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by Mackay

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

September 18th, 1922.

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Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Principal,

In a casual conversation with you last May, I ventured to suggest certain proposals which I had in mind as a result of my two years experience in McGill and which may possibly be of some interest to the University. I also suggested that I should set these proposals down in the form of memorandum in writing for your ~~most~~^{most} serious consideration, if indeed you should think them worth consideration.

I am now venturing to write to you at some length for the purpose of carrying out this suggestion. I need scarcely say, too, at the outset that these proposals are somewhat in the nature of a blind venture. Indeed all proposals are necessarily more or less blind at birth. Having thought the matter over, however, during the summer months, I am quite convinced that once the general principle is recognized, the academic details may be easily and almost immediately set in working order in McGill.

The University faculties in which I am chiefly interested are the newly organized faculty of Graduate Study and Research and the Faculty of Law. The relationship between these two faculties may not seem very intimate at first, but only a little reflection is needed to show that this relationship is really much more intimate than is generally recognized. University legal education, intended, as it is, for intensive applied professional uses of a serious public service nature, ought to belong to the very highest degree and grade of thorough, impartial, scholarly training that any university can afford to offer. The better class of schools in the United States have long recognized this fact both in principle and practice. Harvard, Cornell, Columbia and several others have long since placed their law schools on a strictly graduate basis.

The importance of graduate work cannot be over-estimated at McGill. Bold and decided effort in this direction is more essential to the future of McGill than in any other Canadian University. The reasons why this is true are numerous and obvious. Most of the other recognized universities of Canada are more or less Provincial in character and most of them are supported altogether or almost altogether by funds derived from the Provincial Exchequer. Each of them, therefore, has a large Provincial constituency of its own, and it is only natural that university students in the different Provinces should attend their own institutions, unless they be ambitious enough to desire