

A. E. PROVOST
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD
CECIL BETHUNE
SEC.-TREAS. OF BOARD



W. D. T. ATKINSON, M.A.
PRINCIPAL

PHONE CARLING 866

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE,
GLEBE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

OTTAWA, CANADA

March 3, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie,
President,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:-

You asked me to remind you of a point I brought up during our conversation last Wednesday.

Under your existing regulation, as expressed in a letter from the Registrar to Mr. Stuart, Principal of Lisgar Collegiate Institute, you will not accept a Matriculation certificate from a student if he has secured his standing on the recommendation of his Principal. As you know, such students must receive at least 66 % in the subjects in which they are recommended. Naturally, then, under this system, a student who has been recommended in, say, seven or eight subjects of Matriculation is a better man than the student who has reached that standard in none.

From our experience here last year, I would respectfully suggest that you are in danger of driving the cream of our students to other universities if this regulation is continued in force. It seems to me that a student would have to have a strong McGill bias in his own mind (or in the mind of someone in his immediate connection) before he would be willing to write an examination on which he felt that he had already taken at least Second Class Honours.

Our experience here is that when teachers have the power of recommendation in this way, they are liable to err rather on the side of severity than on the side of leniency. I have official figures from the Department of Education for the past two or three years comparing our teachers' recommendations with their actual results, and it is in isolated cases only that they are high. I should be glad to show these figures to you or your representative at any time.