

# MACDONALD COLLEGE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

RAILWAY STATIONS AND EXPRESS;  
STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

OFFICE OF THE BURSAR

POST OFFICE:  
MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE., CANADA

August 24, 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL, P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur,

At our recent conference in connection with the letter received from Dr. Percival, and referring especially to that paragraph in his letter in which he stated that the School for Teachers had prior claim on all the facilities of Macdonald College, I intimated that the late Dr. James W. Robertson, the first Principal of the institution, had stated on several occasions that it was both his and Sir William Macdonald's ideal, that, if it could possibly be arranged, the teachers for rural schools should be trained at Macdonald College, which would be an agricultural environment.

Both of these gentlemen were of the opinion that teachers so trained would be more likely to appreciate and understand the home conditions and difficulties experienced by boys and girls in rural districts, and would, in consequence, be more fitted to cope with their peculiar requirements.

In this connection I have looked through a great deal of the late Dr. Robertson's correspondence, but cannot find any statement of this expression in writing. However, in looking over some of the evidence of Dr. Robertson, given before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization in 1906/7/8, I find several paragraphs (copies of which I enclose) which point to the fact that it was the Founder's wish that teachers for rural schools should be trained at Macdonald College, - but none of the evidence implies that the School for Teachers should have first claim on the facilities of Macdonald College.

After reviewing the evidence, I have come to the conclusion that Macdonald College was established as a School of Agriculture and Domestic Science, having regard to the requirements of the boys and girls in rural districts.