

**FILE 635**

**STUDENT SOLDIERS :**

**GRANTS**

President's Office.



June 9th, 1920

Acting Principal Adams,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear Dr. Adams:

I have written to the Chairman of the Committee at Ottawa asking whether he can receive a small delegation from our Committee with regard to securing aid to soldier students during the last ten days of June, or, if necessary, on Friday, the 18th. As soon as I hear from him I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Palmer".

President.

June  
Eighth  
1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,  
President Toronto University,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I have received your letter of June 5th, and note that you cannot go to Ottawa until the week beginning June 20th.

I am obliged to go to Ottawa on Thursday afternoon to attend a meeting of the Research Council, and shall take an opportunity at once of seeing Brigadier-General McNaughton and ascertaining from him whether the Parliamentary Committee will still be sitting during the last ten days of June, and whether it will be time enough then to approach them with reference to securing a grant for the more needy of the returned soldiers.

We can, undoubtedly, arrange for someone to accompany you from Montreal. Dr. Porter, unfortunately, at that time will be in Guysboro, and I shall also be away from the City, but we can get some other representative of McGill University who is conversant with the situation.

The Committee is constituted  
as follows:

Sir Robert Falconer, Toronto, Chairman  
Principal Dr. Bruce Taylor, Queen's Univ  
Dean W.A.R. Kerr, Univ. of Alberta  
Dr. Porter McGill Univ.  
Dr. Joseph Sirois, Laval " Que.  
Rev. J.J. Tompkins, St. Francis Xavier

I shall write or wire you from Ottawa so soon as I have seen General McNaughton.

Yours very sincerely,

President's Office.



June 5th, 1920

Acting Principal Adams,  
McGill University.

My dear Dr. Adams:

I shall of course do all in my power to induce the Government to make a grant to the more needy returned soldiers, if there is any likelihood of our efforts meeting with success. Unfortunately I shall not be able to go to Ottawa until the week beginning the 20th June, as I have to go to the Royal Military College next week, and Chicago the week following, and meantime I have to deal with our own finances. I suppose, however, that if I go to Ottawa in the last ten days of June that I should still be in time. Would it not be well for some person to accompany me from Montreal? I do not think that we can ask the whole committee, but, would you be good enough to let me have a list of the members of the Committee, so that I may correspond with them if necessary?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Palmer".

President.

June  
Fourth  
1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,  
Principal, Toronto University,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

A letter has just been received by Dr. Porter from General MacNaughton which seems to show that it is advisable for the Universities to make another attempt to induce the Government to make a grant to the more needy of the returned soldiers who are now in our Universities.

I have, therefore, advised Dr. Porter to communicate with you as Chairman of the Committee, appointed by the Conference, to interview the Premier on the Education of Soldiers. Apparently, action should be taken at once, as there is a Parliamentary Committee now considering the question of pensions, allowances, etc., to whom this application should be made. It would seem from General MacNaughton's letter that there is a fair hope of something being accomplished at this time.

On thinking over your suggestion that Sir Arthur Currie's name should be substituted for yours as Chairman of this Committee, I have come to the conclusion that this substitution had better not be made at the present time, seeing that Sir Arthur Currie is still in the service of the Government as Chairman of the Militia Council and does not take over his duties as Principal of McGill University until August 1st. When the Committee goes to Ottawa to make this last attempt, they might call upon Sir Arthur Currie and secure his cooperation in their effort, if he feels that it is advisable for him to give it. On the other hand, I do not believe he would feel free to act

Sir Robert Falconer,      - 2 -

in this matter while he is still in the service of the Government.

I would suggest, therefore, that you remain Chairman of this Committee until August 1st, after which, if anything remains to be done, General Currie might assume the Chairmanship and take whatever action is necessary.

With best wishes,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Acting Principal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Dean's Office:

FRANK D. ADAMS, PH.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.—DEAN.

MONTREAL

May 13, 1920.

*Grants to  
Students*

The Acting Principal,  
McGill University.

Dear Dr. Adams:-

I was unable to get in touch with you yesterday afternoon and, therefore, took the liberty of handing Mr. Birks a copy of the enclosed letter to you before I could give you the original. Mr. Birks asked me to supplement the letter by a memorandum applying the figures for McGill to the broad case of the country at large. You will remember that we had already discussed this matter and you will, therefore, I trust approve of the letter which I am just sending forward to Mr. Birks. I tried to show it to you this morning but failed to get in touch with you.

Very truly yours,

*J. M. Bensall*

Chairman of the Faculty.

May 13, 1920.

William M. Birks, Esq.,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Birks:-

I hand you with this two copies of a letter addressed to the Acting Principal and dealing with the question of aid to "returned" men attending the University. In the letter I attempted to estimate the number of soldier students who will be unable to complete their courses at McGill unless given pecuniary assistance and I suggested that the Patriotic Fund might possibly provide this money. I have already submitted the estimates as far as they concern the Science Faculty to Miss Helen Reid and others.

If anything is done along the lines suggested, it will presumably have to be national in scope and will have to cover students in all Canadian Universities. I beg, therefore, to submit that a rough estimate prepared by Dr. Adams and myself and another estimate independently prepared by Sir Robert Falconer in another connection both indicate that McGill has something better than one-tenth of the soldier students now attending Canadian Universities. If, therefore, the figures given for McGill are multiplied by ten, it will, I think, be safe to accept them as applying to a national scheme of the proposed character.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman of the Faculty.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Dean's Office:

FRANK D. ADAMS, PH.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.—DEAN.

