

RG:0002,c.0051; FILE # 00686;  
WILLIAMS, 1922- 1937



**FILE 686**

**WILLIAMS**





34 Drummond Place,  
Edinburgh.

19th July, 1926.

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

Dear Sir Arthur,

Please believe it is not want of gratitude for your delightfully long letter about McGill which has delayed my answer so long. But the fact is that I have had a tremendously hard year preparing new lectures and getting into my new work, and latterly I have put off writing till I could see some of our McGill friends at the Historical and Universities Conferences, which I have just been attending. I was very fortunate in seeing so many - ~~Wagh~~ Adair, McKay, Caldwell and Bovey. They all seemed very fit and as keen as ever, and in both Conferences were holding up the flag of McGill most effectively. It is wonderful to hear that the old Arts building is rising so quickly, like the Phoenix, almost unchanged in appearance, but a really worthy building inside.

We both feel very grateful for the many warm-hearted friends both of the Staff and the students who write us so many letters and make us feel still so much in touch with old McGill. But even so, we do miss Canada immensely. The sun and vigour of the place, and above all the warm-hearted friendships which were given to us so generously.

I should very much like to have a talk with you about Canadian politics now, and to hear what you feel about the political crisis. My own view, from a constitutional point of view, is that Lord Byng was absolutely right in what he did. It seemed to me that when Mackenzie King asked for a dissolution, the King or any Governor General, from a constitutional point of view, would have said "You are not even the largest party in the House. We have only had a General Election a few months ago, and you have been defeated on a rather sorry business and bound to give the larger party in the House a chance of seeing whether they can carry on the affairs of the country in these circumstances". But when Meighen found that he could not carry on the Government, as there was no other party which could possibly carry on the Government, then Lord Byng had no alternative but to grant their dissolution. I believe all the talk that Amery at Whitehall had ~~some~~ something to do with it is pure nonsense. I do wish, if you have time, you would let me know what your views are on the matter, and what the prospects of the next Election are.

I wish you could find a decent house to settle in; it must be awfully unhealthy being in the hotel all the time. We have had nearly a year's experience of living about in boarding-houses and furnished houses, without my books around me, and have only just got into a house, which at first we had to share with painters, paperers, plumbers, etc.etc., but I think it will be alright when we get settled there.

William/



*Garner* William was very delighted to get a letter from ~~Garner~~, and I do hope their friendship will continue, though it is perhaps rather a lot to expect from school-boys. John still hankers very much for Canada, and I should not be at all astonished if he made up his mind to try and earn his livelihood there when he leaves Cambridge.

Please remember us warmly to Lady Currie.

Yours very truly

Basil Williams



November 24th, 1926.

Professor Basil Williams,  
University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Professor Williams:-

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of the 11th of November. I am always interested in receiving news of you and your family.

You speak of our new Arts Building. I wish you could see it. I shall not attempt any description as you probably have it pictured in your own mind quite accurately. The Moyses Hall is proving quite an acquisition. It is really a very stately, well-proportioned, beautiful place, with, what experts tell me, is the most perfect stage in Montreal. Last Monday a French Company, from old France, now playing in a Montreal theatre, put on for the benefit of the students two plays. The experiment was enthusiastically received and the players stated they had never performed in a more delightful theatre. They asked that they might give a similar performance should they return to Canada next year. We are fortunate in that the acoustic properties, apparently, are perfect. I have spoken there once or twice myself and I have always felt as if I must hold in my voice. Last week Lawrence Binyon lectured on Chinese Art. He speaks in a rather low, conversational tone and yet was distinctly heard by every one. We have many applications from down town bodies for the use of the Hall, but we intend to grant such favours very sparingly.



Professor Williams - 2 -

In Arts and Commerce this year there are registered about 1250 students, and in the whole University nearly 2800, or some 160 more than last year. This is quite satisfactory, particularly in view of the fact that the standards in all departments have been raised during the last four years. You know our policy is not an effort to acquire a large enrolment, but rather to deserve the pick of Canadian students. The cosmopolitan character is still maintained, students coming from practically everywhere. We have less Jews in attendance than last year, probably because of our arbitrary action in refusing certain applications.

You were good enough to ask about Garner. I am sorry to say he is once more at home and his ankle in plaster of paris again. I think the cause was a little over-indulgence in football, not justified in one whose ankle has the history of Garner's. He is getting along fairly well at Ashbury and if he had even an average chance would, I think, find no difficulty in keeping up with his work. In no year has he been free from illness which kept him away from school for considerable periods.

