

St Charles McKee 18/97

Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees of Lindenwood College:-

It is but due the work and interests of the institution for which you are sponsors, and whose work and welfare, I as President, hold in trust at your hands, that some representation should be made of its present condition and needs, which I regret to say cannot be as favorable as any of us could wish. In an earnest and anxious study into conditions and causes for whatever showing there might be, I have availed myself of such information and statistics as I could gather from the history of preceeding years.

I have gleaned from reports on file which seem to be quite authentic, that for 13 years from 1880, the entire income has footed up something over \$290,000 but the outlay exceeded that amount by something over \$4000. Seven years show a gain over outlay, and six years show a deficiency. But in that period large improvements were made ~~in that period~~ to the property. What proportion of the funds had been secured from outside sources does not appear from any data at hand.

The Board and new administration found themselves in arrears something over \$6000, including an obligation of \$2000, to Miss Ellen McKee. Toward this deficiency I find that direct contributions of \$1200, were made by members of the Board. In addition \$800 of the Watson Fund in the hands of the Treasurer were set aside as a loan on which interest was to be paid as earnings of that fund, until the principal should be returned. This amount was used to pay accrued interest on a note held by Mrs. Jacobs against the Board, amounting to \$195, and the balance placed in the hands of the incoming President to pay other outstanding obligations.

An encouraging beginning had been made by the Board to pay off all floating indebtedness, but the reverse financial conditions that broke upon the country at the immediate outset of the new administration checked all hope that the desirable aim could be accomplished.

This condition of things made it necessary for the Board to lay the indebtedness upon the current income of the institution. The interest from the Ridgely fund was appropriated as far as it would go toward paying interest on the Jacobs loan and keeping up the insurance on the property.

After \$500, had been paid to Miss McKee, on her loan of \$2000, she generously released the Board from the balance. The remaining indebtedness was duly paid out of the current income, but under a pressure of times that grew harder, and a well nigh empty treasury was left after discharging all the obligations of carrying on the work of the school through the first two years of the present administration. In the meantime necessary repairs and additions were made to the buildings and grounds, and to the facilities of school work. Two new pianos were bought and paid for, and every teacher and employee, has closed each year with salary and wages fully paid. Two great necessities were so pressingly felt that after full consideration, it was decided by the Board to light the building with gas, and thoroughly paint it. This was done at a cost of about \$1000, and some \$300, paid. The Board authorized a loan of \$700, the interest of which was to be paid out of the College income, in the hope that the Principal could be paid from the same source in the near future. That note is still carried with the interest promptly paid. The halls of the building, the bath rooms and most of the rooms have been placed in excellent repair, and considerable new furniture has been purchased, for which funds have been procured from outside sources. A small deficit was left from last year, which this year will largely increase, so that there is present danger of having as much to provide for above receipts, as was assumed at the beginning of the present administration. Some of the causes are not difficult to find, in the great depression that has rested upon the business interests of the country, and in the disposition of many institutions to lower their terms, thus creating a competition which we could not meet in many cases. In some instances where it has seemed wise to supplement, for this year the recommendation has been made to draw from the Watson Fund in small amounts to aid a larger number, rather than expend larger amounts on a few.

Thirty one boarders (31) were enrolled the first term, which number has been increased to thirty nine the second, a larger increase in the middle of the year than usual. An encourage feature of the year's work has been a larger patronage from St. Charles than usual twenty four (24) in all, and a uniform commendation of the work

of the school by our patrons. The financial exhibit is the one that it has appeared possible has occasioned the most serious consideration, and wherever expenses ~~expenses~~ have been curtailed.

In the musical department there is pressing need for some new equipment in the addition of new pianos. Except the two new ones purchased two years ago, all have been in constant use for a long time

One is specially needed for concert and chapel purposes, and ought to be as good an instrument as can be secured, as the musical work of the department is largely represented on it.

An important position, that of Lady Principal must be filled, owing to ~~##~~ the acceptance by Mrs. McMillan of the position of Principal of Washington Seminary. I can only say that one of the chief considerations in accepting the work of President at your hands, was the fact that that department was filled by a lady of Mrs. McMillans' attainments and experience, re-enforced with a tried corps of teachers.

The position requires experience and special qualifications for the oversight and guidance of young ladies in manners and lady-like qualities as well as scholarly attainments, and merits the most serious consideration of the Board.

Some modification has been suggested in the management of the music department, which is respectfully submitted ^{-on} for the consideration of the Board.

Possibly some wise adjustment might be made in other directions without, impairing the efficiency of the school which ought to be maintained under any view of the situation. To this end the suggestion is made that the Board through a Committee of its members give careful consideration to the interests and work involved.

The healthfulness of the school has been quite gratifying, and excellent work in the main has been done in the various departments.

These facts and conditions are submitted to you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. Knight.
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