CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

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File cross reference form under name or subject at top of the sheet and by the latest date of papers. Describe matter for identification purposes. The papers, themselves should be filed under name or subject after "SEE."

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File under Oakley

Von Klenze

University of Chicago, November 1, 1897.

For some time past several of our colleagues have felt with regret that the attitude of the German population of this and other cities toward the University of Chicago is generally one of indifference and in many cases even of hostility. Three meetings have been held, composed of those members of the University who are anxious to change this unfortunate condition of things. At the last of these meetings President Harper requested a committee consisting of Messrs. von Klenze, Pietsch, and Seidenadel to propose ways and means to arouse greater interest in our institution.

The committee would respectfully submit the following propositions:

First: Inasmuch as the apathy and animosity of the Germans toward us must be largely explained by their inacquaintance with the members of our faculty, the committee would suggest as the most important feature of this plan a systematic attempt at cultivating social relations between ourselves and the leaders of German society. And hence the committee would propose that prominent Germans be invited either by the President himself or by members of the faculty. In this fashion it would be possible at least for those of our colleagues interested in this movement to come into closer contact with our German element. Besides, it may be convenient, when the proper opportunity offers, to ask clubs - such as the Germanic Maennerchor, the Columbia Damen-Club, etc., to visit the University.

Secondly: The German population of the country is enormous, and many important representatives of German public opinion reside outside of this city. Consequently the committee warmly urges that

University of Chicago, November 1, 1917.

For some time past several of our colleagues have felt with regret that the attitude of the German population of this and other cities toward the University of Chicago is generally one of indifference and in many cases even of hostility. Many meetings have been held, composed of those members of the University who are anxious to change this unfortunate condition of things. At the last of these meetings a President Burgess resolution was passed, consisting of Messrs. von Klenze, Fletcher, and Gutkneckt, to propose ways and means to promote greater interest in our institution.

The committee would respectfully submit the following propositions:

First, Inasmuch as the apathy and antipathy of the German to-ward us must be largely explained by their inadequate acquaintance with the members of our faculty, the committee would suggest as the most important feature of this plan a systematic attempt at cultivating social relations between ourselves and the leaders of German society. It seems the committee would propose that prominent Germans be invited either by the President himself, or by members of the faculty. In this fashion it would be possible at least for those of our colleagues interested in this movement to come into closer contact with our German element. Besides, it may be convenient, when the proper opportunity offers, to ask clubs - such as the Germania Mannerchor, the Columbia German-Club, etc., to visit the University.

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some of the most influential Germans, like Karl Schurz, be asked to deliver convocation addresses and that invitations be sent out mainly to Germans for such Convocations.

Thirdly: Neither the social elements of this city nor a few powerful men (like Karl Schurz) would suffice completely to change German public opinion in our favor, And the committee would therefore further recommend that the leading papers of our city and those of other cities particularly in the West be furnished with correct information concerning the institution, such information always to be couched in dignified language. The papers should know of important changes going on in the University, of new donations and particularly of work done by the faculty and advanced students. It would be well to supply the papers with abstracts of important theses and especially with notices of books published by members of the faculty.

Fourthly: As it is very difficult for most Germans entirely educated abroad to overcome a feeling of suspicion regarding American methods of pedagogy, not least in preparatory work, the committee deem it advisable for the University to establish on the North Side of the city among the Germans a preparatory school modeled as far as feasible on the German gymnasium. This undertaking, the committee believe, would meet with great favor and would do much to call attention to our University.

Fifthly: Personal acquaintance with members of the faculty, the direct or indirect influence of Germans as convocation-orators and of the press and the establishment of the school just mentioned, however important they are, would give our German fellow-citizens but little opportunity of appreciating the intellectual caliber of our faculty. Such an opportunity would be best furnished, the

some of the most influential Germans, like Karl Schurz, be asked to deliver conversation addresses and that invitations be sent out mainly to Germans for such conversations.

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Fifthly: Personal acquaintance with members of the faculty, the direct or indirect influence of Germans as conversation-orators and of the press and the establishment of the school just mentioned, however important they are, would give our German fellow-citizens but little opportunity of appreciating the intellectual caliber of our faculty. Such an opportunity would be best furnished, the

committee think, by offering extension-courses in German and English on subjects which may be supposed to appeal particularly to the German population. It would be unwise to limit oneself to German, for the reason that persons born in this country of German parents are more or less ignorant of the German language. The committeefurthermore believe that series of lectures would be more valuable than single lectures; for the University must aim to impress the educated German element with the scholastic thoroughness of its representatives. This statement is not meant to imply that single lectures would not, under certain circumstances, be of great value. On the contrary, the committee sincerely hope that men like Professor von Holst, Dr. Hirsch, and others already well known among the Germans as distinguished orators will consent to aid this work by addressing German audiences from time to time.

It is difficult to foresee which of the plans proposed will prove thoroughly efficacious, but the committee express the opinion of those interested in this movement in saying that it has become incumbent upon this University to make a vigorous effort to change the present attitude of our German element.

C. Von Klenze

K. Pietsch

C. W. Seidenadel.

Von Klenze

The University of Chicago.

File

On Saturday, Oct. 9th 1897, a number of members of the University-Faculty and a few others met in the rooms of the Quadrangle-Club for the purpose of discussing means and ways of increasing the influence of the University of Chicago among the Germans in the country and especially in this city.

Several gentlemen urged that the importance of our University is not sufficiently appreciated by the Germans and that in some German circles even a feeling of hostility seems to have sprung up against this institution.

The reasons for this could not be determined in detail, but it was the distinct impression of several that the University has done too little to enlist the sympathies of our German population.

All agreed in saying that the German element is too important to be ~~overlooked~~ neglected. It should be remembered that there are several millions of Germans among our fellow-citizens and especially that the city of Chicago is the third German city in the world.

It is a curious fact that only Berlin and Hamburg

have a larger German population than Chicago.

We cannot afford to overlook the fact that there reside here among the Germans many men who have enjoyed the best intellectual advantages the world offers and that a feeling of indifference or of animosity on their part is likely to influence many of their compatriots, and to induce a large part of the younger generation to look for its academic training in institutions considered with more favor by these leaders of German opinion.

The Northwestern University has had a distinct advantage over our institution in being favorably known to the German element of this city before the University of Chicago could exert any influence. Since then, it has been the fate of this University to be largely misunderstood and misinterpreted by men of station in our German population — a fate it shares with many other American institutions.

It is difficult for most Germans entirely educated abroad fully to understand the import of certain American principles of education, and hence any American institution of learning must, in order to reach the

best German element, forcibly bring to the notice of these Germans its best features and most valuable efforts.

Harvard, Johns-Hopkins and a few others of our ~~promi-nent~~ universities have already gained the comparative respect of the prominent Germans in the country. But nowhere, it would seem, is our University regarded by them as thoroughly competent to do first-class work.

This condition of things seemed to all deplorably and ~~And~~ the question arose: what can the University do to improve it? — The following seemed acceptable propositions in this direction:

First: To interest the important German papers in the country at large and especially in Chicago in our University, and thus to influence German-American public opinion in our favor.

Secondly: To organize a larger number of extension courses, both in German and in English, which may be supposed to appeal particularly to our German element.

The University of Chicago.

Thirdly: To invite from time to time prominent Germans, like ~~for instance~~ Karl Schurz, to speak at the University-Convocations.

Fourthly: To invite the representatives of important German Educational Institutions in this country, like ~~for instance~~ the Walther-College in St. Louis, to the University on suitable occasions.

Respectfully submitted
C. Von Klenze

Chicago, October 11th 1897.

C. W. Seidenadel.

K. Pietsch.

The above report is the expression of opinion of the following gentlemen:

Messrs. E. J. James, E. G. Hirsch, K. Laves, F. W. Howarth, H. Maschke, O. Bolza, E. Freund, K. Jessen, H. Schmidt-Wartenberg, P. O. Kern, Miss Jessie Jones

November 14th, 1904.

My dear Mr. Von Klenze:-

We are not forgetting the problem of the German books. I have had an interview with Dr. Hirsch and he and I have arranged to make a visit on the subject.

Since writing you Saturday concerning the Deutsche Lehrebund, I have had a talk with Kern and have thought that possibly you might think that I did not appreciate as fully as I ought the importance of this matter. I wish to assure you to the contrary and also to assure you that I am ready to take hold as a member of the committee in any way that can be suggested. I think that something ought to be done, but I do not really think we ought to establish a precedent which we would find it difficult to follow, and in any case, it is difficult to squeeze blood out of a turnip,- just now the University is a turnip.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

November 14th, 1904.

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