

The University of Chicago May 24, 1905

President W. R. Harper

Faculty Exchange

May 26th, 1905.

Sir:-

Spelling
Some time ago I received a communication from Professor J. Geddes in regard to the proposed Phonetic Conference. I was not particularly interested in it, though I confess I did not read the documents with great care, and cannot now recall the details as to its details. My dear Mr. Manly:- I am greatly obliged to you for your full and exceedingly interesting letter of the phonetic subject. I have and reread it with great satisfaction.

Perhaps I ought to point out that the list which impressed Mr. Chandler unfavorably is not a full list, but only supplemental to the list sent out some time ago. My recollection is that the previous list contained the names which he misses.

My own attitude towards the whole phonetic question is just this:- English spelling undoubtedly ought to be reformed. It is chaotic, full of anomalies, and extremely wasteful of time, both in the learning of it, and in the practice of it after it is learned. There is no doubt that if English spelling were upon a sound phonetic basis, the total time that would need to be devoted to the subject in school would not exceed three months. The only objections that have been urged against the adoption of a phonetic system that are of any weight are the practical ones:- First, that it would take the present generation a long time to become accustomed to the new spellings; second, that all English classics would have to be reprinted in the new spellings for the use of future generations. The first of these is of course the same sort of objection that holds in regard to the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures. It can be overcome, but as the history of the introduction of the metric system shows, it will require a long time to do.

May 28th, 1906.

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I am greatly obliged to you for your full
and exceedingly interesting letter of the phonetic subject. I have
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Yours very truly,

John Manly

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The University of Chicago

W. R. H. 2

it. The second objection is one of more apparent than real weight. English classics are constantly being reprinted, and it would be less ^{expensive} ~~difficult~~ to reprint them in the phonetic spelling than in the current system. I do not believe that the reform will ever be established by the gradual introduction of a few reformed spellings increased from time to time. The process is too much like cutting off a dog's tail an inch at a time. Experience of skilled workmen shows that they use both the English and the metric system together with the greatest ease. They have no difficulty in keeping the two separate, and in learning to think in both. There should be no more difficulty for educated people to tide over the period during which two systems are in existence, and my own experience and that of others with the study of Early English, where the spelling differs materially from that of the present time, confirms this view. The only practical solution I see for the question is for a few of the larger Universities to agree to ask the publishers of the country to cooperate with them in the production and introduction of a good system. The Universities and the publishers together could, I believe, make an immediate success of the movement. Without such cooperation I see no chance of the reform, as our government could hardly undertake this function as some of the governments of Europe have done. Might it not be possible for you to bring this matter informally to the attention of the Association of College Presidents?

I may add that all competent scholars agree that the objections urged on the ground of etymology, etc., are not worth consideration.

Yours very truly,

John W. Manly

The University of Chicago

W. R. H. S.

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Yours very truly,

John W. Alden

Evanston Illinois, March 8, 1912
Northwestern University.

56

President H. P. Judson,
Dear Sir:

The results of repeated investigations all of which point to you embolden me to approach you in a matter of considerable importance as I see it. As a member of the Simplified Spelling Board and as a linguistic scholar I have taken considerable interest in the movement to simplify our much neglected orthography. There is a strong interest in this movement among the common school teachers of Illinois. They have recently endorsed it by official action, but they are all afraid to act, even a strong woman like Mrs. Young. They are all waiting for the great universities in Chicago and Urbana to act first. In many meetings I find this attitude is quite general. I cannot see here our superintendents can act here before the great universities first do something in this direction. I feel that you and President James are called to do a great work here. Our movement would soon proceed at a different gait if we had your support. I am going to New York on April 2 to attend an important meeting of the Spelling Board. I wish I might take encouragement from you and President James with me. We need very much the strong force of your example. You can put our list in the hands of your type-writers and order them to follow the simplifications recommended by the Board. I send you under another cover several of these lists. Mr. Felchly of the State Normal School uniformly sends out of his office all correspondence in simplified form. If you can succeed in getting the simplified form adopted for your catalog it will have a mighty influence all over our great country. The little colleges will follow your example. I have been trying to work with our own Northwestern faculty and with a number of others. Every body is waiting for you to move. A short time ago I handed in to Professor

