

A.E. WHITEHEAD.  
C O P Y.

Thursday 9.30 a.m.  
June , 1929.

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This is the last day here for me. Watson left yesterday for Cranbrook. I go today (4.35 p.m.) The centre here is first rate as to quality -- no failures, and more than 50% have an easy distinction.

There is much dissatisfaction our West with the Conservatorium as to,-

1. Syllabus requirements
2. Division of marks in certain grades.
3. Office negligence - lack of anything like business method.

They, (our supporters in the West) expect the millenium to dawn when a new principal is appointed. I have taken great pains to explain that, whoever is appointed, the conditions cannot be greatly changed the first year (1929-30), as the Syllabus, Dr. Perrin's production, (with all the errors of twenty years), will remain in force. In fact, it is in print already. This is a cruel drawback for the new man, so far as the local examinations are concerned, as these good people (local secretaries and the teachers associated with them) are expecting drastic changes and will hardly be contented to wait another year.

It's quite a problem, just as big a problem as confronts one in the Conservatorium itself. There is no doubt but that our system is archaic, and I understand, there is much dissatisfaction.

With regard to the office, everyone grumbles at non-reply to urgent letters and errors of information and book-keeping. It seems as if a reply leaves the office only after the fifth or sixth application. And yet Perrin wishes to make Tupper Business Manager!. I have intimated to Dr. Palmer and Watson - our best people in the West- that this is Dr. P.'s idea, and they are indignant. Both of them have gradually drifted into connection with Toronto examinations, and I can see that shortly they will give up McGill work altogether unless conditions improve.

Sometimes lately I have quailed before the prospect of casting my lot in with the Conservatorium altogether, and I don't think I am easily dismayed. At the same time the opportunity is a great one, and generally I feel confident of gratifying it, and coping with it satisfactorily. At all of the centres visited thus far I have been met with expressions of desire that I be the next Principal. (This, of course, may merely be courtesy, altho, I think there is genuine desire felt.)

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