Richard Owen

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Chapter V

PRESIDENT OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY

For encouragement to agricultural and technical education the Morrill Act of July, 1862, made available to the several states 30,000 acres for each of their senators and representatives in Congress under the apportionment of 1860. Under its provisions Indiana, with its eleven representatives and two senators, was entitled to 390,000 acres. The Act further stipulated that such land was to be sold and that the proceeds should be invested on terms yielding at least five-per-cent interest. No part of such fund was to be used for the construction of buildings, although ten per cent of the proceeds might be spent for the acquisition of a site for the institution. Indiana, deeply involved in prosecuting the Civil War, did not accept the Federal donation under the Morrill Act until 1865. The proceeds of the sale of that land amounted to $340,000.00.

Interest in the location of the "Indiana Agricultural College," as it was called, was keen. The citizens of Bloomington, Indianapolis, Greenfield, Lafayette, and other cities offered whatever they could to secure it for their respective communities. An offer by John Purdue of $150,000 and one hundred acres of land, provided that the institution was named after him, as well as $50,000 from Tippecanoe County together with land, buildings, and money by the citizens of Battle Ground, was more persuasive than the inducements of other contenders. Another influential consideration in the minds of the Hoosier legislators was anticipated additional bequests from John Purdue, for they hoped that the wealthy benefactor would erect most of the buildings, and that he would be able to enlist even more
substantial financial aid from his New York friends. On May 4, 1869, therefore, Tippecanoe County was selected as the future home of Purdue University.

The Board of Trustees, which had been constituted under the provisions of the acceptance of the federal land grant for the establishment of the Indiana Agricultural College, acquired land for the new institution. Ground for the first building was broken on August 8, 1871. Two years later, a residence, a barn, a boarding house, and a dormitory were under construction. The Board of Trustees had also engaged Professor J. S. Hougham to teach mathematics and natural history. From 1872 to 1874 he served in an advisory capacity to the Board.

The selection of a president for the Agricultural College was a matter which should have preceded most of its other actions. In 1872 it tendered an invitation to William S. Clark, then president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Though he was offered a salary of $5,000 a year, a large income for that time, he finally declined the invitation. The Board of Trustees was then compelled to find another man, and this time its attention turned to Professor Owen. Obviously he merited consideration. In an era of indifferent academic standards he was a distinguished scholar. In a period of hitherto unparalleled political corruption and financial scandals, his record was without taint. Before the Great Awakening in Indiana, he had urged dynamic intellectualism. He was a man of noble and unostentatious dignity. His whole record was a succession of triumphs, both in academic and administrative responsibilities.

He had interested himself in the proposed Agricultural College in 1864 immediately upon assuming his duties at Indiana University. He had drawn up in 1864 a comprehensive plan for the organization of such an institution; he had striven to secure its location at Bloomington, Indiana. His defeat in this matter had not reduced his interest in the College. If the people of Indiana would not bring the Agricultural College to him, why

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not bring him to it? Mr. Luke A. Burke, a resident of New Harmony and a member of the Board of Trustees from 1871 to 1875, undoubtedly knew Professor Owen personally and could thus vouch for his fitness. The choice of Professor Owen seemed appropriate and wise. On August 13, 1872, he was summoned to Lafayette, Indiana, for an interview during which the Board of Trustees and Professor Owen exchanged their views and at the conclusion of which he was tendered the presidency. He accepted immediately. He was to receive $3,500 a year plus expenses incidental to the office. He then returned to Bloomington and continued his teaching at the opening of the academic year, although it might seem as if his full-time services could have been advantageously employed in organizing the prospective university.

Neither the Board of Trustees nor President Owen took aggressive measures to organize the University during the fall and winter of 1872-73. It was not until May 6, 1873, that the Purdue University Board of Trustees summoned President Owen to Lafayette again, and requested him to draft a plan of organization for the prospective institution. Three and a half months later, on August 26, 1873, he returned to Lafayette and delivered his report on the organization of the University.

This document, which follows, should be viewed in the light of the time in which it was prepared, more than seventy years ago, when tomatoes were suspect and celery was considered a poisonous weed, and oysters a perfect diet for those who had become weary of life. Even twenty years after its composition Elwood Haynes, while driving his first car in Chicago, was ordered off the streets for disorderly conduct. Alexander Graham Bell had not yet patented his telephone, Darwin was viewed as anti-Christ, and Karl Marx was not even taken seriously. Joseph Stalin was still unborn. The customary object of education was to weed out the average and to select the ablest and train them for leadership. That
woman of whom the least was heard was held in highest esteem, while Leo Tolstoy regarded woman as the "tool of the devil." The whole philosophy of 1870 was a reflection of the past rather than a forecast of the future. Plastics, zippers, vitamins, and all the paraphernalia of the twentieth century were still many degrees below the dawn of modern America. President Owen's report, though not concerned with atom smashers, relativity, and jet propulsion, was fully abreast of its time.

