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MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES

April 14th. 1931.

Dr. Ira MacKay,
Dean of Faculty of Arts,
McGill University.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry of March 2nd. regarding the past, present and future of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature I beg to report as follows:

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, having been founded only a few years ago, cannot be properly said to have a history worth speaking of. I may, therefore, confine myself to the present condition of things.

The Department is at present handicapped in a variety of ways. The High Scholls of the Province eliminated German from the curriculum at the beginning of the war and have not yet seen fit to restore it to its rightful place. Our students have, therefore, to begin German in their 1st. year instead of having had at least two years preliminary training in the subject at school. This imposes on the staff 15 hours a week of elementary teaching and the almost impossible task of bringing a few of these students up to the honours standard before they leave the university.