

ALLYN AND BACON

BOSTON

50, BEACON STREET

September 29, 1924.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir:

During the past year or so there has been a certain amount of criticism directed against a textbook of ours, West's World Progress, which is the authorized textbook for use in the Protestant high schools of Quebec. This criticism emanates chiefly, we understand, from the professors of History at McGill.

Please let me assure you that I am not writing with any desire to see that criticism stifled. Quite obviously it is to a publisher's advantage to meet criticism provided it can be met without the sacrifice of ideals or of the author's fundamental views. The present criticism, however, seems uncharitable and unreasonable.

Having learned from Professor Waugh that the criticism was to be embodied in a Report, our Canadian representative, Mr. Yates, made reasonable and courteous efforts to ascertain the details of this criticism and to defend the book. He also requested that he be given a chance to appear before the committee engaged in making the Report. Mr. Yates is a graduate of McGill and a Rhodes Scholar, and I know from his letters to me at the time that he felt very keenly the curt treatment accorded him by Professors Williams and Waugh. He got the impression that they were unwilling to listen to any defence of the book, that there was probably some friction between the History Faculty and the Quebec Textbook Committee over the framing of the history course for high schools, and that our book was being made the target for the attack.

"World Progress" was authorized in Quebec for four years commencing with 1923. We were given to understand that it was the unanimous choice of the History section of the Textbook Committee some of whom were: Dr. Nicholson, Prof. Derick, Prof. Kneelands, Dean Laird and Messrs. Walsh, Murray and Chalk. The first criticism