

CITY OF LEEDS

TRAINING COLLEGE.

1. GENERAL NOTE.

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.

to the Staff difficulty at  
the Training College was the appearance in the press of letters  
to the Chairmen of the Education Committee from the Women Tutors  
who had resigned.

SECTION J.

Copies of the letters were received by the Editor of the  
"Yorkshire Post" from a person who distributes information among  
the Press.

PRESS PUBLICITY.

On the receipt of the letters by the Editor of the  
"Yorkshire Post" being brought to the notice of the Chairman of the

1. GENERAL NOTE.

Education Committee, the Chairman suggested that the letters  
should be

2. COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE, AND NOTES

FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, sent to the

Women Tutors in reply to the letters he had received from them.

3. PRESS CUTTINGS RELATING TO THE

RESIGNATIONS OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

AND WOMEN TUTORS.

15th AUGUST, 1916.

The Secretary's talk with the Editor and Housekeepers was  
in the nature of a private conference. By the reference to the  
talk in the letters sent to the Press and the consequent  
discussing by the Education Committee caused the general  
publication of the Notes of the talk.

S E C T I O N J.

1. GENERAL NOTE.

PRESS PUBLICITY.

The first publicity given to the Staff difficulty at the Training College was the appearance in the Press of letters to the Chairman of the Education Committee from the Women Tutors who had resigned.

Copies of the letters were received by the Editor of the "Yorkshire Post" from a person who distributes information among the Press.

On the receipt of these letters by the Editor of the "Yorkshire Post" being brought to the notice of the Chairman of the Education Committee, the Chairman suggested that the letters should not appear without his replies. He, therefore, dictated over the telephone the contents of the replies he had sent to the Women Tutors in reply to the letters he had received from them.

The Secretary's Talk with the Tutors and Housekeepers was in the nature of a private conference, but the references to the Talk in the letters sent to the Press and the consequent discussion by the Education Committee forced the general publication of the Notes of the Talk.

(copy)

SECTION 32.

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Board of Education,

Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE, AND NOTES FORWARDED

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,

5th JULY, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Education to state that their attention has been called to the circumstances which have appeared in the public press that the Vice-Ministerial and nine other members of the teaching staff of the Leeds City Training College have resigned their posts. The Board have

(Copy)  
(Copy)

Board of Education,

Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.,

29th June, 1916.

Leeds City Training College.

Sir,

With reference to Leeds City Training College.

is a summary, with supporting papers, of the circumstances which  
Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Education to state  
College.

that their attention has been called to the announcements which  
Without previously submitting any equivalent proposals of  
have appeared in the public press that the Vice-Principal and  
suggestion for modification in the working conditions in opera-  
nine other members of the teaching staff of the Leeds City  
tion at the College, for the consideration of the Governors  
Training College have resigned their posts. The Board have  
Miss Mercer, on the 17th June, resigned as Vice-Principal  
no information on the matter other than that which has appeared  
stating in her letter of resignation that in her opinion the  
in the press; but the Governors will readily understand that  
"constitution of the College is an unusual one". In view of  
the Board cannot but view the situation arising out of so large  
the facts that the Governors had given the most careful considera-  
a number of resignations with great concern, and they would be  
tion to the constitution of the College and that they were  
glad if the Governors would furnish them at an early date with  
strongly of the opinion that no change was desirable, they fell  
a statement of the circumstances in which the present position  
compelled to accept the resignation, though with regret. This  
has arisen.

decision was confirmed by the Full Education Committee and by  
I am, Sir,  
the City Council.

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.

Hardy, Clapham, Walford, Stephens, Matthias, and Edmonds,  
to James Graham, Esq., June by those of Misses Birdsall and Owan,  
Education Offices,  
and on the Calverley Street,  
LEEDS.

Matthias and Stephens, gave no reason for their resignation;  
Misses Birdsall, Walford, Clapham and Hardy, stated that they  
were "unable to uphold the ideals for the conduct of the College

The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.

(Copy) as laid down by the Secretary of Education Offices, talk with the Residential Staff on 13th June. Miss L. E. E. D. S., as her reason for resignation, a wish to try and 5th July, 1916. a rather different character than that I am now doing in the Training College - and my feeling that I should take this step for the Autumn, partly because it does not seem wise to defer it longer if it is to be made, and partly because the new conditions at the College.

Sir,  
With reference to the Board's letter of 29th June, attached is a summary, with supporting papers, of the circumstances which have led to the present position at the Leeds City Training College.

Without previously submitting any complaint, grievance, or suggestion for modification in the working conditions in operation at the College, for the consideration of the Governors, Miss Mercier, on the 17th May, resigned her post as Vice-Principal, stating in her letter of resignation that, in her opinion, the "constitution of the College is on unsound lines". In view of the facts that the Governors had given the most careful consideration to the constitution of the College and that they were strongly of the opinion that no change was desirable, they felt compelled to accept the resignation, though with regret. This decision was confirmed by the full Education Committee and by the City Council.

On the 14th June, resignations were forwarded by Misses Hardy, Clapham, Walford, Stephens, Matthias, and Edmonds, followed on the 15th June by those of Misses Birdsell and Owen, and on the 16th June, by that of Miss Walker. Misses Edmonds, Matthias and Stephens, gave no reason for their resignation; Misses Birdsell, Walford, Clapham and Hardy, stated that they were "unable to uphold the ideals for the conduct of the College

(Signed) WILLIAM HENRY CLARKE,  
The Secretary,  
Board of Education,  
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.

as laid down by the Secretary for Education at a talk with the Residential Staff on 13th June. Miss Owen gave as her reason for resignation, a wish to try and secure work of a rather different character than that I am now doing in the Training College - and my feeling that I should take this step for the Autumn, partly because it does not seem wise to defer it longer if it is to be made, and partly because the new conditions at the College, involved in the Vice-Principal's resignation, make the present moment seem the right one for such a change"; Miss Walker said "I cannot feel confident that I can carry out the organisation and development of the training of upper-school teachers satisfactorily as the College will be constituted next term."

Previous to the receipt of the resignations, no complaint or grievance had been forwarded to the Governors; and as the reasons given for the resignations were so vague, the Chairman of the Education Committee asked the resigning members of the Staff to formulate a definite and detailed statement as to any cause of complaint they had. No such statement has been received except from Miss Owen. The resignations, after careful consideration were accepted by the Governors on the 21st June, and confirmed by the full Education Committee on 28th June.

The Governors have given the most careful consideration to this matter, and they are convinced that, in the circumstances, the acceptance of the resignations was in the best interests of the College; and the Board may rest assured that the Governors will ensure that the efficiency of the College, in all departments of its work, is maintained.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM HENRY CLARKE.

Chairman of the Education Committee, and Chairman of the Staffing and General Purposes Sub-Committee.

(Signed) FRED KINDER,

Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, and Chairman of the Higher Education and Training College Sub-Committee.

8. 31st June: Miss Walford and Miss Clapham, two members of the CITY OF LEEDS TRAINING COLLEGE.

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objection to the two letters of the 17th June (a) that signed by the seven members of the staff, and (b) that signed by the seven members of the staff, and (c) that signed by the seven members of the staff.

RESIGNATION OF STAFF.

SUMMARY of circumstances which have led to the present position.

1. 17th May; Resignation of Miss Mercier, the Vice-Principal. The resignation was accepted, with regret, on the 23rd May. The acceptance of the resignation was confirmed by the full Education Committee on the 31st May, and by the City Council on the 7th June.

(Copy of letter of resignation is attached).

2. 13th June; The Secretary for Education met the Residential Staff of the Training College and spoke to them regarding Economy and Conduct in the Halls of Residence.

(Copy of full notes of the "Talk" is attached).

3. 14th June; Resignations of Misses Hardy, Clapham, Walford, Stephens, Matthias, and Edmonds.

(Copies of letters of resignation are attached).

4. 15th June; Resignations of Miss Birdsall and Miss Owen.

(Copies of letters of resignation are attached).

5. 16th June; Resignation of Miss Walker.

(Copy of letter of resignation is attached).

6. 17th June; Letters received by the Chairman of the Education Committee:

(Press cutting is attached).

(a) from seven members of the staff who had resigned, and

(b) from Miss Owen.

(Copies of the letters are attached).

7. 20th June; The Chairman replied to the letters of the 17th June, asking for a more definite and detailed statement.

Copies of the Chairman's replies are attached:

(a) to the seven members of the Staff, and

(b) to Miss Owen.

14. 25th June; Letters (marked "Private") were received by the Chairman of the Education Committee:

1.  
(a) from Miss Owen,

(b) from the seven members of the Staff,

in reply to the Chairman's letters of the 20th June.

(Copies of letters are attached).

8. 21st June: Miss Walford and Miss Clapham, two members of the Staff who had resigned, interviewed the Chairman of the Education Committee to ask whether he had any objection to the two letters of the 17th June (a) that signed by the seven members of the staff, and (b) that signed by Miss Owen, being sent by them to the Members of the Education Committee. The Chairman informed them that this was a matter within their own discretion. The Chairman took advantage of their visit to ask them to state explicitly wherein lay their objection to the policy and ideals of the Governors as expressed by the Secretary for Education. To this they replied that they would rather consult their colleagues.  
(Press cutting is attached).

9. 21st June: The resignations of the nine members of the Staff were accepted by the Governors.  
17. 27th June: The Chairman's letter of the 26th June.

10. 22nd June: The letters of the 17th June to the Chairman, signed by seven members of the Staff and that of Miss Owen, were sent to the Press, without copies of the Chairman's replies.  
18. 28th June: The Education Committee confirmed the acceptance of the nine resignations.

The "Yorkshire Post" telephoned the Chairman, who felt that the letters, if published, should not appear without his replies. He, therefore, dictated over the telephone, the replies he had sent, with the consequence that the Chairman's replies appeared in the "Yorkshire Post", with the letters from the Staff, whereas in the other papers, only the letters from the Staff appeared.

(Press cuttings are attached).

11. 23rd June: A paragraph appeared in the "Yorkshire Post" to the effect that an opportunity had been given to Miss Mercier by the "Yorkshire Post" to place her side of the question before the public, but she said that she desired to say nothing at present.

(Press cutting is attached).

12. 24th June: A letter from Miss Mercier appeared in the Press in which she said that she had no case to put before the public.

(Press cutting is attached).

13. 24th June: A letter signed by seven of the members who had resigned, appeared in the Press, in which they stated: "We have no grievance to bring forward, the point at issue is one of educational principle".

(Press cutting is attached).

14. 25th June: Letters (marked "Private") were received by the Chairman of the Education Committee:

- (a) from Miss Owen,
- (b) from the seven members of the Staff,

in reply to the Chairman's letters of the 20th June.

(Copies of letters are attached).



LEEDS

COLLEGE.

15. 26th June: The Chairman of the Education Committee wrote to (a) Miss Owen, and (b) Miss Birdsall, regarding the letters he had received on the 25th June.

INVESTIGATION (Copies of letters are attached).

16. 26th June: Letter from an ex-resident tutor, Mrs. Dora Walford Taylor, appeared in the Press. She left the College in August, 1915, to be married.

(Press cutting is attached).

17. 27th June: Miss Owen replied to the Chairman's letter of the 26th June.

(Copy of letter is attached).

SECTION 3.

18. 28th June: The full Education Committee confirmed the acceptance of the nine resignations.

(Press cuttings are attached).

19. 5th July: The City Council confirm the acceptance of the resignations.

1. GENERAL NOTE.

2. COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE, AND NOTES FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

3. PRESS CUTTINGS RELATING TO THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL AND WOMEN TUTORS.

15th AUGUST, 1916.