



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

FROM

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

August 17, 1932.

Professor W. D. Penfield,
Department of Neurosurgery

My dear Professor Penfield,

Yesterday morning in my office we held a conference regarding the plans for the new Neurological Building at which Mr. Macdonald and Messrs McDougall and Friedman were present, Dean Martin, Mr. Glassco, Mr. Macfarlane and myself.

In the plans which are now submitted, as compared with the estimates placed by Dr. Martin and yourself before the Rockefeller Foundation, there are many changes and additions, all of which may be desirable, but which, on account of the increased cost which would be involved for construction, furnishing and maintenance, would prejudice the immediate completion of the project.

1. There is now suggested a whole floor for animal accommodation and experiment, whereas in the original estimate there was no such accommodation. I understand, of course, that accommodation for animal experimentation in the old Medical Building is congested and insufficient and that there is necessity for accommodation in the new building.

2. There is now suggested greatly increased space for X-Ray equipment. This probably means more furnishing and more X-Ray equipment. In the original estimates only \$10,000 was included for this item. Is that likely to be enough?

3. In the new plans there is suggested an Amphitheatre twice the size of the one originally planned, with other accessories, all taking up space and requiring additional equipment.

4. There are now suggested two elevators instead of one. I can of course see the reason for this, one being required for patients, food, etc., while the other is a purely passenger elevator.

5. In the original estimate there were two floors given up to patients: in the new plan there are 3. There is provision for 10 private rooms instead of the original 6; there are semi-private wards for 6 and public wards to accommodate 28. (Mr. Chenoweth, who joined the conference later, told me that there are at present 100 private beds in the Royal Victoria Hospital not occupied.)

I wonder if it is necessary to have provision for all these patients - ⁵⁰~~50~~ in number?
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6. There is a room for Physical Re-Education and such other accommodation as Racquet Courts, etc. I believe in recreation accommodation for internes and I can see the necessity for this Physical Re-Education room. The pity is that these things were not included when the original plans went to the Foundation for consideration.

7. There is increased Operating Room accommodation.

The result of all these additions is to add very materially to the cost which, when we approached the Foundation, was estimated to be not more than \$344,672. The Foundation agreed to bear half this cost, or \$172,336. This means that were we to increase the cost of the building it would have to be borne entirely by the University.

Furthermore, I learn today from Mr. Macdonald that when the original estimates were furnished they at no time included cost of architects' or engineers' fees. This was a very great surprise and shock to me, because on page 22 of the copy of the Memorandum furnished the Foundation by Dr. Martin and yourself there appears, among others, the following item:-

"4. Finances

1. Construction (<u>including architects' fees</u>)		
Building	\$313,336	
Verandah	4,876	
Tunnel work	12,720	
Road work	4,240	
Mechanical & electrical con.	9,500	\$344,672.

I also remember asking Dr. Martin particularly whether Architects' Fees were included, and he pointed to this memorandum and gave me such assurance. If these fees are really not included in the estimate, the cost will be increased by \$25,000, which, under the terms of the agreement, will have to be borne entirely by the University.

Another factor we must remember is that every time we increase construction costs by a dollar we increase maintenance costs by practically the same amount.

As I see it now, if present plans were to be approved the increased cost would be over \$200,000:-

- (a) Architects and engineers' fees \$25,000
- (b) Covered passageway 27,900
- (c) Increased building costs, \$60,000 or \$70,000
- (d) Increased endowment for maintenance,
at least \$100,000

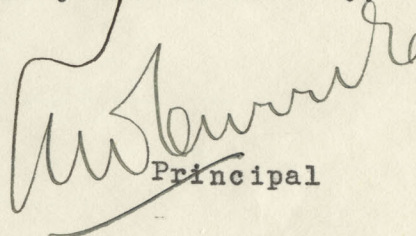
totalling probably \$225,000.

I have not the heart to go to the Building Committee with the plans in their present condition. I have no idea where the increased money called for could be found. I have always said that as far as the building costs were concerned, we could not exceed the \$344,672, of which the Foundation agreed to pay half. I was quite willing to advocate the increased cost of the bridge which, originally estimated at \$22,000, has now grown to be \$27,900.

You will see that we must reconsider these plans, eliminating enough to bring the cost down to the original estimate.

Do you think any good would come of approaching the Foundation again? And when can you come in for consultation with me?

Ever yours faithfully,



Principal