

COPY.

January 15th, 1931.

R. Stuart Pilcher, Esq.,
President, Municipal Tramways & Transport Association,
Manchester Corporation Transport Department,
55, Piccadilly, Manchester.
E n g l a n d.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter dated January 2nd to the
Principal has been referred to me for answer.

At present we have no course in McGill
University dealing specially with questions of transport.
Some years ago there was a special department known as the
Department of Railways functioning in the Faculty of Applied
Science as a unit, similar to other units such as Civil,
Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The department existed
for several years, but the course was abandoned during the War.
It was financed partly by the aid of the Canadian railways, but
our general feeling was that the demand for such a specialized
course did not fully justify its existence.

Students taking this course spent a
considerable amount of time in the Departments of Civil and
Mechanical Engineering. As a rule there were two full-time
professors in the University both of whom were experts in
railway work. In addition, lecturers and instructors who were
at the time employed by the railway companies, gave courses
dealing with special phases of railway organization. Lectures
were also given by members of the University staff in economics,
engineering law and English.

I think you will obtain a good idea of
the course by looking through the extracts from an old calendar
which I enclose. These include the following:-

- Pages 191-194 - General outline of Engineering courses.
(Note: All students of the Faculty followed the same course
in the first and second years.)
- Pages 218-220 - Details of the third and fourth year courses
in Railway Engineering.
- " 276-281, and 248-249 - Further details of the organiza-
tion of the Department, and list of subjects
covered.