You will be interested in knowing that the University has bought the Baumgarten house, the large residence just opposite the Library. I have always advised its purchase, believing that it was a valuable piece of property for the University to own. In the end the price became so ridiculously low that we could not afford to hesitate any longer. It is now being renovated to some extent and after Christmas we shall move in there and occupy it as a residence until it becomes more valuable for other purposes. The Historical Club, which is still going strong, are coming to spend an evening with me on January 25th. I assure you I am very glad indeed to get back to a house, not wanting to spend another year as the one just gone by.



Professor Williams - 3 -

I am just leaving to attend  
a tea at the Faculty Club which still maintains its  
popularity.

We miss you and Mrs. Williams  
very much. I hope that some time we may at least have  
you back as visitors.

My wife joins me in sending  
love and all good wishes to all the family.

Yours faithfully,





11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1926.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I feel I must send you a line to congratulate you & McGill on the splendid new Arts Bldg of which I have seen pictures & a full description. It is wonderful that so much has been done in so short a time. I wish we on this side could build with the rapidity & sureness of your Canadian builders. Such an achievement would have taken us at least a year, if not more. You must be very proud of it. I hope to see it some day.

I hope you are feeling quite recovered from your operation of a



year ago, & that Garner also is quite  
fit again. After all his illnesses ~~that~~  
he has got over he is bound to do  
something good some day. I hope too  
you have at last got a decent home  
to live in; it must have been wretched  
living in an hotel so long.

I saw several friends at the  
Historical & Univ<sup>ies</sup> - conferences in the  
summer - McKay, Waugh, Adair  
& very glad I was to get news of  
McGill. I also saw our friend Caldwell  
very much in evidence at Geneva,  
where I went to the L. of R. meeting -  
I was very sorry to hear of the death of  
that spirited lady Mrs. Perkins - They were  
both over here for our commemorations.

Yours very truly,  
Basil Williams



Station Clapham, Yorks.  
(L.M. & S. Rly.)

Telegrams : Williamson, Clapham, Yorkshire  
Telephone No. Clapham 3 Lancaster.

**NEW INN HOTEL,  
CLAPHAM,  
YORKSHIRE.**

PROPRIETOR:  
H. E. WILLIAMSON.

A. A. & R. A. C.

21<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1927

(address 34 Drummond Place  
Edinburgh)

Dear Sir Arthur,

It is very long since I have written or heard & I feel it is my fault, as I do not think I have ever answered a long & most interesting letter from you. We lately saw the Birketts & heard about your new palatial home, with its swimming bath & ball room & a floor set apart for each member of the family (I am sure we were told had a flat to himself on the top floor!). Well at least you must be glad to be out of hotels & I am glad you have a home of your own. They also



told us that you had gone off to Honolulu, for the international conference. That sounds most interesting; & it should also be a most delightful holiday & change.

We have lately been very fortunate in getting news of Mc Gill from Traquair as well as the Parketts & Forsey also, who seems to be doing well <sup>at</sup> & enjoying Oxford, & who came with his mother & aunt to see us. I hear young Latham has got a Mayne fellowship this year & is going to Berlin - I am sorry it is not here, but perhaps with his knowledge of languages it is well to go to a foreign country. I am glad that Waugh is having his first holiday in Canada, one of the best countries in the world for a holiday - & you don't know Canada till you've had a long summer there. Everybody tells me he is a very great success, & though opinions seem more mixed on Adair, I rather he is very good at his work & starting some interesting schemes for uring Canadian records; which is so much



Station Clapham, Yorks.  
(L.M. & S. Rly.)

Telegrams : Williamson, Clapham, Yorkshire  
Telephone No. Clapham 3 Lancaster.

NEW INN HOTEL,  
CLAPHAM,  
YORKSHIRE.

PROPRIETOR:  
H. E. WILLIAMSON.

A. A. & R. A. C.

(2)

19

needed; as the stuff is there but has not been nearly well enough worked at.

