

# THE BUCHTELITE

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## BUCHTEL MAY BECOME UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

If favorable action is taken by the Charter Commissioners on a proposition to be submitted to them by the Trustees of Buchtel College, Akron may no longer have an institution known as "Buchtel College." It will probably be known as the "University of Akron," and will be under municipal control.

Such is the proposition in brief, as drawn by the Buchtel College Trustees, and they sincerely hope that the institution will be taken over by the city. Should this be done the city will appropriate funds annually through taxation for the support of the college or university, and it will be placed on an equal basis with the University of Cincinnati, which has passed through the same change, and after which Buchtel is drawing her step forward.

A State law provides the taxation of five-tenths of a mill for college purposes, and five-hundredths of a mill for observatory or other scientific purposes. This would mean the raising of almost \$50,000 per year for college purposes.

President Parke R. Kolbe, of Buchtel, stated this morning that he had received word from Columbus to the effect that a bill had passed the State Senate and was before the House this morning, providing that taxation for colleges shall be outside and above the Smith one per cent. law. This will prevent the college money coming from other city departments.

"Even at the present time Buchtel College is far from being in a desperate financial condition," said President Kolbe. "About three years ago we started to raise a \$500,000 endowment fund, and \$200,000 of this amount was pledged. With the strike and the flood coming upon us, there was a general falling off, but we still believe the amount can be raised.

"I have hoped for many years, and I know it was the desire of the late Dr. Church, to see Buchtel College become a municipal institution. It will give her a greater opportunity to grow, and become one of the largest institutions of the State. I hope the Charter Commissioners will see the advantage of this important step to Akron."

The following is the proposal of the Buchtel College Board of Trustees to the Charter Commission:

"To the Charter Commission of the City of Akron:

"Gentlemen: During its existence of more than forty years, Buchtel College has performed a most important work in this community, and it should be looked upon as an institution to be permanently maintained

among us. As an evidence that the college has a rightful and permanent place among our municipal institutions, we call attention to the fact that the attendance has trebled during the last decade and that this increase is due largely to the increased attendance of local students. Unfortunately the increase in our endowment has not kept pace with the increase in attendance, with the result that the sources of income are insufficient to enable the college to carry on its work satisfactorily.

"Therefore, we, the Board of Trustees of Buchtel College, representing the corporation in its corporate capacity, do offer and propose hereby to transfer, turn over and convey to the City of Akron the entire plant and endowment of Buchtel College and Academy on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth. We will first pay and discharge all the present indebtedness of the college, and the residue set over to the city will have a value of about \$400,000, of which amount \$150,000 will be interest-producing endowment, but subject to a few small annuities not exceeding the sum of \$1,845.65, payable to certain donors during their lives, and further subject to the granting of certain fees for scholarship privileges as requested by the original donors of scholarship funds or their descendants. The college is now and for some years has been wholly free from all denominational or sectarian control and influence, and will be so turned over to the city of Akron.

"This offer is conditional as follows:

"(1) That the city of Akron will devote perpetually the plant and funds thus turned over to it to the uses of a municipal college or university, to be called the College (or University) of the City of Akron, with the provision that in case of the development of several colleges, schools or departments, the Department of Liberal Arts shall retain the name of 'Buchtel College of Liberal Arts,' thus forming a department of a university in the same manner as Adelbert College forms a part of Western Reserve University, or as McMicken College forms a part of the University of Cincinnati.

"(2) That the endowment fund turned over to the city shall be maintained and not diverted from that purpose, and that only the income thereof shall be used for the support of the college or university.

"(3) That if a charter be adopted for the city of Akron it will provide in adequate terms for the maintenance of the college or university. The present laws on the subject relating to municipal colleges and universities as provided in Sections 7902 to 7922 of the General Code (as already successfully embodied

and carried out by the University of Cincinnati) will be deemed adequate.

"(4) The charter of the city shall provide for the government of the institution by a separate Board of Trustees, to be chosen and perpetuated under city control in a manner to be determined by you; with a provision, however, that a fitting representation on the Board of Trustees be assured to the present organization of the alumni of the college.

"It may not be amiss to direct your attention to the following matters in the consideration of the foregoing proposition:

"(1) As a municipal institution, and with very slight addition to the money which the city now expends for educational purposes, the college or university would offer to all qualified students of the city of Akron a college education with free tuition.

"(2) The adoption of Buchtel College as a municipal institution will insure, on a permanent basis, the continuance of one of Akron's oldest and worthiest semi-public institutions.

"(3) The identification of college with city interests can be turned directly to practical use for the city. A bureau of city tests for the examination of all materials used by the city; a bureau of municipal reference for collecting and filing information required by municipal officers—these and many other functions can be established and exercised by a municipal institution at great saving to the city.

"(4) The natural growth of the city will soon inevitably demand a school where her young people can be trained at small expense in technical branches and in the learned professions. The establishment of a municipal college or university upon the foundation of an already tested and recognized institution will provide a most excellent beginning for the development of a greater municipal university.

"The matter of the formation and adoption of a municipal charter being now before the people, we earnestly urge a serious consideration of this offer. We make it in the full belief that its acceptance is in every way to the public interest, and that this very favorable opportunity for the foundation of a municipal university should not be neglected."

### BUCHTEL'S PROPOSITION

(Akron Times)

One of the most interesting propositions ever made to the city of Akron is that today addressed to the City Charter Commission by President Kolbe, of Buchtel College. It is the tender to the city of Buchtel College as the nucleus for a city university.

Often The Times has told the people of Akron that it has not been to their credit that this splendid educational institution, in the capable hands in which it always has been, should have been permitted to suffer for want

of the support which this rich and prosperous city could so well afford to give.

Here is the statement that accompanies the offer made by Buchtel College, and The Times is pleased to commend it to the serious attention of Akron citizens:

"To the Citizens of Akron:

"In offering Buchtel College to the city of Akron as the nucleus for a municipal college or university, the Trustees have but one desire—to enable Buchtel College to serve more efficiently the people of Akron. For more than forty years the college has rendered valuable service, making it possible for scores of young men and women of the community to secure a college education who could have gone elsewhere only at great inconvenience and expense; in many cases to have gone elsewhere to college would have been practically impossible.

"A college exists to serve—the denominational college to serve the denomination, the State college to serve the State, the municipal college to serve the city. Now in a very real sense Buchtel is already a city college. It is one of the valuable and honored institutions of our city. And it is not only in Akron—it is also for Akron. It is peculiarly a local institution, for most of its students are from Akron homes, and the excellent work it is doing in training young men and women is primarily a work done for this community. But to change Buchtel College to a municipal college according to the plan suggested by the Trustees will make it possible for the college to serve the people of Akron far more efficiently than ever can be done under present conditions. With an adequate income, enabling it to offer free tuition to the youth of Akron, and to keep pace in buildings, equipment and courses of study with the growing needs of our progressive community, and with a co-operation between the college and the city so close and hearty as could not otherwise be possible, the College of Akron would become a most powerful factor in the building of the Greater Akron.

"The plan suggested is not new and untried. In Cincinnati it has met with remarkable success, the University of Cincinnati being the model institution of this kind. During the past ten years, as a municipal institution, the University of Cincinnati has had a wonderful growth. In 1902 it was a small college of liberal Arts, much like Buchtel today. Now it has a great engineering college, a college for teachers, a graduate school and a college of commerce, with almost two thousand students. The keynote of its activities is co-operation. In every way possible it co-operates with existing local institutions to serve the city, with the public schools, factories, hospitals, social settlements, museums, libraries, zoological gardens, water works, gas and electric plants, and street railways. Training in real life for real life' is its educational doctrine, and 'co-operation in service' is its ideal. It has 638 students in its evening classes. Of these, 77½ per cent. are graduates of high schools who

had to go to work before they left school, but now eagerly take advantage of the opportunity to get a college education. The college of commerce offers evening courses in commerce, finance, accounting, commercial law and business administration to all who are qualified to take them. Through its bureau the city tests, the university examines and appraises all materials used by the city; and through its municipal reference bureau it collects all information required by Council and the city's officers.