REPORT TO TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY
LaFayette, August 26, 1873.

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees of Purdue University, the undersigned was appointed to prepare a report in accordance with the adoption of the subjoined resolution:

"Resolved, That President Owen be requested to prepare a report setting forth what, in his judgment, would be a scheme of education appropriate for the University; as also a scheme for the government and administration of its affairs and property, and that he report the same to the Board at its next meeting, together with his suggestions in reference to the selection of a Faculty and such other employees as may be required for the operation of the various administrative and economical interests of the University; keeping in view the laws of Congress in relation to Agricultural Colleges."

In accordance with the above resolution the undersigned submits the following

REPORT:
I. THE PLAN OF EDUCATION.

No plan or scheme of education would in the opinion of your committee be complete, which failed to take into account the necessity of developing the physical and moral faculties, as well as the intellectual, to which latter frequently almost exclusive attention is paid. For the purpose of having the young man, at the close of his college career, sound in body and morals and well advanced in intellectual acquirements, your committee would recommend for the three departments, respectively, a system of which the following may give an outline perhaps sufficiently in detail for the purpose of discussion and decision:

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1. **Physical Training and Development.**—For this purpose, every student, physically capable, should be required to take military drill at least two days in the week for two hours in the afternoon. The other days in the week, every student should labor either on the farm, in the garden, stable or work-shop, or if ladies are admitted, then in the kitchen, laundry, &c., at least two hours each weekday afternoon, Saturdays excepted, which might be devoted to excursions with professors, either geologizing, botanizing, &c., or visiting large manufacturing establishments. If funds permit, there should, by all means, be a large building, the lower part of which should be used as a gymnasium and drill ground, especially in wet weather.

Facility should be afforded for others, who desire to labor more, to be employed at a fair remuneration, as long as they choose, provided, this does not prevent their always being prepared with the requisite recitations. There should also be grounds suitable for sports and recreative amusements; also for bathing, and in summer, swimming, at safe places, under proper supervision. If immediate arrangements for baths can not be made, there should be means of access, at all times, to abundance of cold and hot water for the purpose of a tepid sponge bath when the weather is cold.

2. **Moral Instruction.**—To render the preservation of a good moral tone practicable it is recommended that all students, on entering, should present testimonials regarding their conduct while at other educational institutions of preparatory character; also that a lecture should be given every Saturday morning by one of the professors, the discourse having a bearing upon the formation of character, laws of life and health, or some subject tending to elevate the moral tone and standard of public sentiment in the Institution. Each professor should also lecture on a religious or moral subject, in rotation, on Sunday afternoons, and students should be admonished to attend church and Sunday-school, and be required to be present at morning prayer in chapel.

It is recommended further, that the whole number attending college classes be arrayed in sections of from ten to fifteen members, each section being placed under the supervision of a student of the senior class, who shall assemble them twice a week in order to afford opportunity for discussing any matters of complaint, dispute or difficulty involving the members of
that section, each senior thus in charge to be, to some extent, responsible for their good conduct. On Saturday the united sections shall meet in general assembly under the supervision of the President of the College, and through their section chiefs report such cases as require further adjudication.

When cases requiring apparently serious discipline arise, if the student accused request a trial by jury, the Secretary of the Faculty shall, through the Janitor, select in alphabetical order from the roster of seniors and juniors, three of the former and four of the latter, designating one as foreman. These, after hearing the case, in the presence of the President as presiding officer, and of the Secretary (questions being handed in writing by any of the jurors to be put to the principal or witnesses by the President), shall decide, by a majority vote, on his guilt or innocence, and, if guilty, recommend the penalty; and the Faculty, on hearing a statement of the case from the Secretary, who shall keep record of the same, shall approve or disapprove said penalty, by a majority vote, affixing another if disapproved.

This plan has been tried in England and on the Continent of Europe with success; the experience being that students are usually, if any thing, more severe than the Faculty.

Students, especially in the earlier years of the college, before a strong, moral, public opinion is known permanently to pervade the community, should promptly be invited to leave, if their influence is injurious. Yet, if they demand a trial on the general charge, they should be allowed one.

3. Intellectual Advancement.—The course of instruction should, in the judgment of your committee, be such that, when the student ends his four years' course, he should be capable of taking charge, practically, as agent, director or assistant director, and the like, in any department for which he has been specially qualifying himself, such as teaching analysis in a laboratory, or directing a manufacturing laboratory, superintending hands in a mine, or in iron works, (furnaces, bloomeries, rolling-mills, nail factories) surveying land in the capacity of land surveyor, or railroads, turnpikes, &c., as civil engineer, able to direct dyeing, say in a woolen factory, to become assistant engineer in charge of a locomotive or for a stationary engine, to superintend a large farm, or market garden, or plantation, as overseer, or to take charge of a large stable, herd of cattle, flock of sheep, pens of hogs, with a knowledge of the habits,
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wants, diseases and remedies among those domestic animals, or to undertake as contractor or overseer to supervise the hands constructing some earthworks, embankments, &c.