I have been busy these holidays trying to finish a little book on the British Empire for the Home Univ. Series. It is rather hard to write on a topic so often written about, but I have been enjoying it & find a good thing to lead up to is that remarkable report on inter-imperial relations of the last Imperial Conference. Waugh, I hear, takes the gloomy view that it marks the end of the British Empire. I take a very different view that it is a really fine instance of looking facts in the face & removing ~~the~~ old legal



pretences that obscured the essentially voluntary  
(& therefore all the more effective) partnership  
in a great association of equals - with no  
superior & no subordinates. Balfour I  
believe was largely responsible for drafting it,  
& I was lucky enough to get him to talk  
about it to my students while the whole  
thing was fresh (he is our Chancellor). Amory  
of course also had much to do with it on  
our side - I think he has done very well in  
his ministry, & become very wise & sympathetic.  
You will be seeing him in a month or two, I  
expect, over in Canada.

With our warm remembrances to you &  
Lady Currie & a special message from William  
to Garner.

Yours very truly,

Osvald Williams

Our McGill John has been coxing the 1<sup>st</sup> Trinity boat  
at Cambridge & Henley, where they got the Ladies' Plate & is  
very swifter in his Seander club colours!



November 24th, 1927.

Professor Basil Williams,  
34 Drummond Place,  
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Professor Williams:-

When your letter of August the 21st arrived I had not yet returned from the trip to Honolulu. It was a very interesting experience and I am glad I went, though when first suggested to me the prospect of spending a summer in a hot place like Honolulu was not very alluring. As a matter of fact we suffered no discomforts from the heat. There blows a continuous Northeast trade wind which serves to keep the temperature bearable, running, as it did when we were there, from 72 - 82. The water was just as warm as the atmosphere and after the Conference was over we went swimming every day.

We went from here to Vancouver, then to San Francisco, taking the boat from there. Across Canada the party from the Old Country were with us and at San Francisco we were joined by the majority of the American delegation. The trip from 'Frisco to Honolulu is only six days. We arrived on the 12th of July and left on the 12th of August. Honolulu is a delightful place but now very Americanized in all its educational and political institutions. The majority of the inhabitants of the Island are Japanese, but there are many Chinese, Phillipinos, Koreans and Portugese, as well as the native Hawaiians and the whites. There is much intermarrying, with results approved by some, but most unfavourably regarded by others. There were 53 divorces granted last July and I wondered if there was any connection between the abnormally high



divorce rate and the abnormal inter-marrying between races. Some Hawaiians profess to believe that out of this hoi polloi will come a greater civilization than has been, but I am one of those who do not believe that.

Honolulu, of course, is very beautiful - tropical vegetation abounding everywhere. Royal palms and date palms grow abundantly, while the whole place is covered by beautiful flowering plants. One night we were fortunate enough to see 20,000 night-blooming cereus in bloom. It was a most magnificent sight. The flowers are large enough to be impressive, yet they are graceful and rich in colouring. It rains every day there, but they do not call it rain but liquid sunshine. You suddenly realize that it is raining and you look up and see a cloudless sky; then it has stopped raining on your side of the street and is raining hard on the other. The Hawaiians seem to be a very kindly, friendly people, with nothing but music in their hearts. When your boat pulls into the wharf you hear a band playing and a choir singing. Strangely familiar it sounds, because, while the words are Hawaiian the music is the same as that used by the missionaries in the old gospel hymns. When you land your friends, if you have any, and others if you have not hang leis around your neck. The whole attitude is very kindly and friendly. Of course, there is no more oriental immigration allowed and the descendants of the old coolie class, brought in to work the sugar and pineapple plantations, regard themselves as 100% Americans. The schools, of course, are all American and the flag is saluted every morning. This one hundred per cent. Americanism has its economic disadvantages, inasmuch as the coolies children no longer want to do coolie work. They prefer to go to town and open up a gazebo or something of that sort.



Professor Williams

- 3 -

I must leave to another occasion telling you of the Conference, but this much I would like to say, that the presence of the delegation from the Old Country was a very great advantage, inasmuch as the Chinese and Americans did not have it all their own way in explaining British methods and British policy. I think the Institute has possibilities for good, as it seems to be common sense to establish a common agency for the collection of facts in which certain countries have a common interest. It needs careful guiding and a stronger Secretariat, all of which, I hope, will come in time. We are establishing in Canada a Canadian Institute of International Affairs, affiliated with the Royal Institute on one hand and acting as the Council in Canada for the Institute of Pacific Relations. Study groups are getting together in the large centres and I hope some earnest and useful study will be done this winter. The meeting place in Montreal is at my house and already we have had several sessions. In a fortnight Mr. Tsurumi of Japan will be here. He was the Chairman of the Programme Committee at Honolulu. A week later Sir Frederick Whyte, whom you probably know, and who from Honolulu went to Japan and China to observe things for himself.