"An excellent illustration of the way the university and the city co-operate for service is seen in what is called the co-operative course in engineering. A large number of the best equipped manufacturing establishments of Cincinnati agree to employ a certain number of students as apprentices and to give them a graded course of practical training while taking their college course. The training covers as nearly as possible the entire manufacturing process from the raw material to the finished product, and is under the direction of an officer of the college. The young men are assigned to the factories in pairs, so that one works two weeks and the other the next two weeks, the two between them keeping their piece of work, or the machine, going steadily. The students of each year's classes are thus divided into two sections, one studying in the college while the other is working in the factory, and vice versa. The students spend most of the summer vacation at work in the shops, receiving the best wages paid apprentices. On an average they earn at least \$2,000 during the five years of their course, fully three-fourths of their expenses. The advantages of such co-operation are obvious. For the student it means economy of both time and money and a much more efficient training than he could receive in the university alone. Although taking college work only in alternate periods, by working eleven months in the year—that is, two of the three months of the summer vacation—he completes his course in five years. This is really a gain in time, for not only does he earn sufficient to pay most of his expenses, but when his course is completed he is ready for a position as engineer, whereas other engineering students must spend at least two years as apprentices before being ready for engineers' positions. Moreover, he spends three times as many hours in shop work as do ordinary students—and not in school shops, but in real, commercial shops.

"The advantage to the university is great, for it is saved all the expense of buildings, equipment, supervision and instruction in extensive practice shops. One may imagine how expensive a plant the university would be compelled to maintain in order to provide the facilities offered by seventy or more of the leading manufacturing establishments of a great city.

"To the city itself there is this advantage, that its own young men are being trained for efficient leadership in its industrial life. That it is an advantage to the manufacturers to have in their employ these bright and earnest

young fellows is evidenced by the fact that during the past seven years the number of manufacturing firms co-operating in the scheme has increased 289 per cent.

"Naturally, the people of Cincinnati are very proud of their university. The continually increasing usefulness of the university to the city brings correspondingly increasing loyalty of all the people of the city to the university. They are devoted to it because it is theirs; not for the sons and the daughters of the rich alone, but for the children of all the citizens. A recent investigation brought out some interesting facts on this point. Only 23 per cent. of the parents of the students are in the professions, 77 per cent. being in trade and mechanical pursuits for which no special education is required. This shows that by far the majority of the students are children of parents who did not themselves have opportunity for higher education. Eighty-five per cent. of the men students have done self-supporting work before coming to the university, and 74 per cent. are working part of the time at gainful occupations while at the university. The percentage of women students thus engaged is naturally much smaller on account of the greater difficulty incurred in securing work. Forty-five per cent. of the families from which the students come have an annual income of less than \$1,500; less than seven per cent. of the families represented have an income of \$7,500 a year. No less than 61 per cent. of the students claim they could not have afforded to go elsewhere.

"What Cincinnati has done, Akron, in proportion to her size, can also do. There are many reasons why Buchtel College should be to Akron what the University of Cincinnati is to that city. Buchtel is a flourishing college of high repute, with an honorable history, a large body of alumni, a continually increasing student attendance and a valuable plant. It has more students today than ever before, and never did the college do better work than now. The percentage of students from Akron homes is even larger than the resident attendance at the University of Cincinnati.

"These students represent all classes of our citizenship, but especially the substantial people of thrift, energy and ambition. Many of the students are wholly or partially self-supporting. But Buchtel College, with her limited income and equipment, can not take care of a much larger student body than she now has. The one thing needful is such an enlargement of her resources and such opportunities for co-operation with the city's industries and other activities as the plan suggested will bring about. Surely opportunities for such co-operation are not lacking. Why should our Akron college not offer to the youth of our city such a co-operative course in engineering as is given so successfully by the University of Cincinnati, and similar co-operative courses in rubber chemistry and other subjects. Akron is an unusually prosperous city, growing with remarkable rapidity. We call it the City of Opportunity, and rightly so. Shall it not be the city of full educational oppor-

tunity, as well as industrial opportunity, for all the people? Already the city offers, in its grade schools and high schools, free elementary and secondary instruction to the children of all its citizens. But what of equality of opportunity for higher and professional education? Shall not this also be put within the reach of all who are able and willing to profit by it? By doing so Akron will but round out and complete her educational system. Surely nothing short of this should satisfy a growing and prosperous city in a country whose governments aims to be not only of the people and by the people, but also for the people.

