

Copy for the Principal.

Armdale House, Halifax.
Aug. 8th, 1932.

Dean Ira A. MacKay,
Faculty of Arts and Science,
McGill University.

Dear Dean,

I have been away for the week-end and so am a little late in replying to your letter of August 2nd, with which you enclose a record of the correspondence that has passed between Sir Arthur Currie and Dr. Percival about the proposed full year of graduate-training for High School Teachers at McGill.

The Central Board of Examiners as the body which has charge of carrying out the regulations for the training of teachers, has a direct interest in the experiment and must be kept informed at every point of any steps we are taking at McGill. I was unable to attend the last meeting of the Board as I could not get away from Halifax, or I could have discussed the matter then.

But the position at the moment seems to me quite clear. McGill has agreed with my view that the training of High School Teachers should be put on a graduate basis without delay. The Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction has approved of the tentative scheme for a graduate year that the University submitted, on the understanding that the plan is regarded as an experiment to be reviewed from time to time in the light of experience. My draft of this plan is set forth in Sir Arthur Currie's reply to Dr. Percival's request for information.

At present it is no more than an outline and can be no more. To fill in details now would be to anticipate the results of an experiment which has not yet been worked out in practice. All is yet to do, and I myself am by no means certain that everything I propose will work out so that I can recommend it for retention in a final scheme - the course in Physiology for instance.

The experiment is to be put into practice this coming session, and I have been for some time in touch with possible candidates for the new course. With the additional facilities that the University is now providing in its Department of Education I have every hope that we shall be able to show some useful and significant results. Also I am anxious to work in the closest possible touch with the Central Board of Examiners: as a member of the Board I shall be glad at any time to give full information of what is proceeding and to join in the fullest discussion. But the Board itself cannot conduct the actual experiment. That must be done by the University Department of Education and the School for Teachers acting in co-operation and working on lines approved by the Central Board.