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J.H.M.K

Memorandum

My dear Mitchell,

Following our recent conversations and referring to the contents of an undated letter written by D.C. Logan, Superintendent of Schools in Montreal, to Dr. W.P. Percival, Director of Protestant Education for the Province of Quebec, I now wish to set down the problem as it appears to me and as I think it appears to my colleagues at McGill.

For many years past candidates for admission to the first year in McGill University coming from the Province of Quebec have entered by two routes, viz (1) by writing the School Leaving Examinations offered at the end of the Eleventh Grade in the Public High Schools of the Province and (2) by writing the McGill Junior Matriculation Examinations. Candidates from the High Schools have uniformly entered by route number one and all other candidates by route number two. The requirements, however, for admission to the University have always been exactly the same for both these groups of candidates since both groups wrote the same examination papers set and examined by a joint panel of examiners acceptable to both parties. Under this practice obviously there could be no shadow of unfairness to either group. Last year, however, this practice was distinctly disturbed and in the following manner. All the Matriculation results were returned and published at an earlier date than the corresponding School Leaving results and before the latter results were published the marks in two subjects, viz Latin and Chemistry, were raised by the Department of Education for the Province. Under these circumstances, therefore, and in order to continue the rule of absolute fairness and equality between both groups of candidates, the University had no option except to follow the original marks on the School Leaving Examinations, and consequently several candidates from the schools who had passed as a result of the marks which had been raised but failed