

"Be it resolved, that we, the Trustees of the Bloomsburg Literary Institute and State Normal School, of the Sixth District of Pennsylvania, accept the provisions of the Twentieth Article of the Act of May 18, 1911, known as the School Code, and to that end signify to the State Board of Education, our willingness to sell and convey the property of this Institution to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to be by it owned and controlled."

After a visit of a special committee to Harrisburg to consult with State Authorities, "a meeting of the stockholders was advertised for April 10, 1913, to vote upon the question of the sale of the property and the dissolution of the Corporation."

On March 13, 1913, "The Special Committee for the sale of the School, by its Chairman, reported that an interview had been held with the State Board of Education in Harrisburg on Thursday, February 6, 1913, at which meeting a proposition had been made by the Board of Education to purchase the School property for the sum of \$10,000, the State to assume all indebtedness."

Upon its return, the Committee issued a call for a stockholders' meeting to be held April 10, 1913, to vote upon the proposition to sell. A full report of the legal steps taken to secure a vote of the stockholders upon the question of the sale and consequent dissolution of the Corporation was recorded.

The vote cast showed 249 votes in favor of the sale. This represented 1339 $\frac{3}{4}$ shares, par value \$26,795, the same being a majority of the paid-up capital stock of \$39,940.

Two years went by without action by the State. "The mills of the gods grind slowly."

On July 28, 1915, a committee of the State Board of Education visited the School. Dr. Becht, Executive Secretary, was present. "The Committee expressed its pleasure at the excellent condition of the School and requested a full report of the indebtedness."

On December 1, 1915, the special committee on the sale of the School reported that a visit to Harrisburg had been made. With Dr. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dr. Becht, they called at the office of the Attorney General but were met by his Deputy. He raised several objections to the consummation of the sale, the chief of which was that the sale had been authorized about two and a half years before. He recommended another meeting of the stockholders, to vote upon the proposed sale. On April 10, 1916, a resolution was adopted setting forth the proposal "to sell all real and personal property of the School, to relinquish all rights of the Corporation, to the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania for the sum of \$10,000 and the assumption by the State of all indebtedness of the said Bloomsburg Literary Institute and State Normal School."

The vote was duly taken and tabulated on April 10, 1916. One hundred and ninety-seven votes, representing 1135 shares, par value, \$22,700, were in favor of the sale, no dissenting votes being cast.

The mortgage of \$50,000 on Science Hall was due March 1, 1916. The State approved the issuing of a new mortgage to secure refunding bonds, aggregating \$50,000 at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, payable March 1, 1936. The bonds were duly issued and sold.

At this stage, the Trustees were called to Harrisburg and told that some arrangements must be made at once for the payment or refunding of the note due, aggregating \$24,000.

On March 27, 1916, the Trustees resolved that, "It being lawful and expedient," 24 bonds would be issued each of \$1,000, payable April 1, 1926, secured by a mortgage. On the same date the Trustees received the deed for the "Buckalew Place," now the residence of the President of the College. Bonds in the sum of \$4,000, secured by mortgage, were issued in payment.

Shortly after this transaction, the State Board of Education requested the Trustees "not to enter into any unusual contracts increasing extraordinary expenses."

A copy of the agreement of the sale of the School to the State was given to the Trustees. Secretary Becht stated that it would be placed before the Trustees. Secretary Becht stated that it would be placed before the Governor for Approval. On May 29, 1916, a "Deed of Conveyance" was duly submitted to the State.

Arrangements were made for the distribution by the courts of the \$10,000 purchase price, to the owners of the 1135 shares, and for the dissolution of the Corporation.

State Executive Secretary, J. George Becht, announced the new Board as follows:

A. T. Schoch	M. C. Youngman	Verar Auten
James C. Brown	L. E. McGinnis	Benjamin Apple
John M. Clark		Charles W. Miller

Dr. Becht met with the Board on August 1, 1916. The Board was duly organized and the Institution became the Bloomsburg State Normal School, fully owned and under the control of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FROM NORMAL SCHOOL TO TEACHERS COLLEGE

W. B. SUTLIFF

The Bloomsburg Literary Institute and Normal School became, in name, "The Bloomsburg State Normal School" in 1916. However, College Preparatory, Medical Preparatory, and Secondary departments continued to hold a prominent place in the life of the School until 1920. Catalogs of 1917-18-19, contained the description of courses in French, German, Spanish, Latin, and Greek. Astronomy, Geology, Logic, Ethics, General Biology and Anatomy, Greek and Roman History, Trigonometry and Surveying each had a place in the work offered.

Compare these courses with the curricula of the early 20's and you will understand the exclamation of an old Professor in reviewing the changes — "Then came the Revolution."

It may be of interest to note the manner in which the "Summer Schools" came into being. The regular school year called for 40 weeks work. Inquiries began to be made by former students and teachers in service concerning the possibility of summer work. The Principal decided to have nothing to do with the project but co-operated by securing permission from the Trustees to turn the school plant over to the Faculty and allow the teachers to assume the responsibility. Heads of departments met and decided to try the plan. They selected W. B. Sutliff to advertise and organize a summer school of 6 weeks, to be held in 1919. The Trustees assumed no financial responsibility. The teachers took "pot-luck," agreeing to divide the enrollment and tuition fees in accordance

with the number of hours taught, modified by the number of students enrolled in each class.

Miss Mary Good was appointed "preceptress" in charge of the women living in the dormitory. The Steward ran the Dormitory, supplying room, board and laundry at \$5 per week. The registration and tuition fees amounted to \$12 per student; 352 students being enrolled.

County Superintendents of the 6th District held examinations at the close of the session for the certification of teachers. The Department of Public Instruction agreed to accept all credits earned, toward graduation.

The same plan was in force in the summer of 1920, the State agreeing to pay the \$12 tuition. In 1921, under the principalship of Dr. Fisher, the 9 weeks summer school became a regular feature of the Normal School year.

On January 12, 1920, Dr. D. J. Waller handed in his resignation as Principal of the School. On July 7, 1920, Dr. Charles E. Fisher was elected Principal.

A new era began. Dr. Finnegan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, decreed that the Normal Schools were created solely for the preparation of teachers for the public schools of Pennsylvania.

It should be noted that while the Arts Colleges claimed the honor of providing high school teachers, each Normal School

student, upon graduation received a certificate which listed each subject completed and accredited, together with the authority to teach such subjects in the Public Schools of Pennsylvania. Hence, many high school teachers were found with but two years accredited Normal School work.

1921 Changes

1st Entrance requirements: 15 high school units and a promise to teach.

2nd Entrance requirements: Four Curricula:

- Group I Kindergarten Primary — Grades I, II, III
- Group II Intermediate — Grades IV, V, VI
- Group III Junior High School — Grades VII, VIII, IX
- Group IV Rural

The Secondary Department was continued for several years solely for students from districts not having a high school and for those not having 15 high school units to qualify for enrollment in the Normal School.

Dr. Fisher immediately arranged a comprehensive plan to establish closer relationship between the Normal School and the town schools. Arrangements were made to use three rooms in the town schools for Practice Teaching in Grades IV, V, VI, the work to be supervised by Miss Steel, head of the Training School.

Mr. Keller was directed to give half of his time to the teaching of Art in the town schools; Miss Moore, in Music; Mr. Black, Penmanship; Mr. Hall, Industrial Arts; and Miss Cruttenden, Household Arts.

In 1921, the State Department of Public Instruction established the position Dean of Instruction in each of the State Normal Schools. W. B. Sutliff was appointed to assume this position at Bloomsburg.

On May 8, 1922, Dr. Fisher announced that a decision to establish a three year course for the preparation and training of Junior High School Teachers had been decided upon for all Pennsylvania Normal Schools. A one-room Junior High School was organized upon the local campus. It is interesting to note that this was the first step taken toward the goal of a Teachers College.

The certification of teachers by the Department of Public Instruction under Dr. Finnegan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, required two years of accredited work, i.e., 64 semester hours, for all elementary teachers in Pennsylvania, and created an immediate demand for Extension Courses for teachers-in-service.

Francis V. Mason was employed to organize classes, secure the cooperation of the faculty and establish the work.

The response was immediate and gratifying. The enrollment for the first semester of 1922-23 was 1770 teachers in service, counting all classes. In his report to the Trustees, November 13, 1922, Dr. Fisher stated that, "In the extension work there are 23 instructors, fifty courses being given in 23 different centers. Two automobiles, owned by the School, were used for the transportation of members of the faculty.

On June 1, 1923, Dr. Fisher announced his resignation as Principal of the School. He left to assume the duties of President of the State Teachers College, Bellingham, Washington.

Dr. Fisher transformed the emphasis of the Bloomsburg Normal School from secondary and college preparatory work for special students, to an institution devoting full time and effort to the education and training of teachers.

He was succeeded by Dr. G. C. L. Riemer, whose election was announced June 27, 1923. Dr. Riemer continued many of the plans inaugurated by Dr. Fisher. His administration was marked by the conversion of North Hall into a men's dormitory and the construction of the present lobby in Waller Hall. The latter improvement was made possible by tearing out the two stairways leading to the floor above and occupying the space of two large rooms, one on each side of the front entrance.

One evening in May, 1927, a school party was at its height, and the old Gym was crowded with students and teachers. Dr. Riemer had been on a visit to Harrisburg. Suddenly, he appeared in the doorway, clapped his hands and called for silence. Amidst the hush, everyone listened with the feeling "What's up?"

He announced in a loud voice, "I want everybody to sing the old school song, but put the word 'College' wherever 'Normal' has been sung." And everyone sang for the first time, "Bloomsburg, Bloomsburg College, up on College Hill." That was the way the news of the birth of the title, "Bloomsburg State Teachers College" came to Bloomsburg.

On April 11, 1927, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees: "Resolved that Francis B. Haas be and hereby is elected Principal of the Bloomsburg State Normal School for a term of three years beginning July 1, 1927, etc." With the coming of Dr. Haas, a new era of scholastic and material development and expansion began. The Institution rapidly passed from a College in name, to a College in fact.

TEACHERS COLLEGE (1934-1940)

HARVEY A. ANDRUSS

At the 1934 Commencement, those receiving two year normal school certificates were considered members of the Senior Class for the last time at the Bloomsburg State Teachers College. This discontinuance of the issuance of the Normal School Certificate marks the end of the two year preparation level and the emergence of a four-year degree granting institution of higher learning — the State Teachers College.

Evidence of the importance of the education of teachers of special subjects, such as Art, Music, Physical Education, Home Economics, and more particularly Commerce, began to manifest itself at Bloomsburg early in this period. In 1934, the first class matriculating as Freshmen in the Department of Commerce in 1930 was graduated and found ready placement in the high schools of Pennsylvania and adjoining states.

The citation of a few of these factors will indicate that the period from 1927 to 1934 had been a period of transition from a two-year to a four-year basis, during which special curriculums were introduced into the various Teachers Colleges so that the present structure of the institutions can be said to be fairly well moulded during this period. The pattern provides that each of the fourteen institutions shall train elementary teachers and secondary teachers of academic subjects, while certain institutions are designated to offer curriculums for the education of teachers of so-called special subjects. Bloomsburg's business graduates

began to prove themselves to the people of Pennsylvania in 1934.

Curriculums revised in 1932 were put into