Examination of the
Northwestern University
March 8, 1912

President H. P. Johnson
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ample. I have been trying to work with our Northwestern
faculty and with a number of others. Everybody is working
for you to move. A short time ago I handed in to Professor

Manly a long scientific article containing the results of an extended investigation of the origin of our English genitive with "of". I wrote the article in simplified form and thus brought the question before the editorial board of "Modern Philology". The article was accepted but the orthography was rejected notwithstanding the fact that it is allowed in the publications of the Modern Language Association of America. Professor Manly reported that the use of the simplified spelling would entail additional expense and that they did not feel able to admit the new orthography for the current year. I feel somewhat encouraged from Professor Manly's letters that the simplified spelling will in time be admitted to the columns of "Modern Philology". I have been notified by the editor of "Modern Language Notes" published at Johns Hopkins University that they will receive my articles in simplified ^{spelling}. The presses of our great universities ought to encourage this good cause. We need the influence of the men ^{at the head of} these great institutions to remove prejudices here and to give the movement an impetus. I wish I might be able to interest you in this good cause and arouse you to aggressive work for the movement. It seems to me you are here called to do a great and good work. Your example would encourage the faint-hearted friends of the cause and would contribute much to remove prejudices from the minds of those who have not learned to think for themselves.

We have considerable money to push our movement, we have many well-meaning friends who speak kindly of our new orthography, but we sadly lack men and women who will convert their good will into action. We need men who ^{will} use simplified spelling under all circumstances and thus make it a reality and encourage our school boards to allow our superintendents to introduce it into our schools. As yet our school boards will not allow our superintendents to do this. The practices of our great universities will change all this. We need now the force of their example. They must themselves use the new orthography. If I have unduly intruded upon your patience you might find an extenuating circumstance in my love for a good cause.

Yours truly George D. Curme

Now a long scientific article containing the results of an
extended investigation of the origin of our English species with
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We have considerable money to fund our movement, we have many
well-meaning friends who speak kindly of our new orthography,
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troduce it into our schools. As yet our school boards will not
allow our representatives to do this. The practice of our great
universities will change all this. We need more force of their
example. They must themselves use the new orthography.
If I have unobtrusively introduced your language you might find an
extension in some one in our line for a good cause.
Yours truly
George D. Brown

In reply

Chicago, March 11, 1912

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th inst. is received. The action of the University of Chicago on a matter so important as that to which you call attention would not be determined by the President only, obviously, but by the entire faculty. While many of our faculty approve of simplified spelling, in the light of our past discussions on that subject it seems clear that there would not be such a general sentiment in favor of it that it would warrant the University in taking the action in question. I personally am somewhat in the position of the politician who believed in the prohibition law but was against its enforcement. All that I mean by that is that I have too many years behind me to try to change the habits of a lifetime for myself, although I devoutly trust that my successors will use a more rational system.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mr. George O. Curme,
Northwestern University,
Evanston, Illinois.

H. P. Judson

Received

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Mr. George O. Curme,
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TENTATIVE SCHEME OF LETTERS TO REPRESENT THE ELEMENTARY SOUNDS OF THE PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN LANGUAGES.

To Accompany an Article on "An International Spelling Reform Conference."
By ROBERT STEIN.

