

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
THE HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE
155 WEST 65TH STREET

J. J. SHEPARD, PRINCIPAL

ansd 2/24/10

NEW YORK, Feb. 21, 1910.

ret to Mr

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
of American Magazine,
341 Fifth Ave. City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I have your letter of the 14th inst. in which you ask me to give you in confidence the real facts about the opposition to Miss Granger's appointment. I have taken time to make some investigation to assure myself that I had the facts correctly in mind.

It seems that there were three separate sources of opposition, one being the friends of other women candidates, the second, an organization known as the Committee of One Hundred for the Improvement of School Conditions, and the third, the Interborough Association of Women Teachers.

As to the first there were probably a half a dozen women candidates aside from Miss Granger who commanded considerable support and were apparently not averse to having their friends active in their behalf even after Miss Granger had been nominated by the Board of Superintendents. The extent of this activity is, of course, difficult to measure.

The Committee of One Hundred, I am reliably informed, is an organization with strong woman suffrage leanings which came into being expressly to forward the interests of women teachers in the matter of appointments to higher places in the system. I have been told that they were particularly anxious

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to assist the candidacy of Miss Katherine Blake, Principal of P.S. 6, Manhattan. Miss Blake's mother, Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, is, as you know, a strong advocate of woman suffrage. The Committee of One Hundred took a very active part in the opposition to Miss Granger, several communications being sent by them to members of the Board of Education. You have doubtless seen the reply of General Wingate to one of these communications. It was quoted in part in an editorial in the Outlook for Feb. 12th.

It is generally believed that the most active opposition came from the Interborough Association of Women Teachers. This organization disclaimed any action as an organization but I am reliably informed that individual leaders in the organization worked very hard to prevent the election of Miss Granger. Miss Strachan, President of the association, published a letter in which she intimated that the election of Miss Granger would be considered as a rebuke to her association. Numerous letters appeared in the school columns of the "Globe" after Miss Granger's nomination and before her election. The opposition to Miss Granger was based upon her unwillingness to identify herself with the Equal Pay movement. She has held aloof from the agitation, taking part on neither side but her views are well known. She doesn't believe that equal pay is advisable or justifiable if the best interests of the schools are regarded.

Miss Granger is, to my mind one of the finest types of women we have in the public school system. She is

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absolutely devoted to her work, is a natural leader and the years of service in the schools have not taken from her any of the refinement which one likes to see in a woman teacher. She did not seek the position, modestly saying that she was not sure that she was the one best fitted for it. I have known Miss Granger for ten years and in all that time I have heard nothing but most enthusiastic commendation of her work and influence in the schools. Indeed not even her strongest opponents could well maintain that she did not merit the appointment. I am sending you under another cover a statement about her which appeared in the columns of "School", a paper devoted to school interests in New York City.

If there is any further information which you desire I will be glad to try to get it for you.

Very cordially yours,