To this end, it seems desirable that, while there is a four years' course, embracing certain studies with which all should be familiar, there might be a corresponding series of equivalent studies, mathematical, chemical, geological and the like permitted; the specialty to take the lead. For those not desiring to graduate, there might be a yet more special course permitted, and to those desiring some languages there might be facilities for the optional course of Latin during the freshman and sophomore years, and one of Greek, during the junior year; or two years of a modern language, after the necessary preparation in the grammars of these languages, during the preparatory year.

In order to meet the requirements of Congress, as also to satisfy the expectations and demands of our citizens, it is earnestly recommended that, if practicable, as much of the course as possible should be entered upon about the 1st of April next, the necessary steps being taken previously to advertise the University and invite students, as well as to determine such items connected therewith, such as the terms of entrance, course of study, &c., as may best suffice for preliminary work; also to obtain from the most reliable sources and at the most truly economical rates all that is absolutely necessary in connection with the tuition of students, and boarding and lodging of students, professors, employes, &c., for the carrying on of such preliminary work; it being made the special duty of some one to negotiate all the matters to the best advantage.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACULTY AND EMPLOYES.

In this regard, it may be well first to examine what it seems desirable and in fact absolutely necessary to have ultimately, if we would maintain a high position among colleges, and secondly, how near we can come to that ideal, with our present available means.

It is scarcely possible for a college to carry on the necessary chairs, filled with able men, and meet the current demands of a museum, library, and keep up the chemical and philosophical apparatus, even after these have been well organized, with a less fund than $32,000 to $36,500 per annum, as required for the following purposes:
Insurance, probably over this amount, but say............ $1,000  00
Library, Museum, Laboratory and Philosophical apparatus... 1,500  00
Eight full professorships, $2,000, (viz.: 1. Moral and Mental
5. Geology, etc. 6. Natural History. 7. English Lit-
erature. 8. Languages........................................ 16,000  00
Salary of President........................................... 3,500  00
Military Professor, $1,000; Taxidermist, $1,000; Mathemati-
cal assistant, $1,000........................................... 3,000  00
Principal of Preparatory Department, $1,000; Music
Teacher, $1,000; Janitor, $600............................... 2,600.00
Farm Superintendent, $1,500; Accountant, who is also
House Superintendent, $1,500............................... 3,000  00
Incidental expense for fuel, lights, repairs, &c.............. 1,000  00
Traveling expenses, etc., connected with keeping up with
times .............................................................. 400  00
Advertising, stationery, postage, printing &c................  500  00

At the lowest estimates therefore.................[sic] $32,000  00
To the above ought really to be added:
A Veterinary Surgeon, teacher of Human and Comparative
Anatomy .......................................................... $2,000  00
A teacher of Modern Languages, say.......................... 1,500  00
And (as in the Kansas Agricultural College) foreman of
Mechanical Department........................................  1,000  00

Total .......................................................... $4,500  00

As however for the present we have not the above amount,
and yet desire to open April next, we could meantime do with
$21,000, to be expended somewhat in the following manner:
For insurance.................................................. $1,000  00
For Museum, Library, Chemical and Philosophical apparatus
For incidental expenses, for fuel, lights, &c.................  400  00
For advertising, postage, stationery, printing, &c...........  400  00
For traveling expenses and similar incidentals..............  300  00
For President’s salary........................................  3,500  00
For five full Professorships, $2,000, (viz: 1. Chemistry.
2. Natural Philosophy. 3. Mathematics. 4. Natural
History. 5. English Literature................................[sic] 2,000  00
For Taxidermist, $1,000; Military Professor, $500; Primary
Preparatory Department, $1,000............................[sic]  2,000  00
For Janitor, $500; Book-keeper, $500........................  1,000  00
For Farm Superintendent, (besides a house and use of cow
and horse)......................................................  1,500  00

Total at a very low college estimate.................[sic] $21,000  00

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The next question is how to meet this expenditure. The answer is by allowing some margin in the boarding and by charging a matriculation and graduation fee, the former of $5, the latter of $10, also a Janitor's fee of $3 per term (or $9 per annum) but no tuition fee. The income would then stand about thus, when we have been able to secure two hundred students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Scrip, &amp;c., about</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculation fee of two hundred students, $5</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee of ten Seniors $10</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor's fee from two hundred students, $9</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving to be made up by profit on board, at least</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total income: $21,000.00

It is earnestly recommended to fulfill the requirements of Congress, by commencing on this scale by the 1st of April next. To that end it would be advisable, in order to be in a state of readiness, to take the following preliminary steps, some assistant details regarding which are given under the next head, that of administration.

1. To elect at this meeting four additional Professors, one Taxidermist, one Principal Preparatory Department, one Janitor, one House Superintendent (to be paid $800 or $1,000 out of boarding house fund, increased by $500 as above for book-keeper, if he keep also all the accounts), also one Superintendent of Farm. These two latter would probably have to be on the premises all the year, hence $1,500 each seems low enough. None of these salaries to begin until the 1st of April, or such time as their services are needed.

2. It must be made the duty of some one to purchase, after careful selection in the best market, the necessary furniture for Dormitory and Boarding-house, as well as for Chapel and Class-rooms, the necessary kitchen apparatus, Dining-room and chamber ware, bed and table linen, blankets, comforts and toweling.

3. To make the inquiries and contracts regarding staple articles of provisions, so that at the shortest notice these can be on the ground by the 1st of April; permanent supplies of such vegetables and fruits as will keep, being laid in before that time.
III. Administration.

It is recommended that each department be self-sustaining, so far as practicable, and that accurately kept accounts should show the financial condition of each.

The different departments might be subdivided thus:

1. Educational Department, under the Faculty.
2. Agricultural Department, under management of Farm Superintendent, with the necessary hands, students, &c.
3. Horticultural Department, under management of Professor of Botany, Head Gardener, and students.
4. A Boarding-house, to be superintended by a House Superintendent, Steward, and the necessary number of waiters.
5. A Laundry, under direction of a matron and head laundress, with necessary assistants.
6. A Lodging House or Dormitory, under charge of the House Superintendent, for male students; a separate building if ladies are admitted, to be under charge of the matron.
7. The Department of Accounts, to be under the management of the Accountant (who may, if thought best, be also House Superintendent). All accounts to be collected weekly, and all payments to be made to hands (viz: work-hands), &c., weekly, either by heads of Departments or House Superintendent. Accounts to be kept by him deduced from the blotter of each head of the Department, showing at intervals of six months (or for Farm and Garden of twelve months), the state of accounts. To all departments the cooperative aid of the President should be given.

A thorough system of drainage should be entered into, after survey made, and carried out, under supervision of Mathematical Department, aided by students.

A thorough system of fire organization to be adopted, by having the necessary lightning rods under supervision of Professor of Natural Philosophy; also means of communicating along each roof in case of fire in stairway, ladders and hooks, axes and pick-axes, to be always in readiness; also a roster of night watchers, either hired or taken from among older reliable students, who should be paid for such services.

A complete system of ventilation should be provided for, so that, if means have not sufficiently been adopted in the original construction of any building, panes of glass, and panels of doors
having no transoms, should be made movable. As being safer from accidental fire and wholesomer than stoves, open grates, burning coal and having a blower to help kindle the fire, when out or low, are strongly recommended; next to those, sheet-iron air-tight stoves would perhaps be least liable to the inconvenience of decomposing the air, and, with thorough ventilation, might not heat the head, while the feet remain cold, as is the case in many stove-rooms.

A dietary should be adopted which should at the same time give sufficient variety from day to day, and be of not the most expensive kind, yet nutritious, palatable and wholesome, avoiding the free use of pork, meats fried in grease, rich pastry and the like, as being highly injurious to those having more work of the brain than of the muscles.

It is further recommended to give animal food only once a day, and to use largely of corn meal and unbolted flour for bread and mush, in order to avoid the great evils incident on a sedentary life, constipation and hemorrhoids. It is also recommended that to all who will abstain from tea and coffee a somewhat reduced rate of weekly board should be given, also that various farinaceous puddings and the like be substituted most of the time for the rich pastry too commonly used as dessert. For the sake of health, the meals, if three are taken each day, should be at least six hours apart, and served with great punctuality at the appointed hour.

As the annual funds at present available from Congressional grant are not even sufficient for such a corps of Professors as would give undoubted pre-eminence to the institution, it is recommended (besides using every available means for securing the proceeds of the public lands at the next meeting of Congress) to place the price of board and lodging at such a rate, not to exceed, however, $4.00 per week, as shall leave some margin of profit, in order to meet the current expenses of the College, besides a janitor's fee, &c., as already suggested. The matriculation fee would prevent, or at least check, persons from giving all the trouble to arrange classes, &c., and then in two or three weeks, taking their departure, if homesick or dissatisfied; or if they went, would reimburse for the trouble.

To insure regularity and uniformity regarding seats, clothing, &c., the use of numbers might be adopted, giving one to each
student, when he or she entered (if ladies are admitted) reserving the numbers made vacant by departures, for the next comers, thus readily having a mark by which to designate places at the table and avoid confusion or loss by having this number on clothing, napkin rings and other property. This need not prevent their changing places at the table at intervals by drawing tickets, so as to prevent cliques or dissatisfaction, if one place is deemed better than another.

