

FILE 377

HAMILTON

DOCKET STARTS:

HAMILTON, E. H.

515 Victoria Av.
Westmount

Jan 16 1926.

Sir Arthur Currie

Principal of McGill University

Dear Sir:

I beg to call your attention to statements which recently appeared in the Gazette to the effect that various reports from McGill Observatory are only trustworthy from a comparatively recent date.

The statement appears to come from university officials. I want to bear witness that all records were made with the greatest possible accuracy. The sympathy and appreciation of the graduates and the public is being lessened.

I know how much time and effort was expended by Sir William Dawson and Prof McLeod to procure suitable sights, apparatus &c and they were backed by the Redpath family & Molson family & others and by the government of Canada. Nothing was allowed to interfere with getting correct and full records. Any little interruption in the wind apparatus was immediately corrected regardless of weather conditions. We proceeded to the mountain top, when there were no roads or paths, in order to change or adjust apparatus. Nothing was allowed to interfere with obtaining full and accurate results.

The thermometers were checked once or twice a season by comparison with standards from Kew, England. This was especially done ~~in winter~~ with the maximum in summer and with the minimum there, in winter. All thermometers were many years old before results were used for the records and the proper corrections were always applied.

Time clock errors were checked every clear night. I was asked by Mr. Sproul, father of Prof. Sproul, to obtain all possible data on the effect of weather on the River St. Lawrence and on the production of floods at Montreal.

In my search for early information, I asked Dr. Fenwick, professor in Medical faculty. Dr. Fenwick offered me the manuscript records of Dr. Bethune (formerly of McGill) showing the records of temperatures taken by him, beginning 1839. Dr. Fenwick gave them to me only on condition that they were to be kept in McGill College Library with archives -

Dr. Fenwick told me that the observations "were made by a man of extreme accuracy, who would never use a thermometer unless it was a standard obtained from Kew, England and accompanied by a certificate." Dr. Fenwick opened the book and pointed out the handwriting which was clear and firm at first and then he pointed to the last entry in shaky figures and said: "his last entry on the day he died."

Prof McLeod, Prof Chandler and assistants, one of whom is senator McKeenham at one time had rooms on the top of the old Arts building.

For years I made daily measurements of sun spots and recorded them carefully and Prof. McLeod worked out the areas and forwarded them to England.

I also made daily measurements of and recorded the temperature of the soil every 6 inches down to about 4 feet.

Before Prof. McLeod's time observations of the weather temperature &c. were made by Dr Smallwood at Isle Jesu; but ^{I understand that} after the observatory building was constructed Dr Smallwood had charge until he died.

For many years the transit instrument at the back of the main ~~or~~ Arts building was the point which was supposed to be most accurately determined for ~~local~~ longitude in America. Possibly this may now be done more accurately by the aid of wireless. In any case before pulling it down for the new building reference points should be carefully established and marked permanently for future reference.

(4)

In my travels over U.S. lately I have gained the impression that McGill Medical school is not keeping its preeminence as compared with Toronto in research.

A few nights ago I was told that "McGill Science men are not measuring up to what they formerly did".

I gather that these statements have nothing to do with questions of examination standards. In fact I had a letter from a Toronto gentleman complaining that Professors were teaching above the heads of the students who were unable to absorb it. The writer is a highly educated man and probably a grad. of Toronto, Can McGill not get up an "Insulin" or Science men do something. For example I went around lately to try and see what kind of ores were coming from Noranda and at that time I could not see any. Now probably no one in America has had more practical experience in producing metals from the raw ores than I have so naturally my opinion was formed from the fact that they are selling stock on the value of \$60000000 on a mine from which there has not been a cargo of ore shipped and McGill has not a sample on display in their collections.

(5)

I would like to suggest that if we could get a course of say 5 lectures to the science graduating class on: "The Secret of getting along with People" page 7 "American Magazine" for February 1926 it would be invaluable to all.

Please excuse my interference; but I thought you might like to know how various things appear to various people scattered over this continent.

Yours truly
E. J. Hamilton

515 Victoria Av.

Westmount

May 17th 1926.

Sir Arthur Currie

Principal McGill University

Dear Sir:-

I have been informed that it is the intention to finish the construction of the portico of the Old Arts building by what I am told is a degenerate finish in order to satisfy what some of the younger graduates imagine was the form of the old building.

I beg to suggest that the portico be finished along the lines of the original, a photograph of which I can supply if it is of any use to you.

