

Theological Advisers

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN, Chairman
Professor of Systematic Theology in the
Union Theological Seminary, New York.

SHALER MATHEWS
Dean of the Divinity School of the
University of Chicago.

F. L. RITCHIE
Dean of the United Theological
College, Montreal.

L. A. WEIGLE
Dean of the Yale Divinity School.

RIGHT REV. C. A. SEAGER
Bishop of Ontario.

HOWARD P. WHIDDEN
Chancellor of MacMaster University,
Toronto.

A Study of Theological Education

IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Under the auspices of

THE CONFERENCE OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

In cooperation with

THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS RESEARCH

Educational Advisers

W. E. WICKENDEN, Chairman
President of the Case School of
Applied Science.

FREDERICK J. KELLY
President of the University of Idaho.

FLOYD N. REEVES
Professor of Education in the University
of Chicago.

Director

MARK A. MAY
28 Hillhouse Avenue,
Yale Station, New Haven, Conn.

Theological Consultant

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN
3041 Broadway,
New York City.

Field Representative

R. B. MONTGOMERY
28 Hillhouse Avenue,
Yale Station, New Haven, Conn.

August 6, 1930

The President
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dear Sir:

We are seeking an answer to the question as to whether or not the ministry is attracting young men of an intellectual calibre equal to that of those who are attracted to other professions.

Would you be willing to cooperate with us in this enterprise by asking each of your Freshmen to fill in a copy of the enclosed occupational preference blank which would be circulated among them at the time when they take the American Council Intelligence Test, which we understand is given each year to the entering class? The intelligence scores could be copied on the occupational preference blanks at the time when the tests are scored. We are willing to pay for the clerical labor involved in the copying, and will furnish free the occupational blanks.

We recognize that occupational preferences of Freshmen may be unstable, yet we know from a study of theological students that a great majority of the decisions to enter the ministry are made before the student enters college. Furthermore our problem is not to compare the intelligence of ministers with that of men in other professions, but rather to compare the intelligence of Freshmen to whom the ministry looks attractive with that of other students who are attracted by other professions.

If you are willing to cooperate with us, will you tell us soon about how many of your entering class will be taking the American Council Test, so we will know how many occupational preference blanks to send?

Very sincerely yours,

Mark A. May

Mark A. May

11

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May 7, 1930.

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

My dear Principal,

I am returning Principal Smyth's letter to you, dated April 30th, and the file you gave me. I do not think, however, that there is much which I can add to my letter to you dated April 23rd.

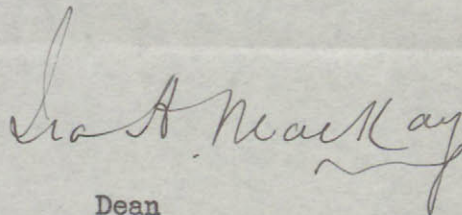
A half course in Biblical Literature is at present offered in the Department of English and open to all students in the College who wish to elect it. Church History is an immensely interesting and significant subject, and indeed my own opinion is that Church History is a necessary complement to European history for the full understanding of European civilization and its influence overseas. The Department of History, however, would need to be consulted carefully on this question. A course in the Philosophy of Religion is always welcomed in the Department of Philosophy if offered by a competent professor in a purely nonsectarian way. Curiously enough I am more doubtful about New Testament Greek. Every minister or clergyman ought to be able to read the New Testament in Greek freely, but in order to do so intelligently the student should have at least two or three years of Greek in his Arts course.

This subject is entirely worthy of some further con-

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

sideration although the reception which it may receive from the
Faculty may be doubtful.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ira A. Mackay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Dean".

Dean



THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
MONTREAL

APRIL
30th
1930.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.B.C.,
Principal,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie -

In reply to your letter of 24th instant regarding Religious Knowledge options in the Arts course - I find that in the University of Toronto such options include Biblical Literature, Church History, Philosophy of Religion and New Testament Greek, one subject in Religious Knowledge may be chosen in each of the four years in Arts.

With reference to the Professors who should give these courses, I had not any names definitely in mind and I think it would be for the University to say which of the courses in these subjects given by Professors in Theology would be recognized as options in Religious Knowledge. I should, of course, be glad to discuss this point with you.

Faithfully yours,

James Smyth

JS/MR.

To Dean MacKay:
Please note and return.

Arthur

THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

MONTREAL

PRINCIPAL

REV. JAMES SMYTH, D.D., LL.D.

DEAN

REV. D. L. RITCHIE, D.D.

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES:

REV. R. E. WELSH, M.A., D.D.

3506 UNIVERSITY STREET

APRIL

21st

1930.

Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.B., K.C.G.M.,
Principal,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie -

I enclose a letter from Dr.
J.W. Graham, Secretary of the Board of
Education of the United Church with a
resolution recently adopted by the Board
and should be pleased to have the opportunity
of discussing with you the matter referred
to at your convenience.

Faithfully yours,

James Smyth

JS/MR.

To Dean Ira MacKay. For comment
please. In the near future I
should like to grant Smyth the
interview he seeks.

Ira MacKay

April 22, 1930.

The United Church of Canada

Board of Education

REV. JAMES LITTLE, D.D.

CHAIRMAN

REV. J. W. GRAHAM, D.D., LL.D.

SECRETARY

299 QUEEN ST. WEST

TORONTO 2

April 17th, 1930.

Rev. James Smyth, D.D., LL.D

Montreal, Que.

Dear Dr. Smyth:-

I enclose, herewith, a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Education at its recent meeting:

If the Senate of the United Theological College, Montreal, desires to obtain from the McGill University the inclusion of these subjects in the Arts course and the recognition of our Professors as teachers of these subjects you can assure the University authorities that your Senate has the entire approval of the Board of Education as indicated in the enclosed resolution.

In the report of the Board of Education which I prepared for presentation to the General Council of 1928, I find this sentence:

" If this Board, through conference with the Senates of the various universities, could arrange for the inclusion of Religious Knowledge options in the Arts course of every institution and also could co-operate with the university authorities in providing competent instruction in these subjects, our Church would be giving stimulus and intelligent direction to a movement of the greatest potential value. That we have already made a good start is shown by the fact that our theological professors in Toronto this year, have given lectures in Religious Knowledge subjects to 341 Arts students as a regular part of their course."

Yours as ever,

J. W. Graham

The United Church of Canada

Board of Education

REV. JAMES LITTLE, D.D.
CHAIRMAN

REV. J. W. GRAHAM, D.D., LL.D.
SECRETARY

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
TORONTO 2

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education,
held on April 3rd, 1930, the following resolution was unanimously
approved:

"Inasmuch as one of the most vital ways in which a
Theological College can do its work in connection with a
university is to provide Religious Knowledge options for all
Arts students proceeding to a degree, and not merely for
candidates for the ministry:

"And inasmuch as this privilege is accorded to our
Theological Colleges at most centres, and inasmuch as this
principle is recognized in connection with the following
universities in the Dominion viz: Dalhousie, Mount Allison,
Queen's, Toronto, McMaster, Western Ontario, Manitoba and
Alberta; but the privilege is not yet permitted in the
Universities of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and McGill:

"Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education
of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, encourage
and instruct the Senates of St. Andrew's College, Union College
of British Columbia, and the United Theological College, Montreal,
to use their best endeavours with the Provincial Universities
of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and McGill University to grant
this privilege."

J. W. Graham.

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.

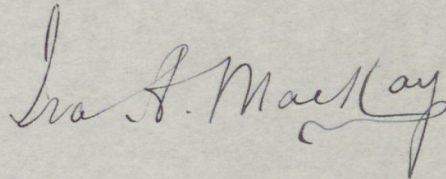
Three years ago we carefully designed a special course of study of five years duration intended for the education and training of graduates of McGill who might wish to become Y.M.C.A. secretaries or to follow other forms of religious work after graduation. The resolution, however, to approve this course 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,

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

therefore, at present that there is much chance that this College will include religious knowledge in the course of study leading to the B.A. degree at any time in the early future. There is always, however, room for one or two scholarly courses in the Philosophy of Religion if we only had a competent man to offer them. In any case it will be impossible for us to do anything in this matter until we have full particulars of the nature of the studies grouped together under the head of Religious Knowledge, and until we know pretty definitely who is to offer this instruction.

If there is any other information which I can give you on this subject I shall be pleased to do so at any time convenient to you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ira A. Mackay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Dean".

Dean

April 24th, 1930.

Rev. James Smyth,
The United Theological College,
M o n t r e a l .

Dear Principal Smyth,

I have your letter of the 21st, to which was attached a letter to you from the Rev. J. W. Graham, Secretary of the Board of Education of the United Church of Canada.

I shall be pleased to discuss the matters referred to in this correspondence, but before doing so I would like to have full particulars of the nature of the studies grouped together under the head of "Religious Knowledge", and I would like to know fairly definitely whom you have in mind to give the courses.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

"To inspire the educational forces of our country with the religious ideal; to inspire the religious forces of our country with the educational ideal; and to keep before the public mind the ideal of Religious Education, and the sense of its need and value."

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

DONALD J. COWLING, *Chairman of the Board*
President, Carleton College

DAVID R. FORGAN, *Treasurer*
Vice-President, The National Bank of the
Republic, Chicago

WM. D. SCHERMERHORN, *Recording Secretary*
Professor, Garrett Biblical Institute

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION
308 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

J. M. ARTMAN, *General Secretary*

LAIRD T. HITES, *Editorial Secretary*

RUTH SHONLE CAVAN, *Assistant to the*
General Secretary

SIR ROBERT A. FALCONER, *President*
President, University of Toronto

LYNN HAROLD HOUGH, *Vice-President*
Pastor, Central M. E. Church, Detroit

February
24
1928

Sir Arthur W. Currie,
McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec,
C A N A D A

My dear Sir Arthur:

In Mr. Artman's absence from the city
I am replying to your letter of February
20th.

Some weeks ago a letter, regarding the convention,
was sent out to all of the Universities and
Colleges in Canada and the United States.
This letter was signed by Sir Robert Falconer
and by President Cowling of Carleton College.
If you did not receive one it was either
through an oversight or because the letter was
lost in the mail.

We surely hope it is not too late for McGill
to have a representative at the convention.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Shonle Cavan

R
S
C
:
W

February 20th, 1928.

J. M. Artman, Esq.,
General Secretary,
The Religious Education Association,
308 North Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th of February and in reply let me say that this is the first I have heard of the convention in Philadelphia. I saw Sir Robert last week and he told me that he was going to Philadelphia in the near future, but did not give me the reason.

Not knowing when the convention will be held I think it is wise not to expect any one from McGill this year.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

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President, University of Toronto

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Pastor, Central M. E. Church, Detroit

February
17
1928

Sir Arthur Currie,
McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec,
CANADA

My dear Sir Arthur:

I believe you have received an invitation
from President Falconer to attend or send
a representative to our convention in
Philadelphia.

Replies from other colleges and universities
indicate that there will be a general
representation from these institution.
I very much hope that McGill may have a
representative there; perhaps someone from
the department of Philosophy or Education?

Sincerely yours,

J
M
A
:
W

J. M. Artman

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President, University of Toronto

LYNN HAROLD HOUGH, *Vice-President*
Pastor, Central M. E. Church, Detroit

January 11, 1928

Sir Arthur W. Currie,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

My dear Sir Arthur:

The Annual Meeting of the Religious Education Association will be held in the city of Philadelphia March 6-9, 1928. Will you allow us to call your attention to this meeting, in the hope that either you or some members of your staff may be able to interest yourselves in the conference?

The subject that has been chosen by the committee for general discussion is "Education in Religion in an Age of Science." We are sure that you will agree with us that such a theme is very timely, and if wisely dealt with should be of great value to those concerned in the religious and moral welfare of the youth of the country. The small folder enclosed shows how the problem will be studied.

The Religious Education Association can fulfill its great purpose only as it enlists ever widening sympathy for its aims on the part of leaders in the university and college life of this continent.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Falconer
President

Donald J. Cowling
Chairman of the Board

Religious Education

March 14th 1924.

Dean Edward P. St. John,
Auburn Theological Seminary,
104 North Street,
Auburn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. St. John,

Sir Arthur Currie has duly received your letter of the 1st inst., and has asked me to send you a calender of our Theological Colleges. You will see from this that these Colleges are very closely affiliated to the University and we have very considerable and important courses on and bearing upon religious education.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.

THE JOINT BOARD OF
THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES
AFFILIATED TO
Mc GILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

DEPARTMENT
OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DIVINITY HALL
740 UNIVERSITY STREET

Dear Sir Arthur. Prof. H. John's enthusiasm
for building up his Department is
laudable but should he not be told
that the Cooperating Theological Colleges
affiliated to McGill have a Department
of Religious Education and offer every facility
for the training of students for this work.
We have about forty students registered in
this Dept. this year. I would suggest
that you send Prof. H. John a copy of
the Theological Calendar which will no doubt
explain to him the close relationship of
the Colleges to the University and the
extent of the opportunities for training
in Religious Education here.

Yours sincerely

Edw. Best

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
OF
AUBURN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
AUBURN, NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
104 NORTH ST.

March 1, 1924

President Arthur W. Currie,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada
My dear President Currie:-

We are receiving many calls for men and women to take positions in the field of religious education with the offer of salaries ranging from \$1500 to \$3500. The demand is far beyond the number of our graduates. We would be glad to bring these attractive opportunities, for which our School gives post-graduate preparation, to the attention of your students.

Last year you provided us with a list of those who were likely to be interested in religious education as a vocation. If you will again be so kind as to request the proper person to furnish us such a list, or check the names in your catalogue, we will gladly send information in regard to these new vocational opportunities, the courses of training which we offer, and information in regard to scholarships, etc.

We do not wish to impose upon your kindness but will be very grateful indeed if you can cooperate with us in our attempt to serve the Church and the young people themselves.

We will be glad to send you any detailed information concerning our School which may be of interest to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward P. St. John

EPS:CB

*My dear Beck -
Please suggest
an answer,
Arthur*
5/3/24

MEMORANDUM

WITH REFERENCE TO E. M. BEST ESQ.

400 Convent Ave., New York.

January 27th 1920.

Major Best was born in Ontario, and after a somewhat extended experience in business, entered the Springfield College where he followed a course of study extending over three years and graduated in 1911 with the Degree of B.H. (Bachelor of Humanities). I understand that before entering the Springfield College he qualified for and obtained a Teacher's Certificate in the Province of Manitoba. Having graduated from Springfield, he then went to New York University, where he studied two and one half years and obtained the Degree of M.P.D. (Master of Pedagogy).

He then enlisted with the Canadian Y.M.C.A. and went to the front, and eventually had the direction of the entire work of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. in France. Upon the conclusion of the work of the Y.M.C.A. Overseas, Major Best returned to New York University and resumed his studies. He will graduate with the Degree of Doctor of Pedagogy at the conclusion of the session 1919-1920.

While following his course at New York University, he also took courses of study at the Union Theological Seminary of New York. These courses of study comprised Religious Education, etc.

After graduating at Springfield, he was appointed to a position on the Teaching staff there as Professor of Religious Education, and taught for some time. He is still attached to Springfield College with this title and the authorities of Springfield College hope to induce him to return and resume active teaching work when he obtains his Doctor's Degree, at the close of the present session.

Major Best has given me the names of the following gentlemen, as persons who are well acquainted with his studies and attainments, and who would be in a position to give me further information with reference to him, if I desire to write to them:

Dr. Coll, Union Theological Seminary
Dr. H.H. Horn, New York University.

Major Best would be prepared to teach the subjects of Psychology of Religion, Principles of Education, Psychological Education and allied subjects.

January
Twenty-seventh
1920.

Major E. M. Best,
400 Convent Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Major Best:-

I must apologize for not having before this forwarded to you the Calendar of McGill University, which I promised to send you when I had the pleasure of meeting you in Toronto. So many things presented themselves, which had to be looked after immediately upon my return that this matter escaped me.

I am to-day forwarding you a copy of the last Calendar of McGill University, and will send to you within the next day or two a copy of the Calendar of the Co-operating Theological Colleges, which is not included in the regular University Calendar. In this will be set forth the Theological work which is taken up in connection with the University, and which would be available for any course which is drawn up for the training of Y. M. C. A. Secretaries.

In the University Calendar, which you will receive first, I have turned down the initial pages of certain sections ~~in~~ which you will be particularly interested. I think, after looking through the Calendar, you will see that practically all subjects which would be required in the proposed course are already being given at the University, and would thus be available.

Hoping to hear from you before long with reference to the content of such course as you think should be given,

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

F. J. A.

Acting Principal.

COPY.

N.Y. March 1, 1920.

*Copies for
Dr. Adams*

Dear Mr. Birks:-

I wish to acknowledge your letter of Feb. 27th. extending an invitation to the Chair of Religious Education of the United Theological Colleges at a salary of \$4000. I also note that I will be given the right to choose which staff I am to join.

Permit me to thank you and the Joint Board for the honor of the invitation and to assure you that I am giving it my most earnest consideration.

In my conversation and correspondence with Col. Birks and Dr. Adams it has always been assumed that the position was to be in or to lead to a definite relation to the problem of training laymen for Christian Social Leadership in the Y.M.C.A. and allied organizations. As you know my experience lies almost wholly within this field and if I did not know the point of view which the laymen on the Joint Board represent, I would hesitate about considering a position in a Seminary, even in such a progressive and liberal institution as Montreal is reputed to be.

A recent letter from Mr. Bishop made it clear that no progress had been made by the National Council on the problem of training and that no further negotiations had been carried on with Montreal.

I would be greatly obliged if you would write me again, saying in what way you anticipate relating the work to this chair to the National Y.M.C.A. and its very pressing problem of leadership.

The Y.M.C.A. and its task has been the major interest of my life for twenty years, and I had hoped that a definite arrangement would have been made with the N.C. whereby this connection would have been unbroken. Am I right in assuming that you have not abandoned this proposed relationship, but desire to proceed with it as rapidly as conditions permit?

Again thanking you for your interest and confidence in my ability to help, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Ernest M. Best.

(2)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION III. Long Course

Four Years.

This course aims to provide a thorough training for professional workers in Religious Education and Social Service. It seeks to give a broad cultural background in Literature and History, and from the Social and Biological Sciences. On this foundation the Course seeks to provide through the study of Philosophy and Theology, a Christian interpretation of life. In the third place, the course offers a scientific training in the theory and practice of Education as the method by which the Christian ideal is to be attained. While the Course is planned specifically for the training of leadership for Church Schools, and Christian Associations, it can be easily adapted to suit the needs of students desiring advanced training for General Education, or other types of Social Service. The curriculum of study will be correlated with a curriculum of observation and normal practice particularly in the third and fourth years.

SUBJECT	FIRST YEAR.			PROFESSORS
	FACULTY	COURSE	HOURS	
English (Composition)	Arts	English 1	1	Latham & Scott. Macmillan.
" (Literature)	"	" 2	2	
History (Great men & great movements)	"	History 1	2	Adams. Willey'
Geology (General)	"	Geology 1	3 & 4 hours lab.	
Biology (Elementary)	"	Zoology 2	2 & 4 " "	Eakin & Rose. " "
English Bible. C.T.	Theology		1	
" " N.T.	"		1	Ritchie. Rexford & Best. Lamb.
(Systematic Theology) (Encyclopedia)	"	S.T.4	1	
Religious Education (Psychology & Meth.)	"	Rel. Ed. IA-IB.	2 & 4 lab. Practice	
Physical Education.	Physical Ed. Dept.		2 Practice	

13 1/2 hours Class Room, 6 hours Lab., 6 hours Practice.

(3)

SUBJECT	SECOND YEAR.	FACULTY	COURSE	HOURS	PROFESSORS.
English (Composition)		Arts	English 3	1	Macmillan.
" (Literature) Prose 3 hrs. or Poetry 4.		"	" 4 or 9	2	Lafleur & Macmillan.
Biology (Organic Evolution)		"	Bct any 5	2	Derick.
Physiology & Anatomy		"	Phy.Ed.	3	Simpson.
Psychology (Elementary)		"	Phil. 1	2	Tait.
Church History (Ancient)		Theology	C.H. 1	2	Gifford & Howard.
English Bible. O.T.		"		1	Hakin & Rose.
" " N.T.		"		1	" "
Religious Education (Materials)		"	R.E.I.C, 1-4	2 & 4 Pract.	Rexford, Graham, Best.
Physical Education (Play leadership)		Phy. Dept.		2 & 2 "	L amb.
	18 hours Class		6 hours practice.		

THIRD YEAR

Philosophy (Introduction)	Arts	Phil. 3	2	Caldwell.
Economics "	"	" 1	2	Leacock.
" (Industrial History)	Social Service	S.S.2	1	Hankin.
Psychology (Social)	Arts	Phil.12	2	Tait.
History of Religion	Theology	Apol. 2	2	Welsh.
Church History (Formation)	"	C.H. 3	2	Howard & Gifford.
Education (History, Ancient, mediaeval, modern. Ed.)	Ed. or Theol.	Ed.2 / (A20), 2		
" (Psychology)	Ed. or Theol.	Phil., R.E.II, 2		Tait, Best.
Rel.Ed. (Organization & administration)	Theology	R.E. II	2 & Lab. 4	Rexford & Best.
" " (History)	"	R.E. II C	1	Howard.
	18 hours Class Room		4 hours practice.	

(4)

SUBJECT	FOURTH YEAR FACULTY	COURSE	HOURS	PROFESSORS
Economics (Economic Factors in Evolution of Society)	Arts	Econ. 8	4 (1 term)	Hemen.
Political Science (Political & Social theories of to-day)	"	" 9	4 "	Leacock,
Education (Principles)	"	Ed. 1	1	
Sociology	Social Service	S.S. 10 & 11	2	Reid & Bolduc.
Christian Ethics (Social)	Theology	Ethics 1	1	Bieler.
Psychology of Religion	"	Apol. 3	2	Welsh.
Religious Education (Supervision)	"	R.E. II B	2	Best.
Electives. (One course in each of following groups).				
Systematic Theology		1, (2) or (3)	2	
O.T. Theology		A or C	1	
N.T. "		A, B, C or D	1	

15 Hours Class

4 hours practice.

Montreal, Que.

April 28th, 1921.

Sir A. W. Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
M o n t r e a l.

Dear Sir Arthur;-

I enclose herewith a copy of the circular about to be published by the Department of Religious Education of the Montreal Theological Colleges.

You will notice that about two thirds of this curriculum falls within ~~the~~ faculties and departments of the University other than Theology.

