

March 7th, 1933

W.D.T. Atkinson, Esq.,  
Principal,  
Glebe Collegiate Institute,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir,

Sir Arthur Currie has shown me your letter to him concerning our acceptance of marks awarded by High Schools without public examination, according to the Ontario plan.

The decision of the Matriculation Board which I gave to Mr. Stuart in the letter you mention, was based largely upon a desire to treat the schools of Ontario exactly as we treat the schools of Quebec. In practice, when applications from Ontario came in, I found it impossible to hold up these applications until I had discovered whether the marks were awarded by the School or the Department, and consequently was forced to accept both without discrimination. This we shall continue to do at least for a year or two so that the Ontario system will have a fair trial.

Our chief experience of accepting certification by schools has hitherto been in connexion with American High Schools, and has not been very encouraging. As you know, a large number of American schools are approved by various educational agencies and given the power to certify for admission to most of the American Universities. In many of these schools a student's complete record showing an average of 85% or 90% means practically nothing, and students with such records have often had to leave McGill on account of weak scholarship. We now require American students to write the College Entrance Examination Board examinations and find the change a distinct improvement. This unfortunate experience with certification may have been in the minds of the Matriculation Board when it made its previous decision.

McGill has naturally a close connexion with Ontario and particularly with the Ottawa Valley, and none of us wishes to see that connexion weakened. I hope you will be pleased to hear that we are accepting your school marks for entrance, and trust that the Ontario plan continues to work out as soundly as you suggest in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

T.H. Matthews  
Registrar

Copy sent to Mr. Stuart,  
Lisgar Collegiate Institute.