

March  
Twenty-third  
1922.

John Ritchie, Esq.,  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

Dear Sir:-

The Finance Committee of the Board of Governors of McGill University, of which Macdonald College forms a part, have given earnest consideration to your letter of January 1st, in which you lodge a complaint on behalf of the Protestant Rate Payers of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, as to the amount of school taxes which you were called upon to pay.

I am to inform you that the Board cannot offer any promise of relief, though they realize that these taxes are high. There has been a much increased cost of operation of the school due to the larger salaries it has been necessary to pay teachers and due to the increasing cost of materials and supplies. There has also been considerable increase in the number of children. From the municipality of Ste Anne's in 1919-20 there were 232; 1920-21 269; 1921-22 284.

You suggest that the old agreement which was entered into by Ste. Anne's at the time the College was formed should not be so drastically changed. You must realize that conditions have very, very greatly changed and that the agreement was a yearly one. Before the College was established at Ste. Anne's there were only thirteen children in school and one elementary teacher. We cannot admit that the proportion of cost which Macdonald College is bearing is entirely too low in view of the value of the School for teachers' training purposes. The College pays about \$10.00 a head for each Ste. Anne's child over and above what the municipality pays. It bears the whole cost of the education of the children who live on the College campus. It maintains academy