It is strongly recommended to cook by steam, either by connecting with a boiler if there be one, or by using the Eagle Steamer, carrying usually seven pounds, and made by E. E. Sill, of Rochester, New York; also for baking meats, bread, &c., an apparatus made by J. S. Blodget, of Burlington, Vermont, size No. 8, which will bake for one hundred and fifty; the other cooking to be done at a large range of most approved form, with cast iron plates on top, central fire, side ovens, &c., such as made by Messrs. L. F. Duparquet & Huot, 24 and 26, Wooster Street, New York City. There should be a hood overhead to carry off all the effluvia, and if necessary that a stove should be used, one weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds, called William Doyle's Great American cooking stove, made at Albany, New York, will be found excellent. By running two straps of iron, let into the floor from the kitchen to the dining room, for the passage of a dumb waiter, on four cast iron wheels with two outside shelves and one central higher shelf for carrying the vessels and dishes of cooked vegetables, fruit, &c., much labor is saved. For ordinary purposes French's hall stove, from Buffalo, capable of receiving a four foot stick of wood, will be found efficient. For water, instead of expensive wells, in order to use soft water, which is more conducive to health and comfort than hard, it is earnestly advised to construct numerous outside cement cisterns, perhaps eight or ten feet in depth; then, inside one or more of the large buildings, to sink a well or cement cistern not so far as to reach water, into which the water from these cisterns can be run through laminated asphaltum pipes, such as are made in Rochester, New York, the water cleared and purified by passing through a gravel and charcoal filter before it reaches the well; thence it can be pumped either as wanted, or sent by machinery, to a large reservoir above, from which any part of the premises can be supplied by simply turning a stop-cock.

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For flour it might be profitable to have one of Lane Bros.' Iron Mills, made in Milbrook, Dutchess County, New York, and to purchase dried fruit and desiccated vegetables from the Alden Company or from the Shakers Society at Sonyea, New York, who are careful to dry all of one kind together, thus insuring uniformity in cooking sufficiently.

If earth closets are used instead of water closets, Goux' plan is said to be the best, and the most effective disinfectants, besides earth, are carbolate of lime, copperas and the like; a cheap yet efficient substitute, being free use of lime and plaster.

For sewerage the round tile pipe may be laid, the main sewer requiring a pipe from four to six inches in diameter.

In supplying wood or coal to students, it is recommended to make this a special charge above the use of room and of board, either measuring to them in cord and half cord stacks a given amount, and letting them cut, saw, split, carry, &c., or in case ladies are admitted, employing a man with a leather apron slung over his shoulder and having a handle of leather on the lower side to carry from the horse or steam sawing machine to the boxes in the rooms, which boxes have all been made to hold a definite quantity of wood of ordinary size for the fire-place or stove of that room. The coal in the same way can be carried in iron buckets or scuttles, holding a given weight, which amount, when the box is full, can be given in at the office and charged for that week in settlement of students' accounts. The expense of lights being small, it is thought best, unless gas is used, to supply to each student a lamp and a half gallon coal oil can, and either let them purchase in town or supply them from the office, charging cost for the same. They might also furnish their own blacking and brushes.

To secure the above purchases most advantageously some one might be designated by the Trustees a sufficient time before the opening of College to visit personally or correspond with parties offering favorable terms at large establishments. Should a supply of excellent unbolted flour not be obtained near, it can be had in Danville, New York, at $8.00 per barrel, freight usually $1.35 per barrel; and oat meal can be had from Messrs. Johnson & Co. (formerly from Canada), now at Rockford, Illinois.

As a means of meeting a want, which is sure to be felt by professors, whether with or without families, also, however,
for the sake of economy when engaging officials, assistants, &c.,
by giving board and thus reducing salary; but more especially
for the purpose of incorporating the students' inner life and
sympathies with those of the professors, the following plan
with regard to lodging and boarding is recommended. The
College grounds being one and a half miles from the city center,
provision should be made for the accommodation of professors,
and head employes. If a building were erected at the cost say
of $15,000 (by borrowing the money, if necessary at 10 per
cent. interest, or by forming a joint stock company and selling
out when any wish to remove) this cost to include the neces­
sary furniture, and the house to contain say eighteen rooms, then
each professor could take from two to three rooms, according
to the size of his family, and pay an average of $2 per week
or $100 per annum for each furnished room. This would bring
in yearly $1,800, of which $1,500 would pay 10 per cent.
interest on cost, $300 be left for wear and tear of furniture.
If this building were erected near the boarding-house, those who
choose could eat at the same time and place with the students,
showing an example of obedience to the laws of health in diet
and of courteous manners, thereby, without special display of
authority, &c., insensibly preserving order and good feeling.

If this plan is approved and the building not large enough
for all, it might be enlarged and cost even less per room for
erection, or two buildings could be erected on the same plan.
Possibly some of the building associations might furnish the
means. And if the plan of eating with the students does not
seem the best, a kitchen and appurtenances, as well as dining­
room and library and reading-room, might be held in common
and a steward be found to furnish board of good quality at a
fixed rate per week. Either plan would give professors and
their families more time to devote to the interests of the
institution.

Nothing has been said about the ways and means for raising
the funds necessary to meet the purchases for furniture, kitchen
and dining-room requisites and the like, digging the wells, con­
structing cisterns, out-houses, &c., none of which can be dis­
pensed with, to say nothing of the Library, Museum, Chemical
and Philosophical apparatus, class-room and chapel furniture,
barn, stable, conservatory, &c., &c., but it is anticipated that
such expenditures could be met by part of the Purdue fund

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or the County subscription, or that additional aid must be had from the State, if Congress fails to give us the additional proceeds of lands.

As abundance of good pure water is essential to health, comfort and safety from fire, it is urged that ample tanks, wells, &c., be provided. If a small steam engine is employed to obtain the necessary power, this power might at intervals, as already suggested, pump water into a tank or reservoir, high enough to distribute water over the buildings.

Until there shall be a main building adequate for chapel and recitation rooms, it is suggested, if rooms in the dormitory would be insufficient, to commence at once a cheap building of considerable dimensions, the lower story all in one, to serve meantime as chapel and room for public exercises, the upper story to consist of moderate sized rooms suitable for temporary class rooms. When no longer needed for these purposes, the lower story might be used as a gymnasium, for exercises in inclement weather, and the upper rooms, as cheap dormitories for employees, help, &c. Or if preferred and no other means have been provided, the whole building could be fitted up for a Museum.

As regards the fitting up of a Museum, it is earnestly recommended that the plan and specification should be made out by Professor Ward, of Rochester, who has had long experience in this department. He would charge $50 for the same, and would put in sealed proposals with the others when bids are called for. With reference to filling the Museum, or rather meeting its first wants for illustrative materials, the undersigned is willing, if the freight is paid on his collection of books, about 1,200 volumes, as also on his fossils and minerals, zoological specimens and charts, to have most of the books placed in the library to be loaned to the students during his connection with the institution, and to have all his collection, which would be ample for present class illustration, used in College, either by his receiving a fair rental for their use or such compensation by purchase as would be affixed by disinterested judges on the specimens, as well as on some books, such as the American Journal of Science, since about 1830, New York Natural History reports, &c., &c. The zoological cabinet could be made up to a great extent, especially in Mammalogy and Ornithology, by specimens shot and prepared, either as skeletons, or stuffed, or
both (and particularly the comparative anatomy of our domestic animals be thus exhibited) by the labor of Dr. Lemon as Taxidermist and Curator, also of W. Neil, should these persons be selected for the positions to which they are recommended, especially if Professor E. E. Henry should be engaged and contribute his labors.

Correspondence should also be had with various societies and public institutions, such as the Smithsonian, and with liberal individuals, asking exchanges, donations, &c., &c.

As an additional means of health, the best and most recent information should be obtained regarding water or earth closets, and such plan be adopted as would best subserve the purpose of health, convenience, neatness, &c.; all buildings calculated to detract from the pleasant aspect and surroundings of a beautiful home, being sheltered from view by hedges of osage, privet, arbor vitae, and the like. As far as practicable, extensive gravel walks through campus, garden, &c., should afford dry walking, even after rains, and plats in all directions, with shrubbery and flowers chiefly perennial, should enliven the students' home, so that homesickness would be unheard of, especially when to these attractive surroundings would be added the sympathizing kindness, which professors, employes, older students, in fact all, should be urged to extend to new comers, until they felt themselves indeed at home, and until they could realize the fact that their student life readily could be one of attractiveness, happiness and preparation for a future of usefulness to themselves and others, and was calculated to prepare them to fulfill the commands and responsibilities assigned them by their Divine Creator.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD OWEN.

There is no statement of the Board of Trustees' reaction to the Report, but an anonymous critic writing under the signature of "Humbug" contributed a slashing article in the Indiana Farmer, which was reprinted in the December 24, 1873, issue of the Lafayette Journal, in which he attacked President Owen's Report. He found not one item that he could endorse. "When I read this report of the President—which is as good
as law—I must say I was much disappointed—not to say dis-
gusted." . . . “There is a four year’s course; the plan is that
of ‘physical training and development’. For this purpose every
student should be required to take a military drill at least
two days a week, for two hours in the afternoon, besides farm
and shop work every other day in the week; and two hours
each day, Saturday excepted, to be devoted to geological and
botanical exercises. In the name of my grandfather’s horn plow
handles, what need of military drill, when there is plenty of
peaceful farm work to healthfully develop every muscle in
the body?” The critic objected to the instruction in morals
and chapel attendance, and to jury trial of students; because
President Owen averred that this system had worked well in
England and on the continent of Europe, the anonymous critic
burst out, “May the continent perish with dry rot and England
be affected with ‘holler-horn’. If they are to be punished they
want it measured out by the faculty or the trustees.” He ridi-
culed President Owen’s hope that a graduate of Purdue would
be competent to become assistant director or director of a fac-
tory or supervisor of a farm or of a large cattle barn. He
declared such courses as chemistry, physics, mathematics, En-
glish literature and language to be unnecessary: “Now by all the
teeth of a Norwegian harrow, I cannot see in this list, where a
young man could be fitted for taking charge of anything . . .”
He recommended practical experience under men who did not
confuse practice with theory. He poured heaps of scorn on
that section of the Report which concerned diet for the stu-
dents and the recommendations for heating and ventilating.
And as for the salary of $2,000 a year for the faculty mem-
bers, that was altogether too little.