But I must close now, having given you but little news from McGill. Everything is going very well. Waugh has besides Fryer and himself young McDermott, F.R.Scott, Miss Lyman, an honour B.A. and M.A., and Miss Joan Foster, who after her M.A. here went to Oxford. I want some time to get a good man in Canadian History. Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Williams. I know if the other members of my family knew I was writing they would send their love to all. Garner is very well this year. In fact it is the only year in which he has not missed many days through illness. He has grown very tall - nearly 6ft. - but is very thin.

With all good wishes to you, dear Professor Williams, I am,

Yours faithfully,



GROSVENOR HOUSE,  
LONDON, W.1.

31st December, 1930.

My dear Professor Williams,

Your kind letter of the 3rd November was forwarded to me here and I most cordially reciprocate your good wishes and beg you to accept for yourself and give to Mrs. Williams the kindest regards of my wife and myself.

I have been much interested in hearing of the impression made by our Prime Minister. It seems that he was regarded on all sides as being a very forceful, energetic and earnest man. No doubt he has succeeded to a difficult task and one that will tax all of the very excellent qualities which I think he possesses.

I don't think anybody will pay much attention to Thomas' break. No doubt it expresses his real opinion and it may be the opinion of many others, and it was only Jimmy Thomas' way of saying things. His own people probably condemned him as much as anyone in Canada will. I know that he and Ramsay MacDonald visited Bennett and made an apology at once.

I am looking forward with a great deal of interest to this trip to India. I am returning to Canada via China and Japan where I purpose spending a month.

You will be interested in learning that Adams of Oxford is spending a month at McGill in March to inaugurate the Graduate Society's Lectureship. Everything at the University is going well.

With kindest wishes to your wife, yourself and the boys.

I am,  
Ever yours faithfully,

*Prof Basil Williams*  
*34 Dummmond Place*  
*Edinburgh*





THE TRUSTEES OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE  
ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION OF  
JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER, 3<sup>RD</sup>  
TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COLLEGE  
AND HIS INDUCTION INTO OFFICE  
ON OCTOBER THE EIGHTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN

WILLIAMSTOWN  
MASSACHUSETTS



120 Union St.,

Amherst, Mass.,

June 14<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Dear Sir Arthur

Since writing you regarding  
Shantey, the supt., of the  
methodical department at the  
Lyons & Co's market, has offered  
to take Shantey in his  
department for a year & then  
to take the whole, which would  
give him time to really find



out if he liked the work  
sufficiently to make it his  
life's work when I hope he  
will come to U.C. for the  
college course.

I understand he has  
no duty to share for any  
university course.

I am enclosing two  
enclaves of our home a myself  
which you might be interested  
to see. I expect I have



can be almost beyond recognition  
I would love one of yourself  
if you have one to spare.

With many thanks

for your offer to take an  
interest in my big son &

with very kindest regards

Believe me sincerely,

Bob Williams



R.G. 2, C.51, File 686

One photo of Eva Williams, and one photo of her house, Anaconda, Montana, with letter to Sir Arthur Currie, June 14, 1926.

Photos removed to Photo Inventory,

Feb. 28, 1994.



September 8, 1932.

Wm. L. Williams, Esq.,  
2003 City Councillor's St.  
Montreal. P. Q.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 6th September and while I regret that we have at present no vacancy on the grounds staff or any other position which you could fill, I suggest that you see Mr. William Bentley, Comptroller, so that he may have a note of your qualifications in case any opening occurs later on. We are obliged to cut down our staff to the minimum during this period of depressed financial conditions.

Yours faithfully,



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

July 11, 1925.

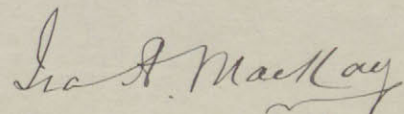
Col. W. Bovey,  
Assistant to the Principal.

My dear Bovey,

R. Francis Williams

The subject of this letter, Mr. Williams, was introduced to me by a friend the other day and his story, I must say, aroused my sincerest sympathy. He is at present at the Y.M.C.A. and as I am going out of town on Monday I am sending him a note suggesting that he call on you. I do not know if there is anything that can be done for him. Indeed, I do not think that anything can be done by the University. It occurred to me, however, that you might possibly know of some sort of work which he would be able to do in the United Service Club or some other club or similar institution in the city. I do not like to shift the responsibility in these cases to you, but Mr. Williams' case seemed to me so serious as to merit very careful consideration. He will probably tell you his story himself. If you cannot think of anything, however, I do not think there is anything which we can do for him at all.

