

MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

April 23, 1930.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
Principal,  
McGill University.

My dear Principal,

I am returning to you herewith the letter from Principal Smyth to you dated the 21st instant, the letter from Rev. J. W. Graham to Principal Smyth dated the 17th instant, and the copy of the resolution of the Board of Education of the United Church of Canada which you gave me this morning and I now wish to offer the following comment for your information.

Three years ago we carefully designed a special course of study of five years duration intended for the education and training of graduates of McGill who might wish to become Y.M.C.A. secretaries or to follow other forms of religious work after graduation. The resolution, however, to approve this course was almost unanimously defeated by the Graduate Faculty in full session, indeed I was personally the only member who voted in favour of approval. Very little substantial objection was taken to the subjects covered by the course except that New Testament Greek was offered in the second year for the B.A. degree and that the fifth or M.A. year was a composition of religious education and semi-religious knowledge. Some of the objections made were, I admit, distinctly childish and painful to hear in the University Faculty. The theme of these objections seemed to be, however, about as follows:- "This is a non-sectarian University." "We do not teach religion in this College." "We will have no parley with obscurantism at McGill, leave that to the Theological Colleges." I felt, however, at the time that some of these objections were probably directed against the Y.M.C.A. as an institution, and that some of them were distinctly personal. I do not think,