MONTREAL May 12, 1920.

J. B. PORTER, PH.D., D.Sc., M.Inst. C.E.,—CHAIRMAN

The Acting Principal,  
McGill University.

Dear Dr. Adams:-

I beg to submit the following attempt to estimate the minimum expenditure necessary to complete the University education of soldier students who interrupted their studies to go Overseas and who on their return find it impossible to finance themselves through college, even with such help as they can get from their families.

My estimates deal exclusively with men who must receive some help from public funds or go to the wall. I have absolutely ruled out all men possessing adequate means to attend college and all men attending on Imperial Grants - and it is interesting to note that our figures indicate that nearly 85% of our men fall into these classes and can probably get through without help. I should note also that I have only considered the cases of men who have seen active active service Overseas. The figures can thus, I think, be looked upon as representing the irreducible minimum.

The register of the Science Faculty has been analysed with the following results:-

Students now in attendance who have seen  
active service on one or more fighting fronts:-

First Year . . . .	79	
Second Year . . . .	58	
Third Year . . . .	54	
Fourth Year . . . .	<u>43</u>	<u>Total 234</u>

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Students now in attendance who went Overseas but did not get into the fighting line

First Year . . . .	16	
Second Year . . . .	7	
Third Year . . . .	11	
Fourth Year . . . .	<u>9</u>	<u>Total 43</u>

Students who entered the Service but did not go Overseas

First Year . . . .	26	
Second Year . . . .	32	
Third Year . . . .	12	
Fourth Year . . . .	<u>11</u>	<u>Total 81</u>

Grand Total 358

Of the above men 90 were wounded or taken prisoner, to say nothing of the considerable number who suffered illness.

A very few of the men named above are Imperials who have come to Canada since the war and are being educated at the expense of the British Government, but with these exceptions, none of the others have received any assistance except the wounded men and minors who have been on the S.C.R. rolls, and aid even to these ceases with the current session. We shall, therefore, have next year not less than 295 soldier students, none of whom will be receiving Government assistance toward their education. These men presumably all deserve assistance from their country, but as it is clear that the Government does not propose to give such assistance, I have attempted to find out how many of the men will be unable to complete their college course unless they secure some assistance in addition to what they can earn themselves and get from their families. With this in view I appointed an informal committee of "returned" officers now in attendance at the University and asked these gentlemen to canvas the individual cases of their fellow students and to report to me their findings in confidence.

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The report of this Committee is extremely interesting. They state that after eliminating all members of the graduating class and all students who did not actually see active service abroad, they find that there will be 40 Overseas men next year out of a total of 225 (or 17%) who will go to the wall or at least to the "Jews" unless assisted. The Committee estimates that the expenditure absolutely necessary to keep a man in attendance in this Faculty for a full session is \$763 to which should be added not less than \$150 for clothing, laundry and similar unavoidable expenses, or a total of say \$900. As against this they estimate the net earnings of each man during his summer vacation at \$250 to which they add another \$250 as the average amount which even these hard-up men can get from their families. This leaves a total of \$400 per man to be secured from some external source, as for instance, the Patriotic Fund. The above estimates work out roughly \$16,000 for 1920 - 21; \$12,000 for 1921 - 22, and \$7,000 for 1922 - 23 and \$1,000 for 1923 - 24, or a grand total of \$36,000 for all needy men at present in attendance. Probably a few more men will enter next year but I think a total expenditure of \$40,000 will more than suffice for the whole lot and this sum while large is absolutely trivial when viewed in the light of what it will do. It is quite unnecessary, however, for me to labour this latter point as you are already fully informed as to my views in this connection.

The above estimates are for the Science Faculty alone and I regret that it has been impossible to get detailed information from the other Faculties. I have, however, secured from the Registrar overall figures of attendance of soldier students in all Faculties and from these I have

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made up the following table based on the percentage of needy men as determined for Science, assuming that the assistance required by these men will average about as in Science, where the heavier expenditures are in general offset by greater earning capacity and private means.

Estimate of Attendance, etc. of "Returned" men.

Session	(1920 - 1)	(1921 - 2)	(1922 - 3)	(1923 - 4)	(1924 - 5)
Science	295	210	100	20	- - -
Medicine	200	160	120	80	40
Arts	100	70	40	10	- - -
Law	55	30	10	- - -	- - -
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Total	650	470	270	110	40
Needing Assistance	87	63	36	15	6
Annual Cost	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$14,500	\$6,000	\$2,500
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Grand Total \$83,000 or say \$90,000 for McGill University exclusive of Macdonald College.					

It is scarcely necessary to add that the above estimates are approximate and from one point of view very meagre; they are, however, in my opinion safe to work on and if the money can be found it will do almost incalculable good, to say nothing of healing or at least salving the present bitter feeling of "returned" men because Canada alone is refusing of all countries in the Empire, to aid in the University education of "returned" men.

In conclusion, I should point out that in estimating the needs of the man at \$400 each per annum I have used an average figure. Some men in poor health and with no resources will need twice as much, others favourably circumstanced will need little or nothing. The funds

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if given will have to be handled by competent authority, presumably a committee with representatives of the Universities and each case will have to be dealt with on its merits.

Very truly yours,

*Wm. Rousace Porter*

Chairman of the Faculty.