CONSONANTS													
		LABIAL		LABIO-DENTAL	LINGUAL DENTAL	LINGUAL				PALATAL			
		EXPLOSIVE	EFFUSIVE										IMPROTRACTILE
MUTE	EXPLOSIVE	p F. pin G. Pein	t F. bin G. bain G. Bein							k E. kill F. car G. kuh	h Dutch k		
	EFFUSIVE												
LIQUID	EXPLOSIVE												
	EFFUSIVE												
LIQUID	EXPLOSIVE												
	EFFUSIVE												
VOWELS													
		LABIAL		LABIO-PALATAL	PALATAL	PALATAL		PALATAL		PALATAL		PALATAL	
		SHORT	LONG	SHORT	LONG	SHORT	LONG	SHORT	LONG	SHORT	LONG	SHORT	LONG
DEGREES OF APERTURE	1	u F. doute G. muss	u E. soon F. Mut G. Müt	u F. hutte G. Hütte	u F. dü G. Mühe	i F. mine G. Sinn	i E. dean F. dīne G. dīen						
	2	e E. full				e E. pin							
	3	o F. on	o E. note (o+w) F. beau G. froh	o F. te	o F. bley G. Hähle	e German dialects	e E. mate (a+y) F. fee G. Fee						
	4	o F. folle (?)	o E. door D'nish maene	o F. jeune G. Götter	o F. jeüne	e E. net F. net G. nett	e G. mähnen						
	5	o G. morgen	o E. awe, or G. Thor			e F. serrer G. Herr	e F. fair F. fête						
	6	o E. hot	o E. lost	o F. heurter (folle?) G. fördern	o F. heure G. Möhre	e E. fat F. fin	e E. past (?)						
	7			o E. nut		e E. India F. chatte							
	8	a F. an	a E. far	a E. bird Russian w		a G. hat	a F. märe G. Vater						

Three lines from Emerson may show how English looks when written according to this system.

~~hasť zaw neymd ol za bards wrzawl a gan ?~~

~~laid za wudrows and left it on rls stem?...~~

~~zen br may frend and tľť mř lu br zayn!~~

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OAK PARK, CHICAGO, ILL.

December 24, 1901.

Dr. Wm. R. Harper,
Mr. E. O. Vaile, City of Chicago,
Chicago, Ills.

My dear Sir:- Oak Park, Chicago, Ill.

In the light of your very courteous favor of the 20th inst., I feel as if I deserved a rebuke for putting you in a predicament where such a letter was necessary. Of course, I realized to some extent, but not as fully as I ought, the extent to which your personal views have to be buried in the office. Your letter of December twenty-fourth has been on for not thinking more fully.

received. I am very much interested in what you say concerning Mr. Carnegie, and it will give me great pleasure to talk the matter over across his out-spoken avowal of approval of spelling reform. I had long thought what with Mr. Chamberlain when the proper time comes. of his wealth it should occur to him to endow some sort of an organization of scholarly and prominent men, in which with the philologists quite conspicuous, for the purpose of nurturing according to their own discretion the sentiment in favor of simplifying spelling and to take the lead by confidence of the people won by moderation and wisdom when the constructive side of our spelling reform is reached. I elaborated my idea to some extent and had a letter all ready for the mail to Mr. Carnegie's agent, when the thought struck me very forcibly that I might be trifling with an opportunity by letting the matter come before him merely on its merits and without any other strength than my own unknown personality. I mailed the letter to Prof. Chamberlin yesterday, asking him if he would not take the matter up with you and Dr. Dewey and any others in your faculty he wished to and see if among you all you can't devise some scheme or plan which a number of you prominent men could sign in the way of representation to Mr. Carnegie of the splendid opportunity now open for establishing such a commission of propaganda as I have outlined in that letter. The public mind seems more ready to consider the arguments in favor of amending our spelling than ever before. Since our discussion in the Superintendents' meeting last February, which you may remember, I have been more than once surprised at the progress that spelling reform sentiment is making. This accounts for my increased activity in the cause; it is not due to any new enthusiasm. It seems to me very important that the university men should be installed by some kind of a "call" at the head of this movement. How to bring it about and have the whole thing wisely and effectively managed is the question. If you gentlemen could agree upon some kind of a proposition or suggestion which you would be willing to submit to Mr. Carnegie, and in the event of his refusal which you would be willing to have submitted to other men of wealth, I have no doubt that we could get enough other university men to make it so strong that some of our wealthy citizens who have funds to give to educational purposes would be impressed with the opportunity which lies before them in this unique field. I am writing mainly to pray that you will make it easy for Prof. Chamberlin to bring the matter before you and that you will give it due consideration. I know from previous experience how thoughtful and considerate

Dec. 27th, 1901.

