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ers who pass through a college, animated with a university, may do university work, but are compelled to undergo a strictly professional training as well. In Victoria students at the training college are not permitted to attend university lectures until the trained teachers' certificate has been obtained, which is not granted until the student has given proof of being able to teach satisfactorily all the subjects in the school curriculum. In New South Wales the conditions are very similar. The change made in our own system at the beginning of the year introduce some of the best features of training colleges in the countries mentioned above, and make our institution a training college in reality, and not in name only. While some University studies have been retained, provision has been made for instruction in such highly important subjects as school hygiene, child study, manual training, physical culture, methods of education, as well as for systematic training in practical teaching.

—A Subject for the Taxpayers.—

Last year over £3,000 of public money was spent in maintenance allowance to students, in providing them with books, and in paying the travelling expenses of those who were obliged to travel by rail daily to the University. (Those students whose homes are not in or near Adelaide receive an allowance of £50 per annum, while others receive £30. Through the generosity of the University they are exempted from payment of lecture and examination fees, and all textbooks are provided by the department). In return for such an expenditure, it does not appear unreasonable that the country should expect its teachers to be effectively trained for their work in the schools, capable, that is, of dealing with every subject in the curriculum. The records of the past contain convincing proof that this just expectation has not been fully realized. Not only has practical teaching been very much neglected, not only have subjects which must be regarded as absolutely essential in a teacher's training been entirely omitted, but in many cases students, after devoting their two years almost entirely to University studies have left the Training College without having obtained a pass in a single subject. This year an attempt has been made to bring into operation in South Australia a system of training in line with those which exist in the most advanced countries of Europe and America. This change has been made in the interest of the children of South Australia, and the department regards it as of the utmost importance that the new scheme should be carried out in its entirety.

—Action by the Minister.—

The Minister of Education has given instructions that a copy of the following letter be sent to the parents and guardians of all those students who, during any part of last week, absented themselves from duty without permission:—"Sir or Madam—I regret to inform you that whose agreement with the Minister of Education upon his (her) entrance to the University Training College you signed in the capacity of guarantor, has been guilty of disobedience to instructions by absenting himself (herself) from duty without permission. Under clause 6 of the agreement the Minister may require the student to leave the Training College, and may also require the student and guarantor to repay all and sundry sums which have been paid to the student as allowance for board and lodging, in addition to the sum of thirty shillings (30/) for every month that the student has received the allowance for board and lodging. As, however, the Minister recognises that people who do not give themselves willingly and wholeheartedly to the work of teaching can never render satisfactory service, he is willing to release the student and yourself from your joint undertaking, upon the repayment of the sums actually paid to the student by the department since the signing of the agreement. The Minister wishes it to be distinctly understood that those students who wish to continue their course at the Training College will be permitted to do so, only upon a declaration being sent by them to the Principal of the Training College, that for the future they will faithfully obey the instructions issued to them. May I ask you to favour me with an early statement concerning your decision in this matter."

UNIVERSITY TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS.

To the Editor.

Sir—The Director, in his report to the Minister, gives two reasons for the dissatisfaction among the students. The second states that they are unwilling to devote their time to any work outside of degree work. This, I claim, is unjust to the students, as both their Supervisor (Inspector McBride), and Master of Method (Mr. Noack) have told them that they are quite satisfied with their progress in this practical work. Throughout the year the students have attended their respective schools willingly, even though they thought it a little hard. Again, in his list of examinations the Director did not mention the one in drawing that took three hours (from 2 till 5 on Wednesday). Instead, however, he said that the three departmental examinations had been postponed until after the vacation. This was not done until it was known that the University would be closed on Friday, May 20, when it would be impossible to hold their examination in hygiene. It is nonsense, and an attempt on the part of the Director to throw sand in the eyes of the public, for him to compare the students with outside teachers. The latter take their lectures in their own time, and work for them in their own time, whereas the work of the students is to study throughout the day. Concerning the holidays that Mr. Williams speaks of, it is rather significant that the Director has comparatively lately learnt that he is unable to give such a thing. The students might simply have asked for what previous students had received, but this was refused. This had nothing to do, I understand, with the protest entered by the students last week. As I am given to understand, the students who have attended the schools throughout the year for practical work, in the earlier part of which there were two complete days a week spent in practical teaching at the Observation School, have now, with no idea of rebellion or disobedience, simply asked for half a day previous to their examinations for the purpose of private study. To my mind, if the head of the department were sympathetic and tried to help his teachers, there would have been no strife as at present. In his paternal discourse last Tuesday I believe the Director spoke of the "contemptible, disloyal renegade who had allowed this correspondence to appear in the press." Might I ask, however, on whose shoulders the contemptible action now rests. The Director has waited until the students have separated, and are on their holidays, before he sends out any notice to them whatever. Now, however, he sends out to say that if any student will not bow down to him, obey, and serve him faithfully, he must retire. O ye disloyal students! Will ye not bow down and do obeisance to one who is so high and lofty, and who has caused discontent throughout the whole service? The press tells us that the Director is sending out to the parents a threat saying, that if the students wish to remain in the University, they must bow to the Director, and promise to do whatever he pleases, or they must retire, and pay back the munificent sum received as maintenance. I believe the Director is asking for an early reply. Parents, do not allow this injustice by binding your children to obey faithfully whatever the Director chooses to dictate. Students, show a little will, backbone, courage. Wait until you return to your studies, and see what your fellow-students will do. There is no doubt with regard to the action of the Director. He expects to hear from each student individually before they gather as a body, so that each one will apologize for daring to cross his will. What I say is students stick up for what is your rights, and just rights too. Wishing the students all success in their work, and at the same time hoping to see them do what they think right and just.

I am, Sir, &c., E. LAMBERT.
Adelaide, May 24.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING COLLEGE.

CASE FOR THE STUDENTS.

We have been requested to publish the following communication on behalf of University College students:—"In The Register of May 24 appeared an account of the Director's report to the Minister of Education concerning the recent trouble at the University Training College. In his report Mr. Williams stated that the cause of the disaffection was a twofold one, viz.:—(1) The refusal by the department to grant certain requests preferred by the students at different times since January; (2) the desire of the students to devote the whole of their time to University studies, and a consequent unwillingness to engage in any work which does not count towards a University degree.

—"The Real Cause."—

"Neither of these reasons is responsible for the action of the students. As to the first, the students maintain that neither is it the cause, nor has it any bearing on the case. In reference to former requests that have been made, both to the Principal of the College and to the Director, the students hold that all their former requests do not appear in the report. Speaking of the two that were mentioned, both these concessions were preferred before the University lectures began, when the students were not nearly so busy. Similar requests have been granted on former occasions. In answer to the second of the reported causes, far from 'unwillingness to engage in any work which does not count towards a University degree,' they realize the importance of the practical, and have willingly and wholeheartedly thrown themselves into their teaching up to the present. According to the students the fact that the supervisors of their teaching have frequently congratulated them on their earnestness and interest points to the fallacy of the Director's statement. The real cause of the recent trouble lies in the fact that the students asked for a small concession, which to them appeared just and reasonable—to be exempted from teaching on those days on which they were required to sit for examinations. This unanimous request was twice refused, and the students considered that they were morally justified in the action they took.

—Examinations.—

"Further, the Director gives a list of examinations, which is likewise incomplete. He states that on Wednesday there were no examinations, whereas the majority of the students were required to sit for a drawing examination, lasting three hours.

—The Agreements.—

"The Director writes that neither in agreements nor in regulations is there anything to justify the assertion of the students that they would be allowed to devote practically their whole time to University work when they entered the Training College. The students point out that as the agreement is very indefinite on this point, they had nothing to go upon except precedent, and the Director himself admits that 'in the past students have been permitted to devote practically their whole time to University studies.' When they signed the agreements, the intending students were in ignorance of the fact that fundamental changes were to be made in the Training College routine.

—Concessions Granted.—

"The Director's report is further inaccurate in his statement about concessions that were granted in view of the examination week. The students deny that 'three departmental examinations were postponed until after the vacation' for their convenience. The examination in hygiene was perforce deferred till later on account of the closing of the University a day earlier owing to the late King's funeral. The second departmental examination—in method—which was postponed on account of too short notice being given, is beside the question, as it occurred some weeks previous to the present trouble. Consequently the real fact is that there was only one departmental examination put off for the convenience of the students.

—"Students Misrepresented."—

"The students deplore the fact that they have been misrepresented to the Minister and to the public. They maintain that both in a statement of the real cause and in his details the Director's report is inaccurate. The report represents to the Minister that the students are unwilling 'to engage in any work which does not count towards a University degree.' In defence the young teachers affirm that, although they were unprepared for such great changes in their curriculum, they have earnestly and willingly entered upon their teaching duties from the beginning of the year."