

Regarding the percentage of four failures out of thirteen officers sent here, this may seem high, and I think it is too high: but I repeat that I do not think the distractions of Montreal have had much to do with it.

As regards the C.O.T.C. itself, in comparing our results here with those of other universities, I would ask you to remember that at Saskatchewan and Toronto very considerable educational credits are given for success in the C.O.T.C. examinations; whereas at McGill all that is allowed is a small credit in the Faculty of Engineering, and that is only allowed in certain cases. I presume that the large number at the University of Alberta is due to the fact that physical training is compulsory at that institution. In any comparison of numbers between McGill and Toronto it must also be borne in mind that the number of male students at the latter university is very much larger, McGill having only about two thousand male students in Montreal, scattered over a wide area. These are, of course, matters with which you are yourself familiar, and I see no need for going into detail.

The C.O.T.C. has had a hard struggle against considerable difficulties. We have no Drill Hall, nor can I see any possibility of having one until a Gymnasium is provided. Nothing but a good deal of devotion and enthusiasm on the part of the officers has kept the Corps going. Colonel Buchanan, present commanding officer, is very enthusiastic and very devoted, while the members of the committee are always ready to help him. He may have made some mistakes, but I do not think anyone could have done more to improve conditions and make the Corps attractive. I only wish you had had an opportunity of visiting their Mess and noting what is being done to create an "esprit de corps". The Committee is now studying the question of training and endeavouring to ascertain whether any more satisfactory system can be provided. It may be that the handicap under which these young men are working can be reduced, and I assure you that, in the meantime, nothing is being left undone which might encourage and assist them.

In the last resort the Corps, like every other McGill institution, must stand on its own feet and retain the regard of the student body without pressure from any higher authority. Whether it does this or not depends very largely on the spirit permeating the C.O.T.C. as a whole.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal