

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

SCHOOL OF COMMERCE,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dec. 9th, 1919

Concerning letter of Nov. 17th, 1919, from Dr. Laird to Dr. Adams, Acting Principal of McGill University, and Dr. Nicholson's criticism of this letter.

Dr. F.D. Adams
Acting Principal of McGill University.

Dear Dr. Adams:

I am in complete agreement with what Dr. Nicholson says in the first part of the above-mentioned criticism, regarding the necessity of keeping high our matriculation standards and not lowering them in order to keep pace with the poor instruction meted out in certain country schools.

I am also in agreement with Dr. Nicholson in so far as he suggests that Physics might with advantage be removed from our matriculation requirements, and that Spanish might be accepted in place of French all through our commercial course. We should then have to augment the Spanish lectures so as to make them fully the equivalent of the French.

It may be objected that the number of students taking French would thus be diminished. I do not think so. Practically all who come from Quebec province would take French, and students interested in Trade and Commerce would almost certainly take French and Spanish as their two modern foreign languages. On the other hand, we should, by giving a choice of languages, increase the number of students from other provinces and from the United States.

I am not, however, in agreement with Dr. Nicholson regarding the advisability of substituting commercial subjects, (which I take to mean Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Commercial Correspondence, etc.), for other subjects in our matriculation examination. At school students should devote all their energies and thought to the study of English Literature and English Composition, French or Spanish literature and French or Spanish composition, Mathematics, History, Geography. These are the subjects which must form the basis of the Higher Commercial Education we are desirous of promoting. By encouraging the secondary schools to devote much time to the above-mentioned commercial subjects we should be defeating our own ends.

Yours sincerely

Robert L. Sugars

*This was taken up in a
meeting of Prof. Potts & H
Slove Teals - on Dec. 28/19
A motion was made of a report to
Faculty*