

- : MEMORANDUM : -

TO: Dr. Knight

FROM: Dr. Wright

Much interested in Dr. Martin's letter to you. Dr. Martin is a treasured friend. I have had some slight knowledge of his plans for the Department of Preventive Medicine at McGill University.

The Department, unless I am much mistaken, is not a very thriving one as yet - but Martin has high hopes for it. He would know, I take it, "what could a well organized, well financed department do?"

The Sun Life might well ask - if it secured a mortgage on McGill - for such service as we might ask:

Technical guidance in regard to matters affecting community or individual health - such as, aid in preparation of publicity, occasional research matters not involving great outlays of money, field investigations as of sanitation, water, or milk supplies, or industrial hazards.

The help of the University might well be enlisted in stimulating and guiding public health activities in communities in which the carrier might be particularly interested. I feel that the usefulness of the University could be made apparent in relation to group insurance much more readily than in any other way. It would serve, perhaps, in some such way as do our own Welfare Division and Policyholders' Service Bureau.

This is vague, but discussion, I feel sure, could crystallize the vagueness into something definite. Observation of our Scheme at Harvard leads me to add that Martin should not only be prepared to render certain types of service but certain services, more or less routine perhaps, should be specified. Unless there is a definite, tangible quid pro quo the interest of a financial supporter may well languish after a few years.

January 19, 1924.

MET 0399.....

It is suggested that we approach the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University with a proposal that upon the establishment of an adequate Department of Industrial Hygiene in the McGill Medical School the Metropolitan enter into an agreement with McGill to secure for the Company certain services and information relating to the health of industrial workers in Canada.

With the establishment of a Canadian Home Office and the extension of the Company's operations in the Dominion it becomes increasingly important that the Company have accurate knowledge of conditions attending industrial activity in Canada. It is, further, most desirable that the Company's program for the betterment of the health of industrial workers and their families be advanced in Canada where industrial hygiene as a phase of public health work is notably backward.

It would be of great value to the Company to have specific information regarding such matters as:

1. The distribution of industrial establishments, mines and lumbering operations with data concerning the number of employees in each establishment and district.
2. Studies of hazardous processes.
3. Studies of morbidity and mortality in relation to the major industrial pursuits.
4. Studies of extent and character of medical service available in the "unorganized territory" where-in are conducted the great mining and lumbering operations.
5. Observations regarding opportunities for educational work by the Company.

To secure such information directly would be difficult and very expensive. If it could be obtained from a department of industrial hygiene in Canada's leading university in return for a moderate annual fee the Company would undoubtedly benefit. If the Company could incidentally through its relation with the University extend its own influence in the field of public health the benefit would be still greater.

It would mean an adherence to the Company's established policy of utilizing when possible Canadian personnel and operating through Canadian agencies. It would bring the Company and its activities in contact with many highly influential individuals and industrial groups.

Though legal obstacles may stand in the way of a contribution by the Company to an educational institution they are not concerned with the plan proposed. Such a plan involves a definite quid pro quo, payments specifically conditioned upon a commensurate return, the adequacy of such return to be determined by the President or those to whom he may delegate the decision.

MET 0396

PRODUCED BY
C. W. H. W. S.

Should the proposal be made by the Company to the University our participation would be vastly more valuable and stimulating in its effect upon Canadian industrial organizations than it would be were such participation to be solicited.

It is accordingly recommended that with proper legal safeguards and in the event of the fulfillment of suitable conditions the Company in consideration of certain services rendered pay to McGill University the sum of five thousand dollars annually during a period of ~~five~~ years.

five

Wade Wright.

PRODUCED SIC/MMS

0397

Internal

From Wright to Met Life

- : MEMORANDUM : -

TO: Dr. Knight

- Met Life - M. D. Knight - J. H. Williams

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