatisfactory to him. I told you that I would ask Mr. Lawrence to vacate the house on May 1st next and place it all at your disposal. This is unsatisfactory to you, and so, greatly to my regret, I shall have to arrange to allow you to resign your duties as Observatory Superintendent.

I am writing you this now, because, apparently, the matter of a lease of an apartment by you is involved. I have not time to discuss Observatory matters with you to-day, but I would like you to come in and see me about them on Wednesday morning next at a time agreeable to yourself.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

OBSERVATORY.

November 14th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 13th inst. and find it a frank and satisfactory reply to my proposals over the Observatory residence.

I must explain that my uncompromising attitude in this matter is due to a conviction I have held that very drastic changes in a whole series of Observatory matters would be required and that to start with divided authority and quibbling over privileges would be to delay each of these successions as they arose.

The fact that the Observatory is unsuitably located makes it easier to desist from any such enterprise and I therefore accept gladly your intimation that I may resign.

I have satisfactorily arranged for new living quarters.

I apologize for any asperity shown in the recent arguments over the privileges of the residence and thank you for your patient attitude.

Yours respectfully,

JW/MG.

James Weir

Observatory

515 Victoria Av.,
Westmount

Jan. 5 1928

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

Dear Sir:-

I have been informed that the wind recording instruments connected with the observatory have on account of deterioration of the electric lines and apparatus degenerated so so that it has been necessary to attach them to the engineering building and thus making the records practically useless for predicting weather conditions.

May I be allowed ^{to} draw your attention to the history of the arrangements which were formerly instituted by the former McGill authorities, with the active help of former governors, who gave their active support and (I believe) supplied land on which to erect the instruments. (I believe ^{the late Peter} Mr. Redpath supplied the land) on the request of Sir William Dawson) and supported the erection of the apparatus and electric lines. Prof. McCosh surveyed the mountain with the aid of his students and selected the site which would give least interference and from which most perfect observations and records could be made, with the object of supplying the most perfect data for predicting the wind and weather conditions. These records were made as nearly mathematically correct as possible in regard to time &c, care being taken

(2)

down to the minute or second as ^{the} case might be and the results were telegraphed to Toronto, which was then the principal ^{Canadian} predicting centre as well as to Washington. Both exchanged their predictions &c.

It is impossible to obtain proper records of wind unless it is obtained from unobstructed sites and this is as important today, but more difficult to obtain than it ever was, on account of more obstructions by buildings &c.

The Canadian Government is ~~engaged~~ establishing an air port across the river from Montreal and it is most desirable that perfect predictions and warnings should be supplied to men operating air ships & aeroplanes.

Might I suggest that you get the government to supply the requirements in order that Canada may give the best possible support to our air force.

McGill should not drop into the position where it will be the subject of criticism - say from the University of Montreal, who no doubt could get permission to put and maintain instruments and connections with the cross on the mountain.

(3)

The people of the U.S. are now trying to obtain more accurate data in regard to wind &c by means of balloons sent up in various parts of their country in order to get data for more perfect prediction along their "air routes".

The facilities ^{here} were supplied by the great men who built McGill by their labor as well as with their money and I hope you will be able to help it along and improve, strengthen and support our Canadian air men and those using the air routes.

The U.S. government once established a station on our mountain from which point triangulations were made connecting up with the various points of the U.S. government Coast Survey so that a point has been established fixing exactly the position of our Mount Royal relative to points in U.S. visible from Mount Royal.

Canadian air men should be kept informed of all conditions which they are likely to encounter in order to enable them to meet the conditions which they are likely to run into. The best aid in this direction is to be found by careful, accurate and scientific forecasts which require correct & fully accurate observations of the wind.

Please pardon me for interfering with my suggestions,

Yours faithfully

E. Hamilton

January 7th, 1928.

E. H. Hamilton, Esq.,
515 Victoria Avenue,
Westmount, Que.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:-

Let me acknowledge receipt
this morning of your letter of January 5th.

I quite agree with all you
say. The roof of the Engineering Building is by
no means a proper place for the setting up of a
wind recording instrument and we must make better
provision than that. As you most rightly point
out the establishment of a station at St. Hubert
makes more than ever necessary the ready availa-
bility of information regarding the weather.
The pilots out there should be in a position to
telephone to us for their information and not to
some far distant weather station. I shall give
attention to the matter and see what can be done.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
DIRECTOR OF THE
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
TORONTO, ONT.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES



IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
THIS FILE NO.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

315 BLOOR STREET, WEST

TORONTO (5).....November 8th.....19²⁹.....

