

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, January 15th, 1906, 3.30 P.M.

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The meeting came to order promptly in the office of the Commissioner of Education, all members present and Dr. Draper in the chair.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were approved as read.

Expert Accountant Hourigan's report of his examination of the Treasurer's accounts for the year ending July 31st, 1905, was read. On motion it was accepted and ordered placed on file. In his report, Mr. Hourigan recommended that certain accounts, which were considered uncollectable and have been standing on the books for several years, should be crossed off. On motion of Mr. Van Rensselaer, the report was referred back to Messrs. Cogswell and Pruyn with instructions to cross off such accounts as in their judgment ought to be considered uncollectable, and to commence suits for the payment of such accounts as should be paid, but are in arrears.

The Secretary officially reported to the Committee that the College Building took fire on the evening of January 8th, 1906, at about 8.15 P.M., and that it was practically a total loss, with the exception of a portion of Dr. Milne's house.

Commissioner Draper made some remarks about the importance of this crisis in the history of the institution. He said that it had come to his knowledge that the question had been raised whether it was worth while to maintain a Normal College at all at this point in the State. He supposed that the members of this Committee would all agree that it was desirable, and that we would all unite in our efforts to do so. He said further that there had been a general feeling among those interested in education that the opportunities for training teachers of the higher class, above those for the common schools, were insufficient in this State. He said that some of the Universities had made an effort to give such instruction; but that up to the present time the State had done nothing. In his judgment, the time was now ripe for the State to do so, and to do it here in Albany. The subject was a large one, and required earnest thought and consideration.

At the last meeting of the Board of Regents, authority had been obtained for

this College to improve its grade of teaching and grant certain diplomas. It was the Commissioner's opinion that Dr. Goodwin, of the State Education Department, and President Milne should be asked first to formulate a plan of instruction for such a school, and that then a school building should be properly arranged to accomplish the object. While this was being done, it was his judgment that a bill should at once be introduced in the Legislature appropriating the money necessary to carry out this object. The Committee agreed entirely with the Commissioner, and it was arranged that a bill should be introduced as soon as possible appropriating \$350,000 in addition to the \$75,000 of insurance which would be paid on the old building, and the whole sum to be expended in the erection of a new building under the immediate supervision of the State Architect.

It having come to the knowledge of the Committee that the walls still left standing by the fire are in dangerous condition, Mr. Pruyn moved that the matter of taking them down as far as was necessary to make them safe, be referred to President Milne, he to confer with the State Architect and get from him satisfactory instruction to Long & Simpson as to what to do. Carried.

President Milne reported that the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in our emergency had made a most generous offer of the use of their Sunday School room for the uses of the school, and refused to take any payment except for expenses actually incurred and that he had accepted their offer; that the Trustees of the Albany Female Academy had also offered the use of their rooms, and that this would be accepted for next term; that offers had ^{also} come from the Boy's Academy, the Convent of the Holy Name, the Board of Education of the City of Albany, the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, of the State St. Church, and the assembly room of School No. 24, the Unitarian Society of the City of Albany, and Richard L. Doyle for the use of his Dancing Academy.

Board by a rising vote.

The Commissioner of Education continued with his communication as follows:

Death of Dr David Murray

We shall at best now do but very tardy justice to another and a very conspicuous former Secretary of the Board of Regents, Dr David Murray, who died at his home in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on March 6, 1905. Born at Bovina, Delaware county, N. Y., on October 15, 1830, he graduated at Union College in the class of 1852. He became principal of the Albany Academy in 1857 and retired from this position in 1863 to accept the professorship of mathematics at Rutgers. In 1872 upon the request of the Japanese Empire he was designated by the government of the United States to proceed to Japan and lay the foundations of the educational system of the people who have since developed such marked intellectual and industrial capacity and who in recent years have shown such striking forcefulness in war. Dr Murray went to Japan in the spring of 1873 and performed his great task there with conspicuous acceptability. Soon after his return to the United States, in 1879, he was invited to the secretaryship of the Board of Regents. He held this office from 1880 to 1889 inclusive. His appointment was an extremely fortunate one for all of the interests under the care of the Regents. He was the father of the academic examination system. He hoped that the system might uplift the scholarship and standing of the secondary schools as it has done, but he never anticipated or expected that it would go to the lengths that it has gone in shaping the curriculum and determining the policy of those schools. He did distinctly plan that the examination system should be the means of procuring State aid to the secondary schools and in this he was successful beyond his highest expectations. Aside from imitating this conspicuous movement in the educational affairs of the State, Dr Murray was at all times thoughtful, incisive and efficient in the service of the Board. He was a gentleman of the highest grade, a scholar of ripe and varied learning, a writer of charming accomplishments, and an administrator who was quiet, steady, balanced, persistent, and altogether successful in getting important things done.

We must look back upon his service to the Board and to the State with respect and we may express our regard for his faithful and attractive character, and our sympathy for his devoted and afflicted wife, with all appropriateness.

On motion of Regent Smith,

Voted, unanimously in a rising vote by the Board that the statement of the Commissioner of Education, concerning the death of Dr David Murray, be made the expression of the Board of Regents and with his portrait be inserted in the journal of proceedings.

Meeting of
Bd. of Regents,
Dec 14, 1905.

The State Normal College

In 1844 the first New York State normal school was opened at Albany. It is now a justly honored institution with an influential alumni widely scattered. In 1890, upon my initiative when State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Board of Regents granted the institution a college charter with authority to confer degrees, but in pedagogy alone. The thought was that it would gradually rise to the college level, at least in the subject-matter and pedagogic work incident to teaching in the public schools. It was hoped to make the institution potential in preparing teachers for the secondary schools and also in preparing superintendents and other supervisory officers. Much to my disappointment these purposes have not been realized. I have never clearly understood why, and until recently was in no position to ascertain. Upon the renewal of my official relations to the institution, the Second Assistant Commissioner of Education, Dr Edward J. Goodwin, was requested to carefully investigate and report. He has been doing this from time to time and the matter has been the subject of frequent discussion between him, President Milne and myself, until now it seems ripe for definite action. This action must obviously be decisive or we must give over our purposes and accept the conclusion that the institution shall be a State normal school, receiving pupils without preparation for college and graduating them without the factors of college training essential to respectability of the collegiate degrees. This conclusion we ought not to admit. There is no greater need in the educational work of our State than the requirement that the secondary schools shall be taught and the supervisory positions filled by men and women of college training, and that that college training shall be carried on in a pedagogic atmosphere where the history and philosophy of teaching shall have distinct and abundant recognition. Before such a requirement can be enforced we shall have to provide the men and women who are so trained for such positions.

The Normal College is eligibly located on an attractive site overlooking the beautiful Washington park in this city. Beyond an eligible site and a spacious though not very well arranged building and a president's residence, the institution has in the last or two purchased several additional parcels of land running from year to Madison avenue. Going a little further in this matter it will possess a most spacious and desirable site and at a reasonable cost will be able make provision for such uplifting or expansion of its work as may seem well. It seems desirable to get the work of reorganization forward so that its needs may be more clearly known and mistakes in meeting them may be avoided.

Dr. Goodwin's formal report and recommendations are as follows, and I am quite willing to make them my own and recommend that they be adopted:

"December

"Hon. A. S. Draper LL.D.

Commissioner of Education

DEAR SIR: I beg leave to call your attention to the need of a reorganization of the New York State Normal College. This institution was established on its present basis in 1890 for the specific purpose of training teachers for the secondary schools, and was empowered by the Board of Regents to grant professional degrees.

This purpose, however, has not been fully realized for the reason that the majority of its graduates have lacked the scholastic qualifications possessed by graduates from other colleges with whom they come into competition. The college has also failed to become a postgraduate professional school for the reason that other colleges have meanwhile established pedagogical courses that may be credited towards a bachelor's degree. This has enabled their students to obtain a regular college degree and a modicum of professional training in four years. About two thirds of the graduates of the New York State Normal College fail to obtain appointments in the secondary schools of the State because they do not possess a sufficient knowledge of the subjects to be taught. It is obvious, therefore, that this deficiency in scholarship must be supplied if the college is to accomplish the end for which it was established.

An additional and very urgent reason for the reorganization of the college is to be found in the fact that only 43% of the principals of the 818 recognized secondary schools in this State are college graduates and only 21% of these have had any professional training. No exact data can be obtained regarding the qualifications of assistant teachers, but it is a matter of common knowledge that the percentage of assistant teachers that possess the scholastic and professional qualifications necessary for teaching in our secondary schools, is very small.

It is to be noted also that, in addition to the public demand for better trained high school teachers, there is even a more urgent need of well qualified school superintendents, supervisors of special subjects and teachers of training classes, training schools and normal schools. Persons occupying these positions exert such great influence over the schools that the State will fail in its duty, if it does not maintain a special institution of high grade in which they may be thoroughly prepared for their work.

In view of these facts I respectfully recommend:

- 1 That all courses of study designed to prepare teachers for the elementary schools be discontinued.
- 2 That the requirements for admission to the college shall be substantially the same as those laid down by other eastern colleges of good standing.
- 3 That the college be authorized to establish a four year course of studies in the liberal arts and pedagogics.
- 4 That all students shall be required to pursue such subjects of study as are deemed essential to a liberal education.
- 5 That such professional courses as are considered to be fundamental in the training of teachers shall be required from every student.
- 6 That all other courses in the curriculum, both academic and professional, shall be elective.
- 7 That in addition to the professional courses prescribed for all students, the college shall provide other professional courses designed specifically to prepare students to become teachers of secondary schools, training classes, training schools and normal schools, and instructors in art, manual training, domestic science and other special subjects.
- 8 That the college be empowered to confer the three following degrees: B. A., B. S., Pd. B., the first two to be given on the satisfactory completion of a four year course, the third to be conferred only upon college graduates after a year of postgraduate study.
- 9 That the appropriations for the support of the college be enlarged so that the faculty may be reorganized and strengthened.

In the scheme of studies proposed by the president of the college, if all of the elective work be *academic*, 81 per cent of the student's time will be given to academic subjects; if the student takes the *maximum* number of *professional courses*, he will then give 69 per cent of his time to academic subjects. From this it is made clear that the standard of scholarship established for colleges by the Board of Regents will not be lowered, since other reputable colleges make similar provisions. The proportion of time that may be devoted to the study of pedagogics by a candidate for the degree of B. A. in other leading institutions is as follows: Harvard, 18%; Brown, 24%; Michigan, 23%; Cornell, 21%; Syracuse, 25%.

In the last analysis this appeal for the reorganization of the New York State Normal College is based upon the obvious need of scholarly and well trained teachers in our secondary schools, training classes, training schools and normal schools, and upon the evident fact that the supply of such teachers is wholly inadequate. If the State is justified in expending annually \$6,745,874 for the support of public secondary schools, and \$474,600 in the maintenance of normal schools, it can not escape just criticism if it fails to provide these schools with well qualified teachers. Because these schools are under the immediate control of the State Education Department and because the standards of education established in them determine the quality of the training given in the elementary schools, the State is warranted in maintaining at least one institution of college grade in which teachers may receive a substantial and thorough education.

Respectfully submitted

Edward J. Goodwin.

Second Assistant Commissioner of Education"

The only apparent difficulty in carrying out these recommendations is in connection with the appropriations for the needed enlargement and improvement of the faculty, but I am confident that we can meet that in a little time and we will go no faster or farther than the appropriations will permit.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. Draper
Com. of Education.

Fifth

On motion of Regent Francis.

Voted, That the several recommendations of the Commissioner of Education concerning the State Normal College be and hereby are adopted.

Mr. Cogswell moved that the action of President Milne in accepting two of the above offers be approved, and that the thanks of the Committee be tendered to each of the parties who had been kind enough to make the other offers which we could not accept. Carried.

Dr. Ward moved that President Milne be authorized to rent a house for his temporary use at a cost of \$220. ^{per} ~~per~~ the present date up to May 1st, 1906. Carried

Mr. Pruyn moved that Dr. Aspinwall be invested with the title and functions of Assistant to the President pending the reorganization of the College, without additional compensation. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Ward, the matter of purchasing the property remaining between that which we now own and the corner of Madison Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$16,700 (the balance of last year's appropriation) be referred to Mr. Cogswell and President Milne.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Saml B. Ward,
Secy.