"BUCHTEL COLLEGE,  
"A. I. SPANTON."

## RESIGNATIONS

### DR. C. M. KNIGHT

Following thirty-eight years of labor as professor at Buchtel College, Dr. Charles M. Knight resigned his position at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, held April 14. No public announcement was made at that time of his resignation. He will continue with the college in an advisory position, but will retire from active labors. Dr. Knight will remain in Akron, the city which has been his home for many years. His resignation comes as a severe blow to Buchtel College. Prof. H. E. Simmons has been selected by the Trustees to fill the vacancy.

By the resignation of Dr. Charles Miller Knight, head of the Physical Science Department, Buchtel loses one of its foremost leaders.

Dr. Knight was born in Dummerston, Vt., February 1, 1848. He entered Tufts College in 1869, and was graduated four years later with the degree of A. B. In '73 and '74 he taught as assistant professor of chemistry at Goddard Seminary, in Barre, Vt., but at the end of the second year he resigned and took up the assistant professorship of physics at his alma mater. Here he received his master's degree in '78.

In 1875 he came to Buchtel, and was the instructor in natural science until 1883, when he was transferred to the work of the physical science department. This position he held until his recent resignation.

For a number of years Dr. Knight has been dean of Buchtel, and for one year ('96-'97) he was acting president of the college. This period extended from the resignation of President Cone until the election of Dr. Priest. In '97 Buchtel gave him honorary Sc. D. degree. About two months ago the Trustees also conferred upon him the degree of professor emeritus of chemistry and dean emeritus of faculty.

Dr. Knight also took graduate work at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy. He was a member of the Chemical Society and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

His resignation will not go into effect until June. He will, however, retain his office and an informal connection with the laboratory.

Not only does the college and faculty lose a good and faithful worker, but the students also lose a worthy instructor, friend and adviser. Dr. Knight, throughout his thirty-eight years of labor in Buchtel, did everything in his power for the betterment of the institution to which he devoted his life and time. Nor was it all in vain. The new chemical laboratory that was erected about six years ago is one of the fruits of his labors. The inspiration that all his students received from him to live noble, useful lives will last even longer than any building of brick and mortar.

Prof. Hezzelton E. Simmons, who will take Dr. Knight's place as the head of the Physical Science Department, was graduated from Buchtel in 1908 with B. S. degree, and for four years was a student under Dr. Knight. The next two years he was instructor in qualitative analysis at the University of Pennsylvania. He came back to his alma mater in 1910 as assistant professor of chemistry. This position he holds at the present time.

### MADEMOISELLE PLAISANCE

The recent resignation of Mlle. Sarah De Maupassant Plaisance, A. M., Professor of Romance Languages, has come as a great surprise to many students and friends of Buchtel College. Not only as a professor, but as a friend, Mlle. Plaisance is loved and respected by the faculty and the students, and her cheerful "Bonjour" has each morning helped many a student to begin the day happily.

Mlle. Plaisance graduated from the University of Colorado in 1906, with the degree A. B.; in the fall of that year she went to Tulane University of Louisiana, and there specialized in romance languages. In 1907 she returned to the University of Colorado, where she received her master's degree in 1908. That same year she came to Buchtel as instructor of romance languages. During the summer of 1909 Mlle. studied abroad at the Alliance Francaise, a division of the University of Paris, taking up literature, history and phonetics. In 1911 she went abroad again, traveling through Italy and Germany, and studying the languages. While in Germany she met Dr. Kolbe, then a student in Heidelberg. Last summer she studied philosophy at the University of Michigan. On leaving Buchtel Mlle. Plaisance will go to the St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y., where she continues her work as instructor of romance languages.

Miss M. Alice Rines, who for nine years was connected with Buchtel Academy as assistant principal and instructor of Latin, has resigned in order to succeed Mlle. Plaisance. Miss Rines was graduated from Tufts College