Received
Jan 10 1902
Mr. E. O. Valle,
Oak Park, Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of December twenty-fourth has been received. I am very much interested in what you say concerning Mr. Carnegie, and it will give me great pleasure to talk the matter over with Mr. Chamberlain when the proper time comes.

Thanking you for your full statement, I remain

Yours very truly,

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I hope I shall not add to my delinquency by asking enough of your time to explain a little a matter which seems to me an important one. Recently reading Mr. Carnegie's "Triumphant Democracy" I came across his out-spoken avowal of approval of spelling reform. I had long thought what a grand thing it would be if in his disposal of his wealth it should occur to him to endow some sort of an organization of scholarly and prominent men, in which university people should predominate, with the philologists quite conspicuous, for the purpose of nurturing according to their own discretion the sentiment in favor of simplifying our spelling, and to take the lead by confidence of the people won by moderation and wisdom when the constructive side of our spelling reform is reached. I elaborated my idea to some extent and had a letter all ready for the mail to Mr. Carnegie's agent, when the thought struck me very forcibly that I might be trifling with an opportunity by letting the matter come before him merely on its merits and without any other strength than my own unknown personality. I mailed the letter to Prof. Chamberlin yesterday, asking him if he would not take the matter up with you and Dr. Dewey and any others in your faculty he wished to and see if among you all you can't devise some scheme or plan which a number of you prominent men could sign in the way of a representation to Mr. Carnegie of the splendid opportunity now open for establishing such a commission of propaganda as I have outlined in that letter. The public mind seems more ready to consider the arguments in favor of amending our spelling than ever before. Since our discussion in the Superintendents' meeting last February, which you may remember, I have been more than once surprised at the progress that spelling reform sentiment is making. This accounts for my increased activity in the cause; it is not due to any new enthusiasm. It seems to me very important that the university men should be installed by some kind of a "call" at the head of this movement. How to bring it about and have the whole thing wisely and effectively managed is the question. If you gentlemen could agree upon some kind of a proposition or suggestion which you would be willing to submit to Mr. Carnegie, and in the event of his refusal which you would be willing to have submitted to other men of wealth, I have no doubt that we could get enough other university men to make it so strong that some of our wealthy citizens who have funds to give to educational purposes would be impressed with the opportunity which lies before them in this unique field.

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OAK PARK, CHICAGO, ILL.

(2)

he is when propositions are made to him which involve any demands on your time and thought. I feel that he will be very timid on this question in bringing it before you, but I am so impressed with the importance of the matter and with the grand results which might be gained if some of our wealthy men could be prevailed upon to give a good endowment under the control of a set of sensible, scholarly men, that I am very anxious to have your thought turned to the problem.

I did not think it wise to burden my letter to Mr. Carnegie with any supplementary propositions, but, of course, the object could be gained in other ways than a direct gift and creation of a commission. Possibly your University or a coalition of universities might be willing to organize such an annex or subsidiary extension course if a good fund were given for that purpose. I hope that you will canvass all the ways that seem at all feasible to you and let us have the results of your own judgment in the matter. I don't suppose I can be of any substantial service in your deliberations, but if in any way I can contribute labor or even drudgery in the interest of the project be assured that I shall be very glad to be of use to help the cause.

Very truly yours,

E. D. Vaile

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CHICAGO, ILL. MAR. 1911

(2)

As to when negotiations are made to him which involve any demands on your
line and property. I feel that he will be very kind in this respect. I
trusting to select you, but I am so impressed with the importance of the
matter and with the great results which may be gained if it is not
settled now, that I am prepared to give a good account of myself. I
cannot of a set of conditions, but I am very anxious to have
your thought turned to the problem.

I did not think it wise to burden my letter with too many details
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such an annex or supplementary department course in a good and wise plan for
that purpose. I hope that you will consider all that may be done for the
benefit of you and that you will have the results of your own judgment in the
matter. I am very anxious to have your thought turned to the problem.

