

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Principal
and Vice Chancellor.

August 29th, 1932.

Dr. W. P. Percival,
Director of Protestant Education,
Department of Education,
Q u e b e c . P. Q.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your letter of August 10th (bearing stamped signature) regarding the lack of accommodation and the unsatisfactory accommodation provided for the School for Teachers at Macdonald College, let me say that in some respects this is freely admitted. But I submit that we are dealing this year with unusual circumstances. The number of applicants is much in excess of the available accommodation, even when those applying who were not eligible are removed from the list. I venture the opinion that the unusually large list of applicants is due in some degree to the present unsatisfactory state of business. It may well be that many young women who might have looked forward to being employed in business, seeing little chance for that, are now endeavouring to qualify as teachers: and also, owing to the pronounced depressed condition existing in agriculture, that young women of the rural communities, wishing to get away from farm life have turned their thoughts to the teaching profession. This is an abnormal year.

I may also say, in passing, that a few years ago, when there was an unusually small list of applicants, we were told that this was due to the increased rates charged for living at Macdonald, - a contention that falls to the ground in view of the present very large list.

Among the other undesirable features in connection with Macdonald College, you say that "class rooms are needed in that part of the main building which is at present used for dormitories". I cannot quite understand this statement; nor is it in accordance with the facts, as we have been able to get along with our present large class rooms, although it would be desirable to have larger class rooms than are available at present. I take it that what you are probably referring to is that dormitories for elementary students are made out of class rooms on the top floor of the main building.