CURRIE COMMENTS ON DENTAL COURSE

Takes Cognizance of Newspaper Article Suggesting McGill Change

NO AMENDMENT NEEDED

No Word From University of Montreal Regarding Proposed Bill and Doubts Such Action

Two years in the faculty of arts at McGill University is still adequate preparation for the study of dentistry, in the opinion of Sir Arthur Currie, principal of the university, who issued a statement to The Gazette yesterday in connection with an article that appeared in Tuesday's La Presse in regard to pre-dental qualifications at the University of Montreal and McGill.

This article stated that there was a move afoot to have a bill introduced at the next session of the Legislature requiring an arts degree for all students entering the dental profession. It was explained that this was necessary because of present inequalities in the standard of students entering dentistry at McGill and the University of Montreal.

It said: "The English university of Montreal only requires dental students to have completed the second year in the arts course; while the French university, which in the past required one additional preparatory year over and above the two years in arts, has now decided that in future two further years will be required. This offers an inequality between students of the English and French language before the Dental College. The French Canadians, better prepared and with more knowledge than Canadians of the English tongue, nevertheless have to study two more years prior to entrance and graduate two years later."

The article went on to explain that the bill in mind would require that standards at McGill be raised to the same degree as now obtains at the University of Montreal.

In commenting on this report, Sir Arthur Currie said:

"I cannot understand the article in La Presse. So far as it deals with the equivalence between training at McGill and at the classical colleges, it is of course rather misleading. We have never attempted to establish any equivalences because our courses are quite different in content and in arrangement.

"This has nothing to do with the main point at issue. Several years ago, after very full consideration of the contents of our course, it was agreed by the University of Montreal, the Dental Board, and McGill, that two years in arts at McGill provided quite an adequate preparation for the study of dentistry. This situation is unaltered. I know it to be satisfactory to the board. We had no word of any proposed change from the University of Montreal, and I can hardly believe that our sister institution would appeal to the Legislature over our heads."

Dr. Edouard Montpetit, secretary-general of the University of Montreal, said that the matter was in the hands of the dental faculty at that institution and had no comment to make.