Dear Sir:

I regret having to report that we have very great difficulty in getting the Montreal weather signals on time. I have repeatedly written to the observer pointing out that the messages were not being received on time. This morning they did not come until 10 a.m. whereas they should have been in at 8.05 a.m. at the latest. Montreal is one of our most important Meteorological stations and occupying the position it does, it looks exceedingly bad to send out in our reports the words "missing" after Montreal.

I shall be obliged if you could take the matter up with Mr. Kelly and impress on him the importance of having our weather messages sent on time.

Yours very truly,

The Principal.
McGill University.
Montreal.

J. Patterson
(J. Patterson)
Director.

November 12th, 1929.

Professor A. J. Kelly,
Asst. Prof. of Surveying,
The Observatory.

Dear Professor Kelly:-

I am attaching herewith a letter received from the Director of Meteorological Service, Toronto, in which he complains of the great difficulty his office experiences in getting the Montreal weather signals on time.

There is no possible excuse for this lack of attention to detail and I hope that you will take such steps as will ensure that no complaint can be made in the future. There is, apparently, a carelessness somewhere which must be terminated at once.

Please return Mr. Patterson's letter with any comments you have to make.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

OBSERVATORY *file*

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

November 16th. 1929.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal:-

I am returning Mr. Patterson's letter, after having duly noted his complaints as to difficulty in getting Montreal Weather Signals on time.

These signals are telephoned to the Canadian National Telegraph Office at as nearly 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. as possible. As there must be a loss of time between the hour at which they are received at the Telegraph Office and the hour at which they are transmitted by key to Toronto, I have issued instructions that in future, these be telephoned in not later than 7.40 A.M. and 7.40 P.M.

Yours obediently,

Albert J. Kelly.



DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF CANADA

TORONTO 5, ONT.

July 17th.1931.

Dear Sir:

I sent to Professor Kelly, who is in charge of McGill Observatory, telephone accounts for the Bell Telephone over a period of some years for certification, but they have not been returned. I have already written him twice asking for the accounts to be returned but there has been no answer so far.

I am sorry to trouble you in this matter, but the Department has written to me for them and I am anxious to get the accounts settled as they are long overdue. I do not know whether Professor Kelly is at McGill at present, but in any case the observer who is looking after the Observatory should be able to certify to the accounts. The accounts have not been paid and as the service has been rendered it is only necessary to initial the accounts and return them to this office. I should be much obliged if you would see that Professor Kelly or his assistant returns these accounts as they do not seem to pay any attention to my requests.

The Principal.
McGill University.
Montreal.

Yours truly,

(J. Patterson)
Director.

To Mr. Glassco, please see that Kelly attends to this immediately on his return next week.

July 18, 1931.

Professor A. Kelly,
Barkmere, P. Q.

Dear Professor Kelly,

I am attaching herewith copy of letter received by me this morning. This letter causes me much disappointment and annoyance. We must be regarded by the Department of Marine as a very unbusinesslike institution if we cannot pay sufficient attention to the matter of accounts to certify them as they are presented. To let a matter of this kind go for years without action and to neglect to answer official correspondence is very wrong indeed, and I do not want it to occur again. You force me to write to Mr. Patterson and offer an apology for the neglect, and I do not like to be placed in this position.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

July 18, 1931.

J. Patterson, Esq., Director,
Metereological Service of Canada,
Toronto, 5, Ontario.

Your file No. 873.

Dear Mr. Patterson,

I am in receipt of your letter of July 17th, and let me say in reply that I am sincerely sorry that any officer of this University should be so casual as to neglect to answer an official letter and attend to business promptly. Professor Kelly, I find, is out of town until next week, but immediately on his return I shall see that this matter receives prompt attention.

Yours faithfully,

Principal



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL.

July 18, 1931.

Professor A. Kelly,
Barkmere, P. Q.

Dear Professor Kelly,

I am attaching herewith copy of letter received by me this morning. This letter causes me much disappointment and annoyance. We must be regarded by the Department of Marine as a very unbusinesslike institution if we cannot pay sufficient attention to the matter of accounts to certify them as they are presented. To let a matter of this kind go for years without action and to neglect to answer official correspondence is very wrong indeed, and I do not want it to occur again. You force me to write to Mr. Patterson and offer an apology for the neglect, and I do not like to be placed in this position.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF CANADA

Toronto 5.
July 17.1931.

Dear Sir,

I sent to Professor Kelly, who is in charge of McGill Observatory, telephone accounts for the Bell Telephone over a period of some years for certification, but they have not been returned. I have already written him twice asking for the accounts to be returned but there has been no answer so far.

I am sorry to trouble you in this matter, but the Department has written to me for them and I am anxious to get the accounts settled as they are long overdue. I do not know whether Professor Kelly is at McGill at present, but in any case the observer who is looking after the Observatory should be able to certify to the accounts. The accounts have not been paid and as the service has been rendered it is only necessary to initial the accounts and return them to this office. I should be much obliged if you would see that Professor Kelly or his assistant returns these accounts, as they do not seem to pay any attention to my requests.

