

(From Prof. Clarke)

Notes on Matriculation and School-Leaving Examinations.

1. Any scheme that works at all must provide for effective co-operation between the Universities and the Department of Education. Complete and absolute separation is an impossibility, and independent arrangements whereby McGill conducted its own Matriculation Examination would still involve very definite relations with the Department of Education.

2. There are two lines of approach to effective co-operation:-

a) A real Joint Board enjoying the confidence of all parties and taking effective control of both Examinations. While deriving its authority from the regulations of the Protestant Committee it would, in fact, set itself to devise and operate machinery that would meet the just claims of all the interests concerned.

or:-

b) Separate conduct of the Examinations, leaving matters of common interest to be determined by negotiation. Since, very largely, the same schools and teaching-facilities would be concerned in both examinations, the area of common interest would still be large. Questions of courses of study, of textbooks, of standards and so forth would continue to arise, and would have to be settled by some kind of machinery. Would this machinery be as satisfactory as an authoritative Joint Board? I imagine that it might well be clumsy, lacking in permanence and precision, weak in authority and more fruitful in causes of irritation than a Joint Board would be.