In working out this four years course, I was struck by the similarity of the problem facing my department and those of the Schools and Departments already existing in the University, which deal with other aspects of Education. I refer to the School of Physical Education, the Department of Social Service, School of Graduate Nurses and the Department of Education for High Schools and Academies. It appeared to me that many of the difficulties which might prove insoluble for any one of us, might be adequately met if we were organized as a School of Education.

Such a School would enable us to reduce administrative and teaching duplication, to standardize curricula, to multiply our capacity to recruit high grade students, and to merit and secure a University degree in Education. It would enable us to offer a sound professional training in a variety of educational fields within the limits of a four years course. I believe that it would protect the University against the temptation to recruit uncertified students for the narrow and limited vocational training possible in a one or two years course. On the other hand, it would avoid the practical, economic, and educational difficulties that arise from an attempt to postpone vocational training until after the completion of four years of unspecialized study.

Sir A. W. Currie,

I have consulted Dr. Lamb, Miss Shaw, Mr. Falk and Dean Laird, and with their approval I beg to request that a University Commission be appointed to consider the feasibility of such a School of Education.

In conclusion may I suggest that in addition to the University interests involved that the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal and the Protestant Committee of Instruction for the Province would also be deeply interested in this problem.

Yours very sincerely,

E. W. Best.

18.
June
First
1921.

Professor E. M. Best,
9 Vendome Ave.,
Montreal.

Dear Professor Best:-

With reference to your letter of April 28th and the circular published by the Department of Religious Education of Montreal Theological Colleges I wish to say that I am very much interested in the formation of the Department of Education in connection with this University.

I believe such a Department would have all the advantages to which you make reference in your letter and I believe it would serve a useful purpose. Before it could be established it would have to be endorsed by the Faculties and Departments concerned and approved by Corporation. I do not believe that it is possible to get such approval in time to organize the Department for the session beginning next October.

I assure you that I shall take all necessary steps to have this matter considered by all concerned and will personally support the provision in the University curriculum of some such course as you suggest. I thank you for bringing the matter to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

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Religious Ed

January
Fourth
1922.

Rev. P.R. Hayward, Ph.D.,
87 King Street East,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Hayward:-

I have your letter of December 24th and would have acknowledged it sooner but I was away from Montreal last week.

The subject matter of your letter is one which I have often considered and at times discussed with Professor E.M. Best. I may say that we are contemplating making changes in the very near future in the Department of Education. I have only been waiting until the arrival of the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Gordon Laing. In my discussions with him I shall remember what you have said and shall call in Dr. Best.

I am in most cordial sympathy with your views.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

The Religious Education Council of Canada

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December 24th, 1921.

Sir, Arthur Currie,
President, McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

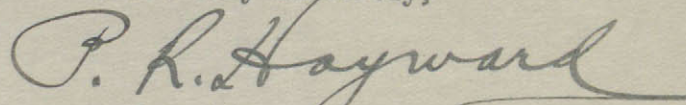
My Dear Sir, Arthur:

In promoting religious education throughout Canada, we are very frequently in touch with men and women who desire to fit themselves for this type of service as a life work and in order to do so, they desire to take a course of study that would be on a par, as to time and effort given to it, with the present Arts course in our Universities, that would lead to a degree in education, or some other suitable degree, and that would at the same time, be somewhat different, in the content of its courses, from the work given at present for the degree in Arts.

I understand that other organizations, particularly the Young Men's Christian Association, are facing a somewhat similar need and are considering making representations to you along the same line. It is difficult to state fully in one letter, all that we have in mind in connection with this matter, but would gladly arrange to have representatives from the Religious Education Council of Canada wait upon you at your convenience and go into the matter in detail; perhaps such an interview could be arranged in cooperation with other organizations interested in a similar form of college work.

Professor E. M. Best is chairman of our committee on Training for Leadership which is looking into this matter and we would be pleased to have him represent us in making arrangements for any interview that may seem desirable.

Yours very sincerely,


Executive Secretary.

PRH/L.