

MACDONALD COLLEGE

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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Copy to Sir Arthur Currie.

April 11th, 1927

Dr. R.F. Ruttan,
Dean of the Faculty of
Graduate Studies and Research,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Dr. Ruttan:

As you are aware, French Canadian boys have been coming to us for post graduate work. Some of these boys have done very well, while others have not been very successful. Their preparation for some of the work has been inadequate and, of course, they have had the language difficulty to overcome.

Questions having to do with the work have been brought to my attention recently by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Quebec, through whose department we receive a number of scholarships and also by Rev. Father Leopold, Head of the Agricultural College at Oka, from which we receive a number of students.

The feeling is, that while there have been difficulties with the work, a good start has been made and that better results can be looked for as preparation is developed. It is agreed also, that Macdonald College is in a position to render Quebec better service in many lines of graduate work in Agriculture than any other institution.

There is need, however, for a clearer understanding of requirements for the work and of allowances, if any, that can be made because of the language. This, I am endeavouring to bring about, not only in the interests of the graduate work itself, but also because it is highly desirable as affecting our relationship with the French Canadian people.

They have definitely raised the matter of language in connection with the thesis and want to know if French students can be permitted to write their theses in French. They understand that this has not been allowed in the past. They point out that English is allowed in the Universite de Montreal and they argue that since French is an official language of the country and a reading knowledge is required for higher degrees, it would seem reasonable that they should be allowed to use it in writing theses.