INDIANA NORMAL SCHOOL DURING WORLD WAR I: THE WORK OF PRESIDENT KEITH

KYLIE NOLAN
JORDAN SPIVAK
AMANDA TELEP
PRESIDENT DR. JOHN KEITH
Position Held (1917-1927)

• Took the position of President of Indiana Normal School in 1917, a year before the United States officially entered World War One (The Great War).
• He was directly involved with finding methods to assist in the war effort, such as allowing the development of the S.A.T.C. on campus.
• During his tenure at the Normal School, Keith additionally had to cope with budgetary issues brought on by the WWI, the Influenza and was involved with education reform.
THE WAR EFFORT ON CAMPUS

Establishment of S.A.T.C.

War Tax

Women on Campus

Lack of Supplies

There is an immediate need in military hospitals for trained women as teachers in Occupational Therapy. Approximately 1000 such women will be needed for overseas service within the next few months. Others will be needed in hospitals at home.
Nov. 1, 1919.

Franklin Sugar Refinary Co.,
Lack Box 130,

Gentlemen:

Your letter of Oct. 15th to Mr. C. H. Butler, our Purchaser, is at hand.

We have made every possible endeavor to get sugar for this institution at which we are feeding 650 people a day. We have done everything that we know to do, but for a week we have not had a bit of sugar in our dining room.

Our case has been presented to Mr. Geo. T. Buchanan, a jobber in Indiana. Mr. Buchanan has had a little sugar, but he has refused to give us any because he has been saving it for those who in the past have not paid him in cash. We, of course, buy usually from one person, but must buy where we can get the lowest price. This is a State institution and not a private institution and I must get competitive prices on the large orders that I purchase. I must safeguard the interests of the State in the smaller purchase. Mr. Buchanan seems to feel that we should give him all of our trade, or none of it. A year ago, he gave us our share of the sugar that he received because of the regulation of this year, but this year, he has refused to give us any at all. Leadershhip of this city, wholesalers, have shared with us on the sugar that they have received, but we have not had any sugar for some time.

I wish, therefore, to renew our request for some sugar direct from you -- from one to fifteen barrels, at current market prices. I would not make this request if there were any possibility of our getting the sugar locally. I am just now leaving for Woodstock to see if I can, by personal solicitation and request from store to store, get enough sugar to put on the table for tomorrow. As you know, we have had a rainy, gloomy week. Our students are becoming dissatisfied and restless. I am going to drive to Pittsburgh next Tuesday to see if I can get two or three hundred pounds to bring back in the car and I expect to solicit personally from business house to business house from where we buy large quantities of goods.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

The Franklin Sugar Refining Co.
Office, Stock Exchange Place
Philadelphia

Mr. John A. H. Keith, Principal,
State Normal School,
Indiana, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We have noted carefully your letter of November 1st.

We are glad that Mr. Geo. T. Buchanan was able to provide you with some sugars and no doubt later on you will be able to get something from one of the other local jobbing houses. The conditions that you mention are not different from those existing right here at the refinery center. We are all of necessity called upon to do some economizing in the use of sugar for the balance of this year.

Your plea is but one of many equally as worthy that we are receiving from day to day. It would be impossible for us to attempt to deviate from the customary method of distribution, that is -- through the jobbing and retail trade.

We feel sure that you should be able to work through this period with the rest of us without suffering actual necessities although undoubtedly finding it necessary to economize.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

THE FRANKLIN SUGAR REFINING CO.
Sales Department.
STUDENTS IN WAR
Dr. Keith and National Education

• In 1920 Dr. Keith published his book *The Nation and The Schools*, addressing the issues of national education and what should be done about them.
• During WW1 it became evident that illiteracy was a problem based on the amount of illiterate men enrolled in the army.
• Throughout the war and his presidency, Dr. Keith corresponded with other normal school presidents regarding these issues.
• The Towner Bill of 1919 was described in the book as the most comprehensive solution to the nation’s problems with education.
The Smith Towner Bill was introduced in 1919, to congress, by Senator Hoke Smith and Representative Horace Mann Towner.

- Its main purpose was to create a Department of Education, and appoint a secretary of education who would become a member of the president's cabinet.
- The bill also introduced what would become the federally funded public school system.
- It was however, met with controversy because many educators felt that it allowed the federal government too much control over education.
ADVOCATING FOR THE TOWNER BILL

E-F 1919 RG 11 Box 4 #18

H 1919 RG 11 Box 3 #23

E-F 1919 RG 11 Box 4 #18
BUDGETARY ISSUES

• Throughout World War I, the ISNS suffered a considerable loss of money due to male students and faculty being drafted.
• From 1917-1921, there is evidence, from his letters, suggesting he frequently wrote to the Pennsylvania Board of Education inquiring about working on and fixing budget issues.
  • Even with state assistance it seems that Dr. Keith struggled to keep the school financially afloat at several points throughout his tenure.
  • As well, Keith apparently had a habit of forgetting to pay bills, affording various goods and services on campus. 

RG Box #6 Folder #34
THE BUDGET

DELANO COAL COMPANY, LIMITED

Penn State Normal School,
Harrisburg,
Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

Yours of June 20th received. We are sorry to note that you have taken your business away from us. We hope conditions next year are different and that you will again favor us.

You may run short again this winter and if you do, do not hesitate to advise us, and we will try to sell you at the prevailing market price.

We are anxious to receive payment for our bill and hope you can send it very shortly.

Yours very truly,

Vice President.

E-F 1919 RG 11 Box 4 #20

DRAVO-DOYLE COMPANY

INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Indiana,
Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

Our invoice #657 - 2/26/19 - $500.00

Note the above item is now past due and write to inquire if there is any reason why payment of same is being withheld.

Thanking you in anticipation of your early attention, we are,

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

E-F 1919 RG11 Box 4 #20

E-F 1919 RG 11 Box 4 #18

Owing to the conditions which the war has brought on, we have been unable to make enough money out of the conduct of the school to pay all of our current bills, and we have therefore had to ask for an emergency deficiency appropriation from the Legislature. This is in

E-F 1919 RG 11 BOX 4 #20
Dec. 20, 1920

Dr. Albert Lindsay Rowland,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Rowland:

I have yours of Dec. 17th. calling a meeting of the normal school principals for Dec. 27th. at 9:30.

I also want to hear Dr. Finegan, but I simply cannot spend five days on this thing. I am going to see if I cannot get somebody to introduce into the Legislature a bill providing that hereafter any person who plans an educational meeting for the Christmas holidays shall be hanged by the neck until dead. In the list of objections against the teaching profession, please enter its Christmas brutalities.

Very truly yours,

P.S. Copies of forms used here have been sent forward to you under separate cover.
Image Sources


IUP Archives Sources

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