

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PA.

April 6, 1932

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM PEARSON TOLLEY

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I greatly appreciate your letter concerning Miss Schafheitlin and feel apologetic for not having gotten in touch with you while I was in New York last week. I was there for two days interviewing prospective Deans of Women and saw Mr. Sturtevant and Mr. Beazell for a few minutes. The next time I am in New York I shall most certainly get in touch with you.

The situation with respect to Miss Schafheitlin has not changed since my last letter to you. I have, however, taken the pains to interview a number of other students including some of those that Miss Schafheitlin thought would be thoroughly loyal to her. All of the students expressed sympathy for Miss Schafheitlin, but repeated the same criticisms I had heard before. Only one member of our student body has written a letter in behalf of Miss Schafheitlin and I had a long talk with him immediately after I received his letter. He told me that he had been antagonized by Miss Schafheitlin in the classroom, but that despite that fact he thought she was a good teacher. He said, however, that the second year he studied under Dr. Spann and expressed his opinion that Dr. Spann was a very much more inspiring teacher. He said that if it was a question between Dr. Spann or Professor Schafheitlin he would strongly advise keeping Dr. Spann and letting Professor Schafheitlin go. He also said that while he would be genuinely sorry to see Miss Schafheitlin leave he questioned the wisdom of promising her a permanent position here. He did not see any hope of our having a strong department of German at Allegheny without a new person in charge of the department.

Two or three of the recent graduates of the college have written in Miss Schafheitlin's behalf and I have asked those who are near Meadville to come to see me. I do not expect, however, any new evidence of importance.

Miss Schafheitlin honestly believes that there is a conspiracy both on the part of certain faculty people and on the part of certain fraternities against her, but so far as I can find out there is no conspiracy of any sort. She thinks that any criticism of her teaching comes from the lazy and indifferent students, but this is only partially true. I think some of the poorer students are more critical than the others, but the fact is that the student body is just about unanimous concerning her classroom work.

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I thought for a time that the boys were a good deal more critical than the girls, but after interviewing some of the women students decided that she was equally unpopular with our women students.

Miss Schafheitlin has some fine qualities and I feel extremely sorry for her. It would, however, be very unwise to promise her a permanent position and I think it would be equally unwise to keep her on a limited contract and let Dr. Spann go. On the other hand, I should be very glad to see the college take care of her annuity payments for next year if she is not able to secure another position. I have not promised her this, but I should be glad to recommend it at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees.

You must not feel too badly if the New York group is not able to raise its quota of the current expense fund. It is next to impossible to raise any money at this time and I suspect that if we are to avoid a deficit in our operating expenses, we shall have to get most of the money from two or three people. The outlook for next fall is rather encouraging, though we shall need to make some special provision for scholarships and loan funds if we are to keep our present students in college. Dr. Ross and his faculty committee on prospective students have prepared some new publicity and one of our recent graduates is now giving his full time to the interviewing of prospective students.

The bond issue authorized by the Trustees at the January meeting is not quite as successful as I had hoped it would be, but the banks have sold approximately \$27,000 worth of bonds. If there should be a steady demand for bonds during the late spring and early summer our credit problem will be largely solved, at least for the time being.

Mrs. Tolley joins me in warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Tolley

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
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