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The Board of Trade Building,
Montreal, June 11th, 1931.

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
MONTREAL, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:

You doubtless are more or less familiar with the Trade and Goodwill Mission made up of 150 Canadians, some 90 of whom were business men of consequence throughout the Dominion, who recently visited Latin-America and parts of the British West Indies. A copy of our official report is being sent you under separate cover.

May I call your particular attention to recommendation No. 8, on page 5 of the printed report. It was the unanimous opinion of the Canadian business men on the delegation that there should be urged upon the educational authorities of the Dominion the desirability of placing greater emphasis on the study of Spanish in the curricula of our universities. We quite appreciate that a good deal has been done more latterly in this regard but we still feel that, if Canada is to take full advantage of the opportunities for the development of our foreign trade in the great countries of South America, more of our young men entering business can be advantageously equipped with an intimate knowledge of Spanish, and to a lesser extent of Portuguese.

There is no thought on the part of any of our members to dictate the policy of our universities, but it was felt that, presiding as you do over a great educational institution, you would welcome the findings of outstanding Canadian business leaders on this important subject.

We should appreciate very much receiving an intimation that our university authorities are favourably disposed toward the implementing of the foregoing important recommendation.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Woods
President and Chairman of the Mission.