Yours sincerely,



Dean



TELEPHONE, No 222.



ALDERSHOT.

16.

11.

22

Dear General

A line to thank  
you so very much for the  
notes you made out  
regarding an adjutant's  
duties. You certainly  
got the essential points  
I found it a real  
help.



ALPERSHOT

The military situation is bad here as we have had to amalgamate with another regiment (the 15<sup>th</sup>). However it seems to be going smoothly.

I have the advantage of having a quite exceptional Colonel (Twist) —

Thanking you again  
hoping you are quite well

Yours sincerely

William Taylor



December  
Fourth  
1922.

Lieutenant Williams-Taylor,  
13th Hussars,  
Aldershot, England.

My dear Williams-Taylor:-

Thank you very much for your all too brief note of the 16th of last month. If you have found anything I wrote for your father of use and value to yourself, I am more than compensated. In fact it was a great pleasure to me to comply with Sir Frederick's wishes, for he has been very good to me since I came to live in Montreal. If I pleased you as well as him I am doubly rewarded.

Both your parents are looking very well indeed. As you know Lady Williams-Taylor is going away soon for the winter. Your father works very hard and stays very close to the Bank. It would be very nice if you could come home next summer to see him, for he is intensely interested in your career and your welfare.

I am glad to hear of you getting on so well in the Regiment. I do not know whether you read Kipling or not. If you do you will remember the story in Soldiers Three of Bobby Wick and the advice which old man Wick gave to his son, - "to stick to the Regiment and let the staff appointments take care of themselves". I have kept up correspondence with many of the officers of the



British Army whom I learned to know during the War and  
so I am familiar with the heart-burnings caused by  
Army re-organization.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,



May 22nd, 1922.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor,  
Bank of Montreal,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Frederick:-

I am attaching herewith a memo re "Adjutants". I think it covers the case pretty well. No doubt you will find enough in it to impress your son with the fact that the old man knows what he is talking about.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,



February  
Third  
1923.

Dear Sir Frederick:-

Let me thank you most warmly and sincerely for presiding at the discussion hour of last Tuesday's session of the course on Export Trade and for the very interesting address you made to the class on that occasion.

I have talked with several of them since and learn the whole class was delighted. It means a good deal to the University when men like yourself shew such practical and helpful interest in our academic affairs.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor,  
Head Office,  
Bank of Montreal,  
Montreal.



July 13th, 1923.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor,  
Bank of Montreal,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Frederick:-

Mr. A. H. Coates called on me this morning and left me a list of those who had accepted an invitation to the luncheon to be given at the Mount Royal Club next Tuesday in honour of the visiting members of the Grand Lodge. He said something to me about consulting with you regarding the seating of these men.

I am forwarding you the list as given to me and will leave the matter entirely in your hands or take it upon myself if that would be of any assistance to you.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Lord Ampthill  
Sir John Ferguson  
Col. Wedderburn  
Mr. A.E. Carlyle  
Mr. Arthur Browning  
Mr. R.C. Lalor  
Mr. Walter B. Ross  
Mr. D.W. Oliver

Sir Frederick Williams-  
Taylor  
Sir Arthur Currie  
Gen. James G. Ross  
George T. Bell  
Mr. C.E. Neill  
Mr. Fred C. Salter  
Mr. A.H. Coates



Lord Annpthill

Ser John Ferguson

Wm Wad Swburn

Mr. Wm Carlyle

Next Tuesday

at 115



*See required book*

MEMBERS OF CANADA LODGE No. 3527 IN MONTREAL

Sir Frederick Williams Taylor,	Bank of Montreal	Accepted
Sir Arthur Currie,	McGill University	"
General James G. Ross,	142 Notre Dame West	"
Geo. T. Bell,	G.N.R.	"
Arthur Browning,	Board of Trade	"
R.C. Lalor,	Royal Trust Co.	"
C.E. Neill,	Royal Bank of Canada	"
Walter B. Ross,	180 St. James St.	"
Fred. C. Salter,	C.N.R.	"
D.W. Oliver,	Bank of Montreal	"
A.H. Coates,	The Sherbrooke	"