

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

19th March 1924.

Dear Mr. Principal,

In general I may say that I agree with the condemnation of West's book, recently adopted as a text-book in the Quebec schools, as expressed in the enclosed letter. The other members of the History department as well as myself regret that this book has been adopted.

In October 1922 Dr. Nicholson sent me West's book to see & asked me not only to give my opinion about it but also to make suggestions about the History curriculum in the schools. My colleagues & I carefully considered the whole matter & in November 1922 I sent a letter embodying our views to the curriculum committee. In this letter we set forth what in our opinion would be a suitable history curriculum. I need not trouble you with our detailed proposals, as apparently no attention was paid to them, but in the course of them we said:-

" We do not think that the last two years or even the last year should be devoted to general history. At this stage it is important to begin studying some history in some detail & making a real exercise of the mind of it. A general history of the type of Parrot's is too slight to give much training, while West's & those like it are a dreary pemmican from which it is difficult to get any detailed ideas!

I also suggested that I should be happy to meet the Committee to give our views both on the curriculum & on West in greater detail;