

CITY OF LEEDS

TRAINING COLLEGE.

STUDENTS' EVIDENCE.

1. A Protest.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE TRAINING COLLEGE IS CONTROLLED AND MANAGED, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RECENT RESIGNATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

It is well to raise against the students or ex-students being asked to give evidence. The students are not concerned in the control or management of the College or in the resignations of the staff.

SECTION I.

STUDENTS' EVIDENCE.

The controversy is very undesirable. It will of necessity produce division among their ranks and have an injurious effect on the College.

1. A Protest.

2. Means taken to influence the minds of the Students.
Note by the Principal.

2. Methods of obtaining support from students.
3. Copy of letter from a Prefect of 1915.

The means taken to influence the minds of students and to make the difficulty at the Training College into a public scandal are shown in the Principal's notes which are attached.

15TH AUGUST. 1916.

SECTION I.

MR. [Name]

STUDENTS' EVIDENCE.

1. A Protest. TAKEN TO INFLUENCE THE MINDS OF STUDENTS
 AND TO MAKE THE DIFFICULTY INTO A PUBLIC
 The Board of Education in their letter of
 28th July, 1916, suggest that students and ex-students
 may be called to give evidence.

A protest might well be raised against the
 1. students or ex-students being asked to give evidence.
 The students are not concerned in the control or
 management of the College or in the resignations of
 the staff. These are matters between the staff and
 the Governors.

The entrance of students into the controversy
 2. is very undesirable. It will of necessity produce
 division among their ranks and have an injurious
 effect on the College.
 It is a common knowledge that as a result of this,
 resigning tutors were seeing students in town and
 in see Hall the tutor took the press accounts as
 they appeared each morning read them to the students
 and placed her own interpretation upon these accounts.

2. Methods of obtaining Support from Students.

3. Previous to the senior students going down - I think it

The means taken to influence the minds of the
 students and to make the difficulty at the Training and
 College into a public scandal are shown in the
 Principal's Notes which are attached.

along to be addressed. At this meeting the Vice-
 Principal identified herself with the nine resigning
 tutors and said "We too are fighting for a principle.
 We are not surrendering. We are like the Admiral
 who replied when called upon to haul down his flag

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"We have not yet begun to fight". She thanked the students for MR. PARSONS. and for the wit that they had displayed. It appears that a student in one of the Halls had put up on the notice board a paper advising students to read "Talks to Tutors" by James.

MEANS TAKEN TO INFLUENCE THE MINDS OF STUDENTS AND TO MAKE THE DIFFICULTY INTO A PUBLIC SCANDAL.

The non-resigning staff were very much hurt at the whole tone of the talk as it suggested to the students that the twenty or thirty who had not resigned were in the wrong.

As a result of the insults thus offered to them, these tutors

1. Shortly after the resignations of the Tutors, the Vice-Principal suggested to the students that if they wished information with regard to the cause

4. Shortly after resignation they should apply to the Tutors themselves.

2. It is a common knowledge that as a result of this, resigning Tutors were seeing students in twos and threes and giving their version of the case, whilst in one Hall the Tutor took the press accounts as they appeared each morning read them to the students and placed her own interpretation upon these accounts.

3. Previous to the senior students going down - I think it

was on the evening of Thursday, the 6th July, - the Vice-Principal arranged to speak to the senior and junior women students and the women tutors. (On

previous occasions it has been customary for the seniors alone to be addressed.) At this meeting the Vice-

5. That the Tutor identified herself with the nine resigning tutors and said "We ten are fighting for a principle. We are not surrendering. We are like the Admiral who replied when called upon to haul down his flag

(1) The statement by one of the resigning tutors at "We have not yet begun to fight". She thanked the students for their warm sympathy and for the wit that they had displayed. It appears that a student in one of the Halls had put up on the notice board a paper advising students to read "Talks to Tutors" by James. Miss Mercier said that she had quoted this to a friend, who replied "What charming, witty girls you must have". The non-resigning members of staff were very much hurt at the whole tone of the talk as it suggested to the students that the twenty to thirty who had not resigned were in the wrong. As a result of the insult thus offered to them, these tutors refused to go to any future meeting of Vice-Principal and students.

4. Shortly after the resignations of tutors, a meeting of Old Students was called by some person at Leighton Hall, i.e. the Hall where three of the resigning tutors lived. Two or three nights afterwards some 40 to 50 Old Students assembled there on invitation when they were addressed by Miss Walker, one of the resigning tutors. It is not known to what extent Miss Walker attempted to obtain the sympathy of these old students but the fact that two meetings were held in the Hall of the discontented tutors and that one of the prime movers in these meetings is an old student from this Hall now teaching in a Demonstration School often visited by one of the resigning tutors, rather suggests that if there was not absolute direction there was instigation on the part of one or more of the tutors to drag in old students in support of their case.

5. That the tutors intended to make the trouble into a public question is evidenced by:

(i) The statement by one of the resigning tutors at one of the secret meetings that they must do all they could to bring the matter before the public, and that she herself was pretty certain that she could get the "Manchester Guardian" to take up the affair.

(ii) The tutors, whilst stating in the press that they did not wish to make the affairs of the College public, have in reality been doing all in their power to create a public feeling in their favour. They say that they deprecate the publication of College difficulties, but apparently they do not deprecate

(a) The sending of student teachers to obtain signatures to a petition.

(b) The visitation of their partisans to Bank Managers, shop-keepers and professional men in Headingley district to sign this petition.

(c) The calling together of the Association of University Women.

(d) The submitting of the case to the Training College Association - a body largely composed of women.

(e) The canvassing of members of the City Council and people in high positions.

(f) The attempt, as mentioned above, to get the present students to take part in the dispute by speaking to them collectively at the College and in smaller units at the Halls, by reading to them newspaper reports and placing their interpretation upon them, and by adopting somewhat similar practices with regard to old students.

(g) Consistent lobbying in the House of Commons.

In the very nature of things, all the people approached are comparatively ignorant of the position and the opinion they form can only be a biased one and obtained from biased evidence.

perhaps there is no excuse for signing in ignorance, but satisfactory answers - now proved to be misleading - were given to all my questions.

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I would have made my position a public matter, except that Miss Naylor mentioned that the old students
A PREFECT'S LETTER.

wish to complicate matters still more.
The following copy of a letter from a Prefect indicates the undesirable methods which have been suggested to secure for the Resigning Women Tutors some means of support from students and ex-students.

11. Stanmore Street,
Leeds.
July 17th, 1916.

Dear Miss Mitchell,

Yesterday Miss Naylor put me in possession of certain facts from the Committee Meeting of the Old Students.

As an old student, "a 1915 Prefect", and one who signed the letter published in last Thursday's "Post", I felt it my duty to acknowledge the difference in my attitude made by these facts.

That letter was brought to me to sign, as the result of the work of one or two prefects who were evidently in touch with the remainder of us prefects. I did not expect it to be published unless it were absolutely unanimous. I was informed that such was the case and that there had been no meeting to discuss or draw up the letter and that the resigning staff were in absolute ignorance of it.

Perhaps there is no excuse for signing in ignorance, but satisfactory answers - now proved to be misleading - were given to all my questions.

I would have made my position a public matter, except that Miss Naylor mentioned that the old students were not taking up any decided attitude and I do not wish to complicate matters still more.

I hope you will understand why I have written to you.

In face of my personal knowledge, verified by Miss Naylor's information, it would be wrong to continue to support the sentiments expressed in that letter.

You were the member of the women's staff interested in Old Students as well as the College, which accounts for my letter being addressed to you.

Forgive me if I have committed any indiscretion.

Yours very sincerely,

SUSIE MCERTON.

1. A Prefect.

2. Name taken to influence the minds of the Students.
Note by the Principal.

3. Copy of letter from a Prefect of 1918.