

NFORD, M.D.,
STREET,
EN, CONN.

March 15, 1916.

Dr. A. Stanley McKenzie,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S.

My dear Dr. McKenzie:

In a collection of birds at Dalhousie University are a pair of Labrador Ducks. The directors of the University have, as you know, refused several offers for these birds, hesitating, I have been given to understand, more because of sentiment for the donor of the collection than on account of their own wish. It has occurred to me that, in view of the conditions brought about by the European war, an offer at the present time might be acceptable and that if the donor or his heirs could be consulted they would feel that the money the University could realize from a specimen of this bird could be used to unusual advantage at the present time. There is little chance of a specimen of this bird increasing much in value for it has been extinct for a number of years, and of the forty-two known specimens, all but four are in museum collections. It is a well known museum fact that, even preserved in tight glass cases, museum specimens of stuffed birds seldom last over seventy or eighty years, so there is at least always the chance of these things becoming less, instead of more, valuable. Would you be inclined to advise the acceptance of an offer of \$3000 for the male bird in the collection?

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. Sargent

LEONARD C. SANFORD
347 TEMPLE
NEW HAVEN

March 20, 1916.

Dr. Leonard C. Sanford,
347 Temple Street,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 15th, asking us if we would consider an offer for the specimens of Labrador Ducks which are in the possession of the University. I will bring this matter up before the Board of Governors of the University at their next meeting, and let you know whether the University feels differently toward parting with these specimens from what it has in the past.

Yours very truly,

ASM/C.

President.

LEONARD C. SANFORD, M.D.,
347 TEMPLE STREET,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

March 25, 1916.

Dr. A. Stanley MacKenzie,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S.

My dear Dr. MacKenzie:

I want to thank you for your reply to my letter of March 15. While I realize that the board of governors of the University may, in all likelihood, decline to consider my offer for the specimen of the male Labrador Duck, I feel that in considering this matter, you and the other members of the board of governors might want to know what disposition would be made of this bird in event of its passing out of your hands. I have long since felt that in the case of natural history specimens of extraordinary value, their owners, be they institutions or individuals, should feel responsible for their being kept in good condition for as long a time as possible for the benefit of posterity. I am convinced, and I think anyone of experience will agree, that the best fireproof buildings are really the only place for these specimens. If it passed into my possession it would become part of my collection in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, a collection which will eventually become the property of that institution. It would never pass from the hands of this institution and it would, unquestionably, last longer with the care it would receive there than it would elsewhere. Its history would be a very important part of its presence in the American Museum and it would here probably perpetuate the name of its original owner and of its relationship with Dalhousie longer than it would in Dalhousie. It would also, in the American Museum, be available to a far greater number of

LEONARD C. SANFORD, M.D.,
347 TEMPLE STREET,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

students of natural history than it would be in Halifax. When I examined the specimen a number of years ago, the case was kept in a safe deposit during the vacation and in a building easily susceptible to fire all the year round. No less than three well known specimens of this bird have been destroyed by fire in the past forty years and insurance is a poor consolation.

This letter calls for no reply but I hope it may serve as a reminder to the gentlemen on your board of governors, if they hesitate about accepting my offer, that they cannot too carefully care for the rare things in their collection.

Yours very sincerely,

L. C. Sanford

LEONARD C. SANFORD, M.D.,
347 TEMPLE STREET,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

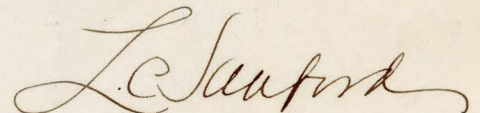
May 15, 1916.

Dr. A. Stanley MacKenzie,
Office of the President,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

My dear Dr. MacKenzie:

Have the board of governors of the University
of Dalhousie come to any conclusion as to whether they would accept an
offer for the specimen of the Labrador Duck in their possession?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Sanford".

May 17, 1916.

Leonard C. Sanford, M.D.,
347 Temple Street,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of President Mackenzie, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., which will be placed before him immediately on his return, in about ten days' time.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to the President.

/H.

May 29, 1916.

Dr. Leonard C. Sanford,

~~347 Temple Street,~~

New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

I have only today been able to take up finally with the Committee of the Board of Governors of the University to whom this matter was delegated, the question of disposing of the Labrador Ducks in the McCulloch collection here. In the meantime one of our number has been in consultation with the members of the McCulloch family from whom the University received this collection.