I am writing this at the suggestion of another graduate who tells me that you are sympathetic with such suggestions. I must admit that it shocked me to see the way the old building was allowed to run down, evidently by people before you took the matter in hand. In our day we had to "for the mark" & wear the uniform (gowns) so that all were alike. So us the only use of a gown was to swipe up the ink spilled from a bottle.

Yours very truly

E. H. Hamilton '84

515 Victoria Av.

Westmount

May 31 1926

Sir Arthur Currie
Principal & Vice Chancellor
McGill University.

Dear Sir :-

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of the 20th - I am sorry for causing you so much trouble.

For years I believed that Mr Peter Redpath was setting the type for future McGill buildings and that the drawings which Mr Steel made would be followed. Many surmises were made as to who was back of these drawings.

You probably do not realize what feelings of relief and delight you start in us when you state that you are going to have stone pillars in place of the old wooden pillars which I had always dreamed of being able to replace by stone myself.

If I might be pardoned for suggesting one thing. It seems to me that it would be better if the game of football in the University were gradually guided into channels at least more resembling English Rugby type. I played 5 times against American colleges and I feel that there is something bigger in British character and there is a reason. I am not finding fault with any people.

Yours very truly

E. H. Hamilton

May 20th, 1926.

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

Dear Mr. Hamilton:-

I am very much obliged for your letter of May 17th with reference to the portico of the Arts Building. When reconstructed it will be exactly the same design as the one which has just been removed, the principal difference being in the matter of construction,- the pillars will be of stone while those of the old design were of wood. I do not think any one can say that the finish will be of a degenerate character.

When the design of the re-constructed building was considered the matter of building the portico along the lines as disclosed in photographs of 1874 was discussed and the Committee decided that the design should be the same as that just removed.

You will be glad to know that the architects and contractors feel that the reconstruction will be completed by October 1st next, and so permit the building to be used for classes at the coming session.

I shall always be glad to receive any suggestions you care to make.

With all kind wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Procell Buz

October 2nd, 1926.

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

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt
of your letter of September 28th last.

I scarcely know how to answer
it. You must know, or at least you should know,
that ever since I came to McGill six years ago I
have consistently advocated by private and by public
utterances that English Rugby Football is the game
which should be played by the students at the
university. At every banquet held by the Rugby
team at the close of the season I have told the
players themselves that I, for one, was not a lover
of the present game and preferred the English Rugby
game. But I have been alone in my advocacy.

Six years ago the athletics were
entirely controlled by the student body. With much
effort that system was changed about three years ago
and now our athletics are controlled by a committee
of ten - three faculty members appointed by myself,
three graduates elected by the Graduate Society,
and three students elected by the students, with
myself as chairman. The students' representatives
and the graduates' representatives have consistently
opposed the substitution of English Rugby for the game
now played. You say that the matter is handled better
in Toronto. I wonder what reason you have for making
such a statement. Let me tell you that it is McGill's
influence alone that has kept the forward pass from

E. H. Hamilton, Esq., - 2 -

being introduced into Inter-Collegiate Rugby before this.

You also intimate that McGill is adopting "every U. S. fashion of the prize ring methods". There is no justification for such a statement and I do not think you should have made it.

I would most respectfully suggest that you place your views before the Graduate Society, of which you are a member.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

515 Victoria Av.
Westmount
Sept 28 1926.

Sir Arthur Currie G. C. M. G., K. C. B., L. L. D.
Principal + Vice Chancellor of McGill University
Dear Sir:-

I beg to suggest that you bring some influence to bear on McGill football.

I do not think it advisable to have the game completely Americanized as shown by the newspapers. This is a move which will have its influence towards disintegrating our ideals.

Some of us older graduates can not be kept from "lethargic attitude" if the policy of complete Americanization is officially carried on by McGill.

I think this matter is handled better in Toronto and that the tendency should be sidetracked quietly and with tact.

Probably some of the first moves were favored by me 35 years ago; but we had no idea that it would have gone so far.

I don't see why McGill should ^{adopt} every U.S. fashion of the prize ring methods etc

I played 5 matches against U.S. College teams and have watched games in U.S. for 35 years

and am certain there is no tendency to
perman^{an}ce or stability of rules and therefore
it results in a game of "tricks".

Yours faithfully
E. H. Hamilton

DOCKET ENDS:

HAMILTON, E. H.