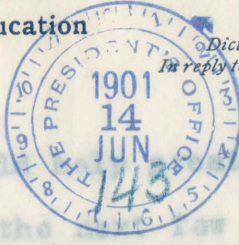
Very truly yours,
C. D. White

INCORPORATED 1784

University of the State of New York

State Library AND Home Education

MELVIL DEWEY Director



Dictated
In reply to yours of

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Trunks

A number of the strongest friends of simplified spelling
There is wide agreement among thoughtful people that we
have urged that a meeting be called in connection with the
other question is of practically greater importance. The edu-
National educational association for Thursday or Friday or
both, July 11 and 12 at Detroit. The point is central, the rates
recognition of this we all know that great skill will be re-
will be unusually low. It is easily taken in in connection with
quired to bring about these immense gains. If 20 of the best
the Pan-American. The Spelling reform association was orga-
men in the country would think this matter over for a few
nized at the Philadelphia centennial. While for lack of money
weeks and then spend a few hours together at Detroit, we should
this work has been spasmodic, it is really astonishing to see
probably come home with clearer ideas of what was best to do
how much has been accomplished when we count the progress of
done, and I be still with new courage to do each his share in
the 25 years. ~~There~~ there is greater need than ever before of
this important work.
wise conservative effort to help along the steadily growing
movement for simplification in accordance with the laws of
language and of human prejudice where deep rooted inertia must
be overcome.

It is felt that a face to face conference of a number of
the leading friends of the cause would have great practical
value. Will you kindly advise me by early mail what you think
of the desirability of calling a meeting at Detroit and whether
you could attend, also as to any people whom you think should
be invited? Personally, I do not believe that we progress
most rapidly by attempting any extreme measures or overriding too
rapidly the stubborn prejudices with which we have to deal, but
it seems to me that a conference among the wisest thinkers on

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 Florence Woodworth Director's assistant
 W. S. Biscoe Senior
 S. B. Griswold Law
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 Melville Dewey Director

State Library, Albany N. Y. 22 NY 01

A number of the strongest friends of simplified spelling have urged that a meeting be called in connection with the National Educational Association for Thursday or Friday of both July 11 and 12 at Detroit. The point is central, the rates will be unusually low. It is easily taken in in connection with the Pan-American. The spelling reform association was organized at the Philadelphia continental. While for lack of money this work has been sporadic, it is easily accomplished to see how much has been accomplished when we count the progress of the 25 years. While there is greater need than ever before of wise conservative effort to help along the steadily growing movement for simplification in accordance with the laws of language and of human prejudice where deep rooted inertia must be overcome.

It is felt that a face to face conference of a number of the leading friends of the cause would have great practical value. Will you kindly advise me by early mail what you think of the desirability of calling a meeting at Detroit and whether you could attend, also as to any people whom you think should be invited? Personally, I do not believe that we progress most rapidly by attempting any extreme measures or overriding too rapidly the stubborn prejudices with which we have to deal, but it seems to me that a conference among the wisest thinkers on

the subject would help greatly in formulating the wisest steps to be taken in the next few years.

State library, Albany N. Y. 22 May '01

There is wide agreement among thoughtful people that no other question is of practically greater importance. The educational and economic gains would be incalculable, but after recognition of this we all know that great skill will be required to bring about these immense gains. If 20 of the best men in the country would think this matter over for a few weeks and then spend a few hours together at Detroit, we should probably come home with clearer ideas of what was best to be done, and I believe with new courage to do each his share in this important work.

Melvil Dewey

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July 2nd, 1901.

MRS. MARY H. HUNT, Superintendent for World's and National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and Life Director of the National Education Association.

23 Trull St., Boston, Mass. June 26th, 1901.

Rev. Wm. R. Harper, Ph.D.,

Mrs. Mary H. Hunt,

Dear Sir: 23 Trull Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Madam:

I will not consider it intrusive that I write to call attention to an article in another cover written by the great scientist, Dr. August Forel, Professor of Psychiatry in the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and reprinted in part in pages 145 to 148 in the School Physiology Journal, also to an editorial on the same on pages 155 to 157. I am in receipt of your letter of June twenty-sixth, in which you call my attention to an article by Dr. August Forel. I shall be glad to examine the article and the editorial.