The result of our discussion of the matter is that it seems impossible for us to part with the ownership of these specimens for various reasons, the details of which I need not go into. At the same time we are quite convinced of the facts which you state in your letter concerning the difficulty of preserving a valuable specimen of this kind, and the danger to which they are always exposed due to fire and the ignorance of those who might be brought in contact with them. We have at present no proper museum for the care of such valuable specimens. We are at the

present time moving gradually from the old site to a new one farther from the centre of the city, and some of our new buildings have been erected on this site, but the war has, for the time being, put an end to our activity in this direction, and the building in which we hoped to have accommodation for a modern museum is not yet in sight. It is possible that in

the meantime the University would be willing to have these specimens put in the care of some museum where they could be used by interested students and receive proper inspection and attention. It might be that if the

American Museum of Natural History would wish to have these birds for the period of a few years, and would guarantee their safe passage from here to the museum and back again when we are ready to house them properly, we would consider the matter quite seriously.

I may add that these specimens of the Labrador Duck have a special interest on account of the fact that the original owner was the first President of the University, and his son, who donated them to us, was a member of the Board of Governors, and that the daughters of the latter are alive and interested in the University and in seeing these specimens, which belonged to their grandfather, retained in their vicinity and hands of the University with which they were all connected. I do not know also whether or not you are aware of the fact that these are the very birds Audobon used in making his folio plates.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

ASM/C.

President.

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT



FOR THE PEOPLE
FOR EDUCATION
FOR SCIENCE

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK

June the twenty-second
Nineteen hundred sixteen

My dear Sir:

I recently had a call from Dr. Leonard C. Sanford of New Haven, Connecticut, who, with Mr. Brewster, has charge of the important collection of sea birds that is being made for the American Museum of Natural History, to be known as the Brewster-Sanford Collection of Birds. He also kindly submitted to me your very courteous letter of May thirtieth, in which you observe: "It might be that if the American Museum of Natural History would wish to have these birds for the period of a few years, and would guarantee their safe passage from here to the museum and back again when we are ready to house them properly, we would consider the matter quite seriously."

In connection with this tentative offer, Dr. Sanford, who is keenly interested in the care of these types, made the following suggestion and offer: That the case containing the Labrador Ducks be brought to the American Museum by a special messenger, at the expense of Dr. Sanford, who would also bear the cost of insurance in transit and of insurance while in the American Museum; that a photograph of the case be taken before leaving its present location in Dalhousie, and that the case be placed on exhibition at the

President A. Stanley MacKenzie,
Dalhousie University.

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John apt. In the

American Museum among the Brewster-Sanford Collection of Birds, after being thoroughly disinfected and sealed, This is with the understanding that a guarantee be given as to the safe return of the case to the Dalhousie University after a period of years.

Doctor Sanford is well aware of the fact that these are the birds which Audubon used in making his plates, and he proposes to have one of these plates exhibited in the case containing the birds.

On behalf of the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, of the Scientific Staff and of the public which visits this Museum, I told Doctor Sanford that we would be quite willing to accept his offer in case we reached an agreement with the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University along the lines indicated in your courteous letter of May thirtieth.

Believe me, with cordial regards,

Always sincerely yours,

Alexander Fairfield Brown

President.

In connection with this tentative offer, Dr. Sanford, who is keenly interested in the care of these types, made the following suggestion and offer: That the case containing the Labrador Ducks be brought to the American Museum by a special messenger, at the expense of Dr. Sanford, who would also bear the cost of insurance in transit and of insurance while in the American Museum; that a photograph of the case be taken before leaving its present location in Dalhousie, and that the case be placed on exhibition at the

President A. Stanley MacKenzie,
Dalhousie University.

MACLEAN, PATON, BURCHELL & RALSTON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &C.

A. K. MACLEAN, K.C.
V. J. PATON, K.C.
C. J. BURCHELL, K.C.
J. L. RALSTON, K.C.

CHRONICLE BUILDING
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

August 11th, 1916

Dr. A.S. McKenzie,
Dalhousie College,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir:-

I forgot to get from you today the correspondence with regard to the Labrador Ducks. I want to incorporate memorandum of the agreement in the minutes so that we can have a record of it.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. Burchell

J.

McCulloch - Re Labrador
Ducks

Museum

August 14, 1916.

Mr. C. J. Burchell,
Chronicle Building,
City.

Dear Burchell,

Enclosed is the correspondence with

Dr. Sanford about ducks. Please return these
letters for my files.

Sincerely yours,

ASM/L.

President.

*Material returned:-
See attached:-*