



Feb. 6th, 1922.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Re Quebec Bar Examinations.

My dear Sir Arthur:

I have just returned from Quebec, where, acting upon the suggestion made at the last meeting of our Faculty, I talked over the result of the recent Bar examinations with the professors of Laval University who are members of the Board of Examiners for admission to the Bar, and I think it well to apprise you at once of the impression I brought away from these discussions.

The Examiners with whom I conferred are, as I expected, entirely sympathetic with those students who are seriously trying to qualify for practice in this Province, and the results of the two past examinations have been very disappointing to them. Their statement that they were "très découragés" with the answer papers, particularly at the January examination, reveals very clearly their attitude. I am convinced that there was no purpose on their part to limit the number of those to be admitted, but that they could not conscientiously pass any more than they did. They say that the answers were exceedingly "weak". It seems that only five out of thirty-six passed on the first reading of the papers; of the others, only four were in doubt on a second reading, and these were re-read by the full Board; two of them were given passes, while the other two failed to receive the support of the majority of the Examiners, including those most experienced in the University and on the Bar examinations.

The gentleman from Montreal whose name has been most prominently mentioned as being in favour of keeping down the number to be admitted to practice to a minimum, has undoubtedly been indiscreet on one or two occasions, but I am assured that he stands alone among the examiners and that in consequence of his occasional indiscretion in speech he has lost whatever influence he may once have had over his fellow-