

University of Chicago.

August 6, 1924.

Professor Ling,
Secretary of the Conference of Canadian Universities.

Dear Sir:

A conference of modern language teachers was held at Ottawa, June 9th and 10th, 1924, for the purpose of considering a proposal received from the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to undertake an investigation of modern language studies in Canada similar to one now in progress in the United States. The proposal was accepted, and preliminary steps were taken to provide for carrying on the work. Copies of the minutes of the meeting and the reports of the sub-committees on plans and membership have been sent to you. As you are therefore aware, it was recommended (a) that the enterprise be carried on under the auspices of the Conference of Canadian Universities, a national organization similar in some respects to the American Council on Education, which sponsors the investigation being made in the United States. It was further recommended (b) that a cooperative committee, composed of men and women not necessarily expert in modern languages, but representing other points of view, be appointed by the Conference of Canadian Universities, and that their findings be embodied in the final report of the joint Canadian and American committee.

The executive committee, consisting of Messrs. W.A.R. Kerr, vice-chairman, J.E. Shaw, secretary, W.C. Ferguson, G.W. Parmelee, and myself as chairman, has reported to the provincial Ministers of Education on the membership of the committee, which, in addition to the executive committee, is as follows: H. Ashton, J. Belleau, R. du Roure, H.E. Ford, J.H. Heinzelmann, R.K. Hicks, Miss Blanche Ketcheson, J.A. Macdonald, G.H. Needler and Miss Lea E. Tanner. Replies have been received from the Ministers of Nova Scotia and Ontario, the latter nominating Mr. I.M. Levan as an additional member.

I regret that it is impossible for me to appear before your Conference in person to explain the purpose and scope of our investigation, but as several of the members of your committee have been consulted about details of the organization, you have, I hope, sufficient information to enable you to come to a favourable decision in at least the first recommendation. In the matter of appointing a committee of business men, there is no need for urgency and you may, if you so desire, defer action until your next meeting. It is taken for granted that the investigation will require about three years.

All of which I submit to your kind consideration.

Yours truly,

(signed) Milton A. Buchanan.