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Sir Arthur Currie
McGill University

Nov 26th 27

Montreal

My dear Sir Arthur:

You may perhaps be surprised to hear from me and upon a subject that may seem to you unusual and unexpected. However, when in London ⁱⁿ some weeks ago, I had quite a long chat with Dr. McEwen Principal of the Royal Academy of Music.

Incidentally he mentioned that the cost of sending Examiners throughout the Empire meant about £3000-0-0 loss per annum to the Academy and I assume as much more by the Royal College of Music which together forms the Associated Boards in carrying the work forward. It was he said a question of whether they should continue the plan or not.

I took occasion then to point out the potency and influence of music in harmonizing and breathing as it were the Spirit of Empire, and unifying effect, an agency more effective ~~probably~~ than any other that could be mentioned.

Actually I had in mind "the Skirl of the bagpipes" on Scotchmen and such as you & Dr. He pointed out that in many of the Dominions, in musical matters there was an evidence of something antagonistic to their interference, probably regarding it as a reflex of Colonial dependence. "Far be it from me" he said. "What I do want is not competition but Cooperation in securing the best and highest standard throughout the Empire."

So this I suggested that the first thing necessary was the idea, and then organization to carry it forward as an Empire duty, and told him that your well known powers in that direction, and in your capacity as head of McGill, if you took the matter up, would compel attention and discussion of the subject. In fact that yourself with probably Dr. Falconer in sympathetic line, were in a position to put over the idea in Canada and

the musical authorities elsewhere successfully and surely, if you'd take hold of it.

He seemed greatly pleased and I told him I would submit the matter to you for consideration.

Since this letter, and as I am convinced of its need, and very far reaching results to good citizenship, I shall do all the service I can possibly render. Assuring you of my highest regards and esteem I am very sincerely
Yours
D. D. Murray

P.T.O.