To this verbal musketae President Owen felt constrained
to defend himself. On January 1, 1874, in the Lafayette Journal
he declared that the Report had not been written for general
distribution but had been intended largely as a basis of con-
fidential discussion with the Board of Trustees. After an exchange of views he supposed that certain parts of the Report might be deleted, while he also anticipated that suggestions of the Board might be added. In all circumstances he aimed to carry out policies on which he and the Board would agree. To the criticism that he had proposed two hours of military drill each week President Owen reminded the critic that the state of Indiana was under obligation to the general government to offer military drill as a part of its curriculum, and that he had prescribed the minimum accepted under the Morrill Act. President Owen also defended his recommendation of sheet iron stoves in preference to cast iron heaters on the ground that the latter, according to the testimony of chemists, generated carbonic oxide, which sheet iron stoves did not. He defended his dietary recommendations by his knowledge of physiological functions learned from years of teaching of physiology and studies while acquiring his degree of doctor of medicine at Nashville Medical College. In defense of his program of moral instruction he insisted that he believed "moral development more important than the intellectual."

"Why the critic should object to being tried by his peers (as our jury system) I am wholly at a loss to understand," he wrote "if he had said it does not work in practice, I could have seen some force in his objection, but it is certainly a system for republicans rather than for monarchists. If the Trustees disapprove of that or any other recommendation, they have only to say so and I acquiesce cheerfully.

"To the charge of nepotism I offer nothing but facts, and leave the judgment to an enlightened public. My older son, who had farmed over ten years, and is one of the best judges of cattle and hogs, had offered his services for farm superintendent long before I had the slightest idea of offering myself for the presidency. He had testimonials from ex-Governor Baker, Professor Cox and Major Palmer. My younger son,
being conversant with general business, I spoke of him as probably suitable for House Superintendent, but at the same time gave the name of another gentleman for the same position. My son had advised against my presenting his name, and as soon as he learned it was objectionable withdrew it. . . . I admit it was an error on my part to present my younger son's name because of the appearance of endeavoring to bring in my whole family, as they are all that I have.

And finally to refute the charge of incompetence for the presidency he cited his experience of operating a mill for seven years, a farm for ten years, his service in the Mexican War as a captain, his period in the Civil War as a colonel, and his twenty years of connection with educational institutions. During that period of forty-six years he challenged any one to discover an abuse of public or private trust or any dereliction of public duty. "If forty-six years of an honorable course is not sufficient to establish a man's character," he asked, "what term of years is required?"

He concluded by saying that the public had a perfect right to examine closely all the details regarding the Agricultural College, in order to criticize and make recommendations for its success, which would be difficult enough of attainment with all kind aid which friends might give. But, he continued, it was a different matter when persons, who were uninformed on most of the points, undertook to abuse those who were striving disinterestedly for the welfare of the people.

President Owen's rejoinder was not directed so much against the anonymous critic as it was against the editor of the Lafayette Journal for having given space to it in his columns and thereby, Owen believed, countenanced the criticisms.

The report made little provision for engineering education as such. The paucity on this point is explained on the ground that the engineering profession had not yet been specialized. The chemical industry had not yet attained any significance,
and the dynamo had not even been invented; hence the omission
of courses in chemical and electrical engineering. Natural
philosophy and mechanics offered whatever information was
then required in mechanical engineering, while surveying and
allied courses were to be given under mathematics.

No sooner was one critic silenced than another one raised
his voice. The editor of the Educationist, Mr. A. C. Shortridge,
who succeeded Owen in the Purdue presidency, wrote in his
January, 1874, issue that the selection of President Owen was
a “mistake” and insisted that “his immediate resignation is
a necessity.” With a tone of lofty concern for the public
interest, and of regret to say anything that might wound the
sensibilities of any of his readers, he insisted that the editor
of an educational journal of the state had some responsibilities
for sound education. Without mentioning a single disquali-
fication of President Owen, he proceeded to enumerate the
qualities which the president of the institution ought to possess.
His spirit should direct and inspire the work of each depart-
ment: “He should be a man of broad views, liberal culture,
practical common sense, and having the power to generalize
and to organize.” To secure such a man the Board of Trustees
should not hesitate to pay $10,000 a year if necessary, for “one
ten-thousand-dollar a year man was better than ten one-thousand-
dollar a year men in any position where an unlimited amount
of brain power is needed.” As to the curriculum and purpose
of the University the writer had definite ideas too: “It is
the theory and practice of mechanism and farming that should
and will command the attention of the student, if this school
is to be different from other schools.”

