

Nov 26/30

IS LATIN COMPULSORY IN WESTERN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES?

(Information below is gleaned, in each case, from 1930-1 Calendars)

University B.C. (Calendar pp. ~~71~~ 73-74)

These pages, carefully read, show that in Arts if the student does not take Latin he must take Greek.

Univ. Saskatchewan. (Calendar pp. 29-30.)

Latin must be taken if Students have Law in view.  
Greek or Latin.....Arts in view.

Alberta (Calendar p30)

Expressly warns intending Matriculants that if Latin is not taken there are some Faculties which can not be entered. Even among professional Faculties Pharmacy, Law, Dentistry require Latin. In the Arts course it is made plain that if one does not take Greek it is almost impossible to escape Latin- in fact one can only do it by taking a heavy science course. (These would correspond to our B.Sc. students in Arts) Further these Science students must do both French and German.

Manitoba. (Calendar p. 23)

Matriculation requirements not stated. But in first year Arts the only way to escape Latin would be to take Greek, Hebrew or Icelandic in addition to French and German, unless one took a very full course in Science, - which again would correspond to our B.Sc. students.

The gist of all this is that (except for the alternative Greek-which alternative Manitoba amplifies for obvious political reasons, only to hedge it around with added difficulties) it cannot be said of the Western Universities, any more than it can be said of McGill, that "they do not require Latin for Matriculation!" One may say, without falsehood, "The Western Canadian Universities do not require Latin for Entrance!" And the same may be said of McGill. But in both cases if one looks into it further it appears that the matriculant who has funk'd Latin can only do certain things.

There is an historical reason for the Greek alternative-the fact that Manitoba and Saskatchewan began by being tied up with theological colleges. The students in these must take both Greek and Hebrew. Now if these men have to carry three ancient languages, it is argued, they can hardly get enough modern education.

McGill, I fancy, would be very willing to accept Greek for Latin, but it would be silly to talk about it, for Greek is extinct in our schools. So also, for the matter of that is German, whereas in these Western universities if you escape Latin as our B.Sc. students do, it is generally laid down, or it appears in the detailed regulations, that you must do both Fr. and Ger.

and at school.