

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS
(C. N. R. & C. P. R.) AND TELEGRAPHIC
ADDRESS: STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.



POST OFFICE ADDRESS:
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

MACDONALD COLLEGE
OF
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

8 September 1952

Dear Ester and Joshua,

Your card telling of your visit to Montreal was on my desk when I returned from my vacation this past week-end. I am so disappointed to have missed you both. Carolyn and I were at our homes in Pennsylvania at the time and did not return until last Friday. I hope that you people had as pleasant a vacation as we had, and that the weather was good. I cannot think of any place more undesirable than the north shore of the Gaspé in bad weather! In fact, what I think of the Gaspé even in good weather is not much! I made a business trip around it the middle of August of this year - just the week before going on my vacation - and I was very unimpressed if not depressed. I hope you carried away a more favorable impression. I guess I just long for the sight of a good field of corn - or in fact a good field! Eight of us in two cars visited test plots of cereal varieties all over the Province. Agruculturally speaking it is not much and scenically speaking I found it monotonous.

I'm pleased to hear that you were using your french. Hereabouts it is considered quite undignified for an "english" - but what I should say is "non-catholic" - to speak french. I cannot speak or understand a word of it myself - though of course I can read it - since my training was only to read the unpronounced words. All of my employes are french and I cannot understand what they say even when they talk about me! They of course can speak to me in english. Except for the english people who grow up in french communities and learn french early, I do not know many people who can talk french - and even fewer who ever do speak it even though they can. All this does not of course justify my not learning the language but it illustrates a very bitter racial - but actually religious, since it is the church which fosters the french language - problem in which I'm afraid I'm taking a strong stand. I just cannot see this two language business and this alone would keep me from ever speaking french to a Canadian. It is not a case of minorities and their rights here, it is a case of Canada first for all Canadians, except for the french! As you can see this interested outsider is now on the point of being bitter about what he sees.

BRAUN

Please give my regards to old friend and tell others to warn me when they are passing through. Bob.