Thanking you, I remain

Very truly yours,

Professor Forel's knowledge of the subject on which he writes entitles him to a hearing, although what he says may seem to reflect upon what he terms "official science" in our country.

Very sincerely,

U.A.C.

June '01 S.P.J.

Mary H. Hunt,

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Mary H. Hunt

U.S.C.

June 26th 1901

Friends

46 Wade Building, Cleveland, O., June 27, '01.



President W R Harper,

Dear Sir:-

I am mailing you today a copy of SOCIAL LAWS, bound from Author's Advance Sheets. I feel sure that if you can find the time to look into it you will recognize it as a worthy contribution to the solution of some of our most vital problems,- social, industrial and political. It discusses the work of our "Captains of Industry", seeking to give them in the minds of their countrymen the credit due to their immense services to civilization. In the paragraphs concerning Mr John D Rockefeller I feel sure that you will find some of your own thoughts and sentiments expressed, though perhaps in a more radical form than you would state them. I enclose copy of a letter to me from Pres. Thwing of Western Reserve, which, I trust, may help to commend my book to your attention and favorable consideration. If you can give me some word of commendation for the book, it will be of great assistance in extending its influence among the scholarly class for whom it was chiefly written. Trusting that I am not making too great a demand upon your courtesy, I am, dear sir, in the bonds of scholarship,

Most sincerely yours,

Solon Lauer

46 Wade Building, Cleveland, O., June 27, '01.



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Most sincerely yours,

John D. Rockefeller

(Copy)

55 Bellflower avenue.

My Dear Mr. Lauer:-

Cleveland, Ohio.

At once do I wish to thank you for calling on me today, and for putting into my hands your Social Laws. It was a great satisfaction to find in you not only a graduate of the dear college, but also a brave seeker for the truth and the highest duty. I have been looking over the volume this evening. Many thoughts I wish I might have the advantage of conferring with you about, - so pregnant are they. Not a few of your sentences cling to the memory, such as 'The scholar is the High Priest of the Nation. He is the Nation's Leader in all things.'

I am, of course, sure there are things in the book to which I should not assent: every strong book is such. But the book is so able that it challenges dissent, as well as awakens a sense of admiration for its boldness and intellectual insight and force.

Again I thank you for the happiness of seeing you and touching your work. Let me see and touch more.

Be sure and be with us every day of this great Commencement.

Truly yours,

4 June.

Chas F. Thwing.

55 - 111th Street

Cleveland, Ohio

So I wish to thank you for calling on me today, and

into my home your social love. It was a great pleasure

to have you here, a presence of the best of friends, but also

to have you here for the first and the best day. I have been looking

over the volume this evening, and I think I have found

several of your contributions with me, and I am glad to find

of your contributions to the cause, and I am glad to find

them in the volume. I am glad to find them in the volume.

I am glad to find them in the volume.

should you want to see them, I am glad to see them.

and I am glad to see them.

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Cleveland, June 29, 1901. '01.



Mr. Solon Lauer,

46 Wade Building, Cleveland, Ohio, of SOCIAL LAWS, bound

My dear Sir:

I feel sure that if you can find the time I shall be glad to examine the copy and recognize it as a worthy contribution to of "Social Laws" when it reaches me. I cannot promise however, to do this within a reasonable length of time for and I have so much work on hand that I am unable to plan in advance to a great extent. Thanking you, I remain,

Very truly yours, the paragraphs concern- Mr John W. Rockefeller I feel sure that y W. R. Harper and some of your own thoughts and sentiments expressed, though perhaps in a more radical form than you would state them. I enclose copy of a letter to me from Pres. Thwing of Western Reserve, which, I trust, may help to commend my book to your attention and favorable consideration. If you can give me some word of commendation for the book, it will be of great assistance in extending its influence among the scholarly class for whom it was chiefly written. Trusting that I am not making too great a demand upon your courtesy, I am, dear sir, in the bonds of scholarship,

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Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

Sept. 30, 1961.

Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin

Department of Political Economy.

My dear Prof. Laughlin:-

I am writing to call your attention to two points:

First, in considering the Classical and Modern Languages Conferences the question occurs to me whether they have not adopted a principle which might be applied with advantage in other groups. In a word, they have agreed that all candidates for the Dr's degree shall be required to take certain courses which seem to represent the main subjects included in the group. Will you not consider with a view to discussion at an early date in the group conference, whether it would not be wise for the Historical group to adopt a similar rule?

I think you will agree with me that while the reasons for our minute division into departments are good and sufficient, there are also grave dangers connected with that division. It may permit and even encourage a degree of specialization which in the case of a majority of our graduate students will prove to be unfortunate. In the case of the Historical group, no one, I suppose, questions that the division is purely an academic convenience. The subjects dealt with by the four departments, and the methods of thought peculiar to

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2-19-11

them, are so related that one cannot do the best grade of work in either without a good degree of familiarity with the standpoint and methods of all. There are some very important practical reasons for asking whether there is a ~~sufficient~~ degree of attention to this fact. We know that the majority of our Dr's intend to teach. The time is not far distant, if indeed it is not already here, when they will have to take place in secondary schools oftener than in colleges. Even if they get college positions, they are likely to be made responsible for work that falls within each of the four departments of our Historical group. Is it not true that students get the Dr's degree with one of the four subjects as principal, and another, or possibly one from another group as secondary, with practically no work in two or possibly three of the departments of the group? If this is the case, are we fitting our men to do the kind of work for which they need to be prepared? Will not institutions in which the instructing force is much weaker than ours, and the differentiation for that reason much less minute, graduate men better fitted for the general work of the majority of teachers, while of course less finely trained for the investigating work which the minority will have opportunities to carry on? Is it not possible for us, without sacrificing more on the side of special training than we gain in breadth of view,

2-12-22

on the side of special training than we gain in breadth of view, carry on? Is it not possible for us, without sacrificing more vestigating work which the minority will have opportunities to of teachers, while of course less finely trained for the in- graduate men better fitted for the general work of the majority ours, and the differentiation for that reason much less minute, institutions in which the instructing force is much weaker than kind of work or which they need to be prepared? Will not groups? If this is the case, are we fitting our men to do the no work in two or possibly three of the departments of the or possibly one from another group as secondary, with practically degree with one of the four subjects as principal, and another, Historical group. Is it not true that students get the Dr's for work that falls within each of the four departments of our get college positions, they are likely to be made responsible secondary schools often more than in colleges. Even if they it is not already here, when they will have to take place in our Dr's intent to teach. The time is not far distant, it indeed degree of attention to this fact. We know that the majority of practical reasons for asking whether there is a significant point and methods of all. There are some very important in either without a good degree of familiarity with the stand- them, are so related that one cannot do the best grade of work

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3-J. L. L.

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Second, I have noticed that there was considerable duplication of courses during the past year. As an example, I may cite as a conspicuous instance of duplication the fact that in the Spring Quarter there were offered three courses dealing with municipal subjects:

Municipal Administration by Mr. James.

Urban Communities by Dr. Henderson.

Municipal Sociology by Dr. Zeublin.

This seems to me to be very unwise and to indicate that the heads of the historical departments do not confer together sufficiently with reference to the distribution of courses in their departments. The least thing to be asked would be that such courses be distributed in different quarters, but even this seems to me to be wrong. In this connection I wish also to raise the question whether advanced courses of a highly special character are not being repeated too frequently. In other words, I wish to raise the inquiry whether any considerable number

32.2.2

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H. L. L.

of courses given for graduate students should be repeated from year to year. Cannot the programme be arranged by alternating every other year, or, indeed, in some cases, in offering a particular course only once in three years? I understand that this is done in many cases. My question is whether this plan is as largely adopted as would be wise.

I am sending this letter to the Heads of the Departments of Political Economy, Political Science, Social Science, and History.

I shall be glad to confer with you personally before the matters are discussed in the Conference.

I remain

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

4-2-11

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