

CUS417/5.4

Ball, Fred C.

613 BOYD BUILDING

WINNIPEG

September 5th, 1920.

My dear Archie:

Your letter of the 25th July from Oxford reached me here shortly after my return from a very enjoyable holiday spent tramping and climbing in the Rockies. Of course I am only too glad to provide you with the memorandum which you desire, and I am sorry that my reply is so long delayed. My informant is Rev. Robert Johnston, who is in charge of the Reference Department of the Winnipeg Public Library. He tells me that the three books bearing on the Selkirk question, which I list separately, were presented to the Library by Sir William Osler early in 1910, and that each one bears on the fly-leaf the following inscription in Sir William's own writing:-

"Winnipeg Public Library from Wm. Osler, Oxford,
January 2nd, 1910."

The books were accompanied by a short note to say that the donor had observed them in a book-stall in Amsterdam, and considered that they should be volumes properly included amongst the books of a library situated in a country to which they primarily referred. Needless to say, this kindness and courtesy on Sir William's part was much appreciated in Winnipeg. The books are scarce, and the copies were in an excellent state of preservation, and are the more valuable on account of the manner in which the accessions were made. It will give me much pleasure if Sir William's biographer considers that this incident is worthy of note, as I think you will agree with me it is.

I am glad to hear that you have got a Beit Memorial Fellowship, and will look forward to seeing your work in print.

My wife joins with me in best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Signed Fred C. Ball

FCB/D
Enclosure.

[He forgot to sign it, he was a Lt. Col D.S.O. in the C. A. M. C. & a great friend of mine. He has a fine collection of old engravings of Canada (A.M.)]