

SURVEY Dept.



City of Winnipeg

Canada

December 29, 1923

No.

M. Peterson, Esq.,
Sec. Special Committee,
City Hall, Winnipeg.

Re Site for Proposed Cenotaph

Dear Sir:-

War Memorials might be classified under two headings "utilitarian" such as Memorial Halls and "purely votive". Under the latter heading there are many types of monuments ranging from a tablet to a stately spire or monumental tower, but possibly the most sacred is the Cenotaph which, from the very origin of the term, signifies an empty Sepulchre, in other words a Tomb erected to the sacred memory of heroes buried in a distant land. Strictly speaking therefore, a Cenotaph is of the form of a Sarcophagus standing upon an ample pedestal.

If Winnipeg's War Memorial is to be a Cenotaph it would appear absolutely essential that the site should not be in either of the City's thoroughfares in the midst of traffic but should be rather an ample space where it may be approached in the spirit of reverence and opportunity provided for visitors to meditate upon its significance. Of the sites under control of the City the square in front of the City Hall would appear to be the only one suitable for this purpose, being centrally located from the standpoint of all the citizens. The design should harmonize with the plans for the proposed new City Hall and the present monument should be moved to another suitable site such for instance as the Fort Garry Park or Grace Church site, if the Church be willing to donate the necessary space.

Yours truly,

RHA.JG.

City Surveyor.