

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF MUSIC

DEAN - DR. H. C. PERRIN

323 W. SHERBROOKE STREET

MONTREAL 30th Novr., 1927.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

With regard to the enclosed letter, I can quite appreciate the difficulties of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music in their undertaking musical examinations by peripatetic examiners sent from England through the various dominions and colonies.

You may be aware that from 1904 - 1909 the Associated Board operated in Canada in conjunction with, or perhaps I should say under the auspices of McGill University. When the four or five years of the contract expired, the conditions of the partnership were examined, and Sir William Peterson tried to get the Associated Board to recognise the advisability of a more active co-partnership on the side of McGill University. During that period, McGill had done the secretarial and business side of the work for the Associated Board from the Conservatorium, getting no remuneration for doing so and having no voice in the appointment of Examiners. Sir William Peterson suggested that the time had come when it would be advisable that one or two musicians living in Canada should be joined to the Examiners sent from overseas. This was deemed impossible by the Associated Board authorities, their reason being that if they conceded this to Canada they would have to do the same for other colonies and dependencies. I remember that Sir William Peterson said that it was absurd for them to view Canada in the same way as they would Borneo or Java. The position which they took up in this matter was, I know, deprecated by the younger men of the Board at that time, and I venture to think that if the matter had come up now, it would be viewed in a different way by the Associated Board. At any rate, in 1908 or 9 it was decided that McGill University would, in future, conduct its own local examinations in music, but would in no way injure the operations of the Associated Board. Due to this policy on our part, I am sure that the number of those entering for the Associated Board examinations has, at any rate, not grown less as the years passed, and possibly we have not secured so large a following as we might have done, if we had tried to work actively against them.

I note in the letter that Dr. McEwen, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, says he wants not competition but cooperation. This has always been our aim here, and when our connection with the