Yours truly,

J. Patterson

Director

The Principal
McGill University
Montreal

July 24, 1931.

J. Patterson, Esq.,
Director, Meteorological Service of Canada,
Department of Marine, Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

On July 17th you wrote to me complaining about the dilatoriness of Professor Kelly with reference to telephone accounts. I acknowledged the letter immediately, and I apologized for Professor Kelly's action. I am attaching to this letter a copy of letter I wrote to Professor Kelly on July 18th in which I sharply rebuked him, saying that the delay was bound to make us appear as a very unbusinesslike institution. Professor Kelly has now returned, and is today sending the accounts, properly certified, but he has been to see me and has explained the matter. In fairness to him and to McGill University, I must observe that the unbusinesslike attitude did not occur in the Department at McGill but in your own Department at Toronto.

I observe that your account goes back to 1926 and that apparently the only monthly account not paid for in that year was June. Then in 1927 I notice that all monthly bills were paid except July and August. Why September's account should be paid and not July and August, I don't know. In 1928 I notice that all monthly accounts have been paid except April, September and October, and that in 1929 three monthly accounts only were paid, and in 1930 all monthly accounts were paid except February. Professor Kelly assures me that these monthly accounts were regularly forwarded to your office and he also draws my attention to correspondence which goes back to 1923 in which the Telephone Company complain about the manner in which these accounts are handled for payment. When I got your letter of complaint I thought Professor Kelly was not forwarding the accounts to you for payment, but such, I find, is not the case. You can readily understand that if he is asked to certify to an account that goes back to 1926 he must take some care to verify the figures before certifying to its correctness. I have, therefore, absolved Professor Kelly for all blame, for it must lie elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

Accounts Enclosed

Principal



REFER TO FILE NO. 1873

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF CANADA

TORONTO 5, ONT.

July 28, 1931.

Dear Sir;


I thank you for your letter of the 24th inst, enclosing the certified accounts of the Bell Telephone Company for some years past.

The accounts that were sent to Professor Kelly were not the originals, as they were never received in this office, nor did the Bell Telephone Company send us any statement of arrears until a few months ago. We had then to look up all the back records to find out what accounts were missing, and then ask them to send in fresh accounts for these months. When the accounts are received here, they are certified to for payment and sent to the Department at Ottawa, where the cheques are issued, and it is impossible now to know who was at fault in regard to these arrears, but we feel very confident that the accounts were not received in our office, otherwise, they would have been passed on for payment.

The reason I wrote to you was because I sent the accounts to Professor Kelly for certification on May 26th last, and then sent reminders on June 23rd and July 3rd, but no reply was received to any of my letters. It may be that Professor Kelly was

absent, but at least his Assistant who was looking after the Observatory should have acknowledged my reminders and let me know the reason for the delay. It was because of this that I felt there was not much use in writing further to the Observatory. I have just now received a letter from Professor Kelly stating that he did not receive my letter of the 23rd of June, and when he received my letter of July 3rd, he found it necessary to wait until he returned to the City. I am glad however, that the matter has now been satisfactorily settled, and I trust that in future these unnecessary delays will not occur.

Yours very truly,


(G. Patterson)
Director.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G. K.C.B.,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

PHONE: MARQUETTE 3150

CABLE ADDRESS: BILANCO

FINE WATCHES

h. r. biland

FINE DESK CLOCKS

JEWELER

DOMINION SQUARE BUILDING

MONTREAL

CANADA

March 16, 1932.

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal,
Que.

Dear Sirs:

I regret to say that after having time service from your observatory for a period of five (5) years for which a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) has been paid annually, I have just been treated very impolitely at 2.20 o'clock by the employee that answers the telephone under the following circumstances:

I called three times Ma. 2797 and got the busy test, but the forth, fifth and sixth time the telephone rang about ten times but got no answer after calling again a gentleman answered and I explained the facts to him that I mentioned above but he got very nasty and said, "If you don't like the service you don't have to take it." So you can take note that after having been treated that way I shall not require your service any more if your employees cannot have any better manners than that.

Yours truly,

Biland

March 17th, 1932.

H. H. BILAND, Esq.,
Dominion Square Building,
Montreal, Canada.

My dear Mr. Biland,

Let me acknowledge your letter of yesterday. I have seen Professor Kelly, the officer of the Department who spoke to you. He says that a number of times he answered the phone when it rang, but there would be no one on the line. It is most likely that something was out of order. Mr. Kelly tells me that when you began to scold him for what you considered inattention on his part he answered sharply, for which he will express his regrets to you.

I hope there will be no further cause for complaint.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal