

# A GREAT CLEARING HOUSE FOR COLLEGES

Nothing in the World Like the General Education Board— It Dispenses Aid Where It Will Do the Most Good— Interesting Information About Misplaced Colleges.



DR. WALLACE BUTTRICK, Secretary of the Board.



ROBERT C. OGDEN, Chairman of the Board.

New York, April 5. A MAN with side whiskers turned the knob of the office door of a wealthy downtown business man. He had been invited to enter on the strength of a letter of introduction from a well-known man. The visitor was urged to take a seat. As he did so he handed the kindly featured business man his card. It indicated that he was the president of — college, one of the 455 colleges in the United States. The college was one whose name would be as unfamiliar to 79,950,000 of the 80,000,000 people of the United States as it was to the business man. It was situated in a western state.

"I wish to take only two or three minutes of your valuable time," said the visitor. "It is in behalf of my college that I want to talk to you. We are greatly in need of a gymnasium and a dormitory. Unfortunately, at least from the financial point of view, we have hastened to interpolate, suddenly recalling that what was about to say required some modifications, 'we are situated in an agricultural region where we are able to be of great service in giving higher education to the sons and daughters of farmers, but cannot secure sufficient financial support to enable us to take advantage of all the opportunities for service which are offered.' He went on telling in detail of the valuable work which could be accomplished if the college only had an endowment and additional funds for the greatly needed buildings. The business man, who was of philanthropic disposition and thoroughly believed in higher education for every one, was favorably impressed and said he would consider the appeal. The visitor thanked him for his consideration and withdrew.

"I wonder what sort of institution that is, and what it is accomplishing," said the business man to himself as he leaning around in his apartment, discussing the situation. It was suggested that an organization be formed to do for education what a charity organization society does for miscellaneous beneficence. Out of that gathering grew the general education board, of which Robert C. Ogden is the chairman and the office of which is in this city.

**How It Was Founded.**

Five years ago a group of well-known northern men interested in southern educational problems, who were attending a conference on the subject in a southern city, sat in a hotel apartment, discussing the situation. It was suggested that an organization be formed to do for education what a charity organization society does for miscellaneous beneficence. Out of that gathering grew the general education board, of which Robert C. Ogden is the chairman and the office of which is in this city.

John D. Rockefeller gave to the board an annuity of \$100,000 to continue for ten years, and last fall also provided a permanent fund of \$10,000,000 for the development of higher education throughout the United States. Other funds have also been given to the board. Thus Dr. Wallace Buttrick, one of the members of the executive board, has connection with the Slater fund for the assistance of colored schools, which now amounts to \$1,800,000 and of which Dr. Buttrick is general agent. As he is also the special representative of the special committee in charge of the Peabody education fund, the board has an influence in the distribution of this great sum.

**Nothing Else Like It.**

There is no other organization like the general education board in the world. Having about \$500,000 at its disposal every year, it gives money to colleges which show by their work that they are in a position to make good use of it and also a disposition to help carry out Mr. Rockefeller's object of developing a consistent national system of colleges. With the idea of carrying out Mr. Rockefeller's desires the board has collected a mass of information about every institution for higher learning in the United States. One in the dilemma of the business man mentioned above may secure without charge from the general education board definite information regarding any college appealing for assistance. Many times endowments given to colleges, owing to lack of good judgment, are poorly invested, and, instead of maintaining their value and their income, decrease in their worth. The board will, if desired, advise in regard to the investment of college endowments. Sometimes when the income does not cover the expenses the principal of the endowment is drawn upon to cover the deficiency. The board will take charge of funds intended for general or specific purposes administering them for the giver. It may in course of time thru its opportunities and power become a sort of balance wheel on the higher education of the country. It aims to be of benefit to education in general and to give assistance to both colleges and givers.

Stored away in the archives of the board, at 54 William street, are documents which give an idea of the kind of work being done by each one of the 455 institutions in the country calling themselves colleges and giving degrees. The financial resources of these institutions are also in its files. It has catalogues, reports from state superintendents of education, representatives of the board who have personally visited the

colleges and from the faculties of the institutions themselves.

Every document is filed away and cataloged so that it can be turned to in an instant. In a case of shallow drawers are maps of every state, with the location of each college marked with a brass thumbtack. Two little pieces of colored paper are stuck on the top of each tack. They indicate by their color the number of students enrolled and the endowment of the institution, while a letter on one piece shows to what denomination the college belongs if it is a denominational school, and a number on the other shows which card in the envelopes in the corner of the drawer gives further information about it.

**Colleges Misplaced.**

These records show all sorts of things about higher education in the United States. Like the hospitals of New York city, colleges have been uselessly multiplied and located almost without regard to any consistent system. In one town in a southern state there are two Methodist colleges. One is assisted by the northern branch of the Methodist church, the other by the southern branch. Both, of course, are drawing pupils from the same territory. There is need for only one.

In South Dakota, a state having a population less than half that of Connecticut, there are eight colleges, all of which are down in the southeast corner of the large state and at one side of the center of population. A glance at the map of Missouri shows a double row of twenty-eight thumb tacks inclosing the Missouri river like strings of educational buoys marking a course toward the haven of a higher conception of citizenship. They extend entirely across the state. There are practically none in any other part.

A third western state having a population of a little more than twice that of Connecticut has twenty-eight institutions from which a person could receive a degree. Of these seven are Methodist, five Presbyterian, two Baptist, two Congregational, two Disciples, one Lutheran, one Episcopalian, one Friends and two nonsectarian. Most of these, as is usually the case in denominational colleges, have deficits from year to year. In another state there are eleven incorporated schools and colleges of one denomination, some of which are constantly in need of outside aid.

**Colleges in Name Only.**

While the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Science are given by the colleges, the work which secures them in a large number of institutions is only a little beyond that done in a good high school, and not infrequently not even equal to that standard. Small colleges have prevented the establishment of high schools in many places. They are simply doing the work of a public high school and constantly in need of assistance. In one New England town is a denominational academy seeking support from the state which is nothing more than a high school in rank. Its presence in the town prevents the establishment of a public secondary school.

According to one well known southern educator, a president of a state university, there are one hundred so-called colleges in the south and west which ought to be classified as academies and do preparatory work.

The struggle that some of these colleges have to keep on their feet because of lack of funds and students is indicated by the fact revealed to the general education board that last year more colleges died than were organized. The condition which confronts some of them is illustrated in the case of a Methodist college in one of the southern states. It has a splendid building, costing about \$75,000, dormitories with accommodations for several hundred students and an endowment of about \$30,000. It has been in existence about half a century, but today has few students. As a college it is considered a failure. Some think it ought to be a junior college or secondary school preparing for admission to some strong college. The president of the university of the state in which it is situated considers that in itself it is an educational blunder. But on top of this fact it is proposed, not to reduce the school to the rank of an academy, but to remove it to another part of the state where it is thought it may thrive better. All it wishes in order to make the change is an additional \$30,000, \$40,000. The Baptist denomination is planning to start another college in the same state. Many colleges have moved from the original locations did not prove to be favorable after they had been opened. This, in itself, represents a waste of funds and energy. As in the case of the hospitals of New York city, all that is needed in order to secure efficiency without waste in the national system of education is a central body which can see the whole field and advise as to where colleges can be placed to advantage.

Some colleges have no classification by courses whatsoever. In response to inquiries as to their method of preparation for the degrees which are offered, they reply with the indefinite word,

"liberty." One school intended for the children of the leading southern families illustrates a condition that has been found to exist in some so-called colleges. This one has property valued at \$450,000. It receives an income from its endowment of \$10,400 and from tuition of \$1,050. Its catalog makes a fine window display by offering many courses which are not provided for in the teaching staff at all, and which no one takes. Large liberty is given for students to take such subjects as they choose, which in this case means a low standard. The enrollment when the report of the school was received was fifty-nine. Of this number thirteen were taking only a partial course, and there were only five in the freshman class working for the degree of A. B.

It is thru its control of a large purse and its influence that the general education board hopes to be able to do something toward creating an harmonious and effective system of co-operating colleges out of the uneconomic chaos which now exists in this country.

**Many Ask Assistance.**

The files of the board are teeming with applications for assistance. As it is an organization for the distribution of funds, every application is filed away for consideration at the proper time. Up to the present moment the applications, if granted, would consume the millions of dollars of the principal as well as the income. One man came to the office of the board with a proposition to set aside a million dollars a year for the support of colored evangelists in the south. There were to be a thousand of these, each receiving \$1,000. The person who made the suggestion was willing to join the force of those who should go through the southland converting the negroes. He proved to his own satisfaction that by this method the negro problem could be solved. Some of the applications simply say they desire "aid," "assistance," "a loan," while others specify, perhaps, "\$400,000 for endowment and \$250,000 for buildings," or "a gymnasium, a science hall, laboratories and dormitories." The board has given away all of its available funds up to the present time. Until its studies of the educational facilities and systems of the various states and its inquiries into the work of the various colleges of the country were completed it was not in a position to outline the method which would be adopted in order to secure the best distribution of funds. Until now the gifts have been somewhat experimental in their character. Now that the fund of information has been secured, they will be distributed in such a way as to accomplish the most good. Colleges which show strength and are well adapted to become part of a national system will be favored in receiving aid. By giving funds to applicants with the understanding that certain things are done to strengthen and adapt them to work in harmony with other colleges in the neighborhood it will accomplish much in the line it has marked out.

**How the Board Works.**

The way in which it will solve some problems is illustrated in a peculiar case in one of the southern states which has come to the attention of the board. A certain denominational college in that state has appealed for aid. This college is said to be the first school established west of the Alleghenies. It was chartered as an academy in 1783 and as a college in 1795. The catalog of the college carefully specifies that in the combined preparatory and collegiate schools there are 100 students. The total enrollment is given as 129.

Less than fifteen miles away is another college of the same denomination. It has a total of 232 students, of whom forty-five are in the collegiate department. The latter institution was founded in 1818 by the president of the older college in order to provide a college presidency for his older son. He had intended this son to succeed him in the original college, but those in charge of its affairs decreed that his younger son should occupy that position. Determined that the older son should not be left out in this fashion, he founded the second institution.

A little more than a hundred miles further along the railroad is a third college of the same denomination as the others, and, with them, receiving aid from the denominational board. This one has an enrollment of 602 students, with 125 in the collegiate department. It has an endowment of \$222,364, and owns other property valued at \$100,000. While it has not been decided what will be done in the case, the theoretical solution of the problem would be to signify a willingness to aid the small colleges if they would join forces, establish themselves in a good locality and become a junior college doing freshman and sophomore work and sending collegiate students to the larger and better equipped college for the junior and senior years.

The unifying policy of the board will be that of creating among the people a desire for education and a sense of financial responsibility for it. It will not give funds in aid of the establishment of high schools or elementary schools, believing that the people ought to support these themselves by taxation. With the idea of promoting high schools, however, the board is planning to assist in the support of a special department in state universities, to be called the department of secondary education. The professor in charge will go about the state in which he is placed studying its conditions, suggesting where high schools ought to be situated and stimulating the people to start them.

Since this address was delivered Tennessee has been advancing rapidly in the improvement of its high schools.

The board believes that the best way to promote elementary education, especially in the southern rural regions where the distance between houses are great and the land is productive of only small incomes, is to help the people to increase their financial resources. With this in mind, the board is co-operating with the department of agriculture to show the occupants of cheap land how to make it more productive by intensive methods. The schools will come, it is believed, when the money is available and a desire for them is created among the people.

The members of the general education board are Robert C. Ogden, chairman; George Foster Peabody, treasurer; Dr. Wallace Buttrick and Starr J. Murphy, secretaries, and executive officers, Frederick T. Gates, Daniel C. Gilman, Morris K. Jesup, Walter H. Page, J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., Albert Shaw, Hugh H. Hanna and E. Benjamin Andrews.

The net increase of earnings of the railroads in February, largest ever known.

# MILWAUKEE TRADERS LOOK TO MINNEAPOLIS

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE CAUSES BREACH.

President Ellsworth of Cream City Chamber of Commerce Visits Here "On Business" — Believes Closer Relations May Be Arranged to Mutual Benefit of Both Exchanges.

B. G. Ellsworth, president of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, is in the city. Mr. Ellsworth, who is a member of a prominent grain firm, is presumably here on business, but his presence at a time when the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago Board of Trade are at war, is inferred to mean something more.

A number of prominent Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce men were in conference with Mr. Ellsworth late yesterday, and it is believed plans were perfected that will mean closer relationship between Minneapolis and Milwaukee to their mutual benefit, and the disadvantage of Chicago as a grain market.

**Chicago Gun Kicks.**

Having passed the rule making the penalty expiring for any member of the Chicago board who trades in privileges in Milwaukee, the directors of the Chicago board assumed at first that they had killed the Wisconsin city, and that the grain business formerly transacted there would naturally revert to Chicago. But Milwaukee is out to fight for her rights and if Chicago cuts her out will go head and do business independently. New connections will be necessitated.

Mr. Ellsworth, when seen last night, would not admit that his presence here had anything to do with perfecting closer relationship between Minneapolis and Milwaukee, but was open about expressing his personal feelings in the matter and the general sentiment in his home market.

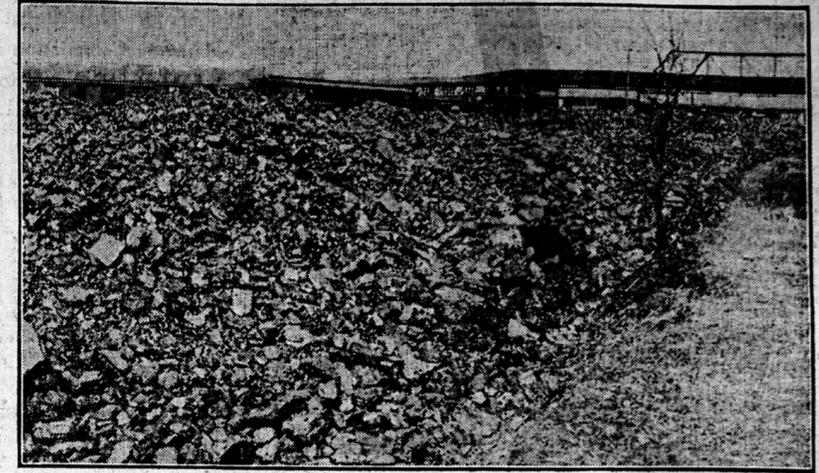
**Sore Over Treatment.**

"We feel," he said, "that we have been unjustly treated and that the cordial relationship formerly existing between our market and Chicago cannot easily be renewed. Some members of the Milwaukee board are thinking of taking up other connections and naturally Minneapolis presents itself. You have a live market here. I do not think any proposition to make Minneapolis grain receipts deliverable on contract in Milwaukee would meet with the approval of your membership, but the two markets could come in much closer relationship, to their mutual advantage, without such a measure.

"There is a great misconception about Milwaukee. Because we have so long been overshadowed by Chicago there has grown an outside impression that we must necessarily be secondary or subservient to that market. This is wholly wrong. Speculatively Chicago may have some advantages, but she may lose them if her present policy of antagonism to all competition is not moderated.

"As a cash market we do a big business.

# Coal Stored in Minneapolis, as Safeguard Against Possible Shortage from the Strike



MINNEAPOLIS & ST. LOUIS RAILROAD COAL HEAP OF 25,000 TONS, ON THE BRYN MAWR MARSH, 1,000 FEET LONG AND AS WIDE AS CAN BE THROWN FROM THE CARS.



TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY'S RESERVE COAL SUPPLY OF THOUSANDS OF TONS AT ST. LOUIS PARK.

and, the our flour mills relative to the Minneapolis mills are small, really we have a milling capacity that by itself is large and represents much invested capital.

"Minneapolis is becoming a greater primary market for barley and oats, and there should be closer business relationship between the two cities. It would not be surprising if some Milwaukee men were to apply for admission to the Minneapolis chamber before long, additional to those who are already members of your body."

## Next Sunday's Magazine

Will Contain, Among Many Other Features

# CARDINAL GIBBONS' An Easter Salutation

THE Magazine Section for next (Easter) Sunday presents a list of exceedingly strong contributions. The cover design is not to be ignored in the make-up. As a matter of fact, it has been recognized for some time that our Magazine Section has been striking a distinctly new note on its cover page. There has been a tendency in such work to lose both the strength and beauty of broad and simple effects through over attention to useless details. Our cover designs as they appear from week to week will not only be well worth preserving as attractive pictures in themselves, but are interesting and instructive in showing the modern application of old methods.

**In An Easter Salutation Cardinal Gibbons holds out to the world with all the force of his strong and lovable nature a message of greeting and hope. In it there is an irresistible human appeal which no individual creed can ignore. In these days of easy conscience it is well that we have such men as Cardinal Gibbons to remind us of high ideals and to point out great truths with unerring logic and conviction. Unbeliefs, the easy habit of destructive attitudes rather than constructive lives, are the better guarded against in the intimacy of such minds.**

**The Return of No. 6254, by Edith Sessions Tupper.** An intensely realistic story. The hero's suggestive designation, "No. 6254," holds out a straw concerning certain features of the tale. The author shows an intimate knowledge of the subject, and such a subject requires accurate knowledge as well as art.

**The Voice of Birds, by C. William Beebe, Curator of Ornithology in the New York Zoological Society.** Mr. Beebe writes most entertainingly of the marvelous range of bird voices, describing species from the Mexican Hawk, with its hair-lifting laugh, to the Weaver-Bird, with its musical notes.

**Sir Nigel, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.** is concluded in this issue. Those who have followed the romantic adventures of this young Englishman will doubtless feel keen regret at parting with the chivalrous hero of England's early troublous days. It does not need our assurance, however, that the interest keeps up till the final ending; but we will not venture any hint here that will lessen the interest of what is still to come.

**Honor Among Women, by Bliss Carman.** Mr. Carman has his own point of view on this delicate subject, and as he has outlined it in this very entertaining paper it will be found well worth pondering.

**Haynes and the Sky-Scraper, by George William Douglas.** That there may be interesting material in a sky-scraper building other than that of the mere construction this story abundantly proves. Incidentally, there is some very lively action in the working out.

## The Sunday Journal's Magazine

NEXT SUNDAY