An editorial in the Indiana School Journal of January, 1874,
contended that Dr. Owen’s scholarship “no one doubts, and
his ability to organize and control are yet to be tested.” Criti-
cism of the purposes of the University poured in from other
influential sources and additional doubt was cast upon President
Owen's ability to organize the institution. Praise was heaped upon his scientific and cultural accomplishments in order to infer his impracticality as an administrator. Criticism of this nature did not endear the new position to President Owen.

There were other reasons why Professor Owen lacked enthusiasm for the presidency. He and the Board of Trustees differed on essential policies. He insisted upon greater emphasis on instruction in agriculture than the Board had in mind. Furthermore, he wanted better dormitories than those designed by the Board. As a man trained in medicine and devoted to scholarship, he was conscious of the injury to the body from prolonged mental exertion in quarters lacking in human comfort. There was always something of an artist in the Owens, and Richard has been called the most typical of the family. Though a scientist, he also had artistic appreciation and he had a vision of Purdue University nestling in a forest of shade trees. Mr. Martin Peirce, a member of the Board, envisioned the Campus along lines of his own, and they did not harmonize with Professor Owen's. The members of the Board announced that the students were there to learn, and supposedly not to saunter in sylvan beauty. Thus disagreements accumulated, and as they did Professor Owen appreciated more than ever the tranquility of an academic career. Not only that. The Board of Trustees of Indiana University also appreciated him, and it was much loath to lose him. To assure his continuance on that campus it offered him the curatorship of the new museum there. This would enable Professor Owen to do that which appealed to him most of all, teaching and research.

The presidency of Purdue University would have compelled him to concern himself with such matters as the selection of a dozen faculty members, arrangement of classrooms, dormitory facilities, purchase of food for the students, extraction of appropriations from the legislature, and the continuous adjustment of differences among prima donna temperaments. Pro-
The Archives of Purdue: Richard Owen

Professor Owen preferred wrestling with involved ideas to struggling with complicated situations. His vocation was his hobby; his pursuit and his pastime were identical: the conquest of the unknown. Administrative work to him was not as engaging as the romance of the intellectual chase. As president his activity would have been confined largely to the campus. As professor he could, and did, regard himself as the center of the universe, and it was his playground.

Until the outburst of criticism President Owen had not immersed himself in the problems of organizing Purdue University. He, who confided to his Diary systematically week by week for years the number of socks, handkerchiefs, shirts and underwear that he sent to the laundry, was strangely silent about his new responsibility. In these intimate volumes he recorded weddings and funerals which he solemnized, articles which he published and taxes which he paid, but scarcely a word about his new position. He made but four trips to Lafayette, Indiana, and on the last of these, after his resignation, he sold his collection of minerals and fossils to the institution. He never was in residence, and he never drew a salary.

Though President Owen and the Board of Trustees failed to see eye to eye on questions of fundamental importance, he

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1 Reimbursements on account of expenses incurred in connection with Professor Owen's presidency of Purdue, and occasions on which he was in Lafayette in connection with the organization of Purdue University.

August 13, 1872 Interviewed by the Board of Trustees, and accepted presidency.

May 7, 1873 Two days in meeting with Board of Trustees plus four days in transit $39.00

August 26, 1873 One day in meeting with Board of Trustees plus four days traveling 36.00

August 26, 1874 Receipt for fossils and minerals 675.00

Receipt for books 180.00

Expense while arranging and labeling fossils and minerals 46.60

$976.60
President of Purdue University

did not allow rancor to mar his feeling. On March 1, 1874, he offered his resignation in a dignified letter in which he expressed the hope that some one would be found “who will more fully carry out your views. Allow me to wish for the Institution a successful Future.” Thus closed the incident, and Professor Owen continued his teaching at Indiana University with little change, if any, in his life.

It is perhaps unprofitable to speculate on Professor Owen's success had he continued as President of Purdue University. Yet it is difficult to omit part of a letter of March 21, 1941, on this matter from Dr. William Lowe Bryan, President-emeritus of Indiana University, to Dr. Edward C. Elliott, President of Purdue University. Dr. Byran declared that until he had read the account by Hattie Lou Winslow and Joseph R. H. Moore of “Camp Morton under Richard Owen” in Camp Morton 1861-1865 in the Indiana Historical Society Publications he “had no idea that he was an executive of masterly ability as he proved himself to be at Camp Morton. It was certainly an ill day for Purdue when this great man and great executive was set aside. . . . ”