

1932-35

COMMONWEALTH FUND

WORKERS

✓GENERAL

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRYCE, MAURICE H. L.

SMITHIES, FRANK

REED, EDWARD B.

WYLIE, SHAUN

Foundations

Academic Personnel

Academic Standards

Relations W.C.A.I.

Biographical

Excerpts from correspondence between Reed and Flexner, File IV-4

See COMMONWEALTH FUND - Foundations

✓ GRADUATE SCHOOL

Academic Standards

McCLUNG, C. E.

Biography

FLEXNER, A.

Prof. McClung (Zoological Laboratory, U. of Pa.) compliments Flexner on Universities and tells of a U. of Pa. meeting called 6 years ago to consider position of American Universities in relation to the research program of the country. Forty representatives of educational and research institutions, & commercial laboratories, participated. Nothing accomplished but a survey of Yale, Cornell, Stanford, and Penna. decided upon which also did not result successfully. Shapley conducted the survey. Fundamental question not answered.

The original Research Committee recommended that work for the MA degree be referred to the College and that the Graduate School be made a school for research.

Sends Flexner a report (in file) of the Committee's work and also a 4 page suggestion for the organization of a "School of Research". (in file) (McClung to Flexner

4/4/32)

File III-17 Vahlit

1935

1/17
1/21

DODD, WM. E.

Biography

✓GENERAL

Academic Standards

Flexner (Princeton) to Wm. E. Dodd (Washington) Jan. 17, 1935

"Dear Ambassador Dodd:

"I wish to thank you in writing for your admirable address last night. Already this morning I have heard from all sides an expression of the deepest appreciation. In the simplest and yet the most scholarly fashion you opened our eyes to conditions which even those of us who have enjoyed educational opportunities did not fully understand. As we drove home, my wife said, "Think of the interest in and knowledge of American history I might today possess, had I had a man like Professor Dodd as my teacher when I was at college."

..."

Wm. E. Dodd (Washington) to Flexner, Princeton Jan. 21, 1935

"Dear Dr. Flexner: Thanks for your kind note. I hope no harm was done. My conviction is, and long has been, that if modern history were taught in schools and colleges as it

actually transpired, wars would cease and co-operation would follow. Think of what young people in most European countries are brought up on!

"I forgot to ask fare from Washington to Princeton and return. From here to W. and return is about \$5 including incidentals. You can guess other item."

File II-12

DODD, WILLIAM E.

Biography

✓GENERAL

Academic Standards

Flexner (Princeton) to Ambassador Dodd (Round Hill, Virginia)

"I quite agree with you that if modern history were taught as men like you could teach it, the whole face of society would be changed, but, alas, how many people like you exist or can under present circumstances be attracted to the teaching profession!"

File II-12

1944

10/13

GENERAL

Academic Activities

GENERAL

Academic Standards

MOE, HENRY ALLAN

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

From Aydelotte to Moe, October 13, 1944.

"There are certain aspects of my plans for the Institute which I have not been quite prepared to put into my report because they are still in the dream stage, and premature discussion of them might have the same effect as digging up seeds to see whether they are growing." He characterizes much research done in the United States as similar to busy work done in the kindergarten. Small footnotes to histories Ph. D. subjects assigned for the mental exercise and not for the usefulness.

"Scholars of superior ability ^{effort} are impatient of such ^{effort} ~~ethic~~, and a certain number of men who come here ^{to be} persuaded that what they are doing is not worth while, and that they should undertake something ^{with} ~~of~~ greater significance in the world of scholarship. The result is that

residence at the Institute sometimes prevents men from publishing these little footnotes to history and to science of which our learned publications are so full and which applicants for Guggenheim Fellowships often list at such great length."

Orthodox scholars and plodders hate these larger problems.

He discusses a number of such ideas which he says he has been discussing with various members of the Faculty for several years: (1) A Seminar on democracy and planning, or perhaps on philosophical aspects of economics which would include question of profit vs. power as an economic motive. (2) Seminar on economic and political phenomena of classical times having a bearing on today. Nothing sensational, but a discussion of many problems, social, political, and economic of the ancient world which are "as Bob Warren says, as modern as Walter Lippmann. (3) American civilization study concerning economics, classics, history, politics and the history of science with application to the teaching problem which all colleges and universities will face immediately after the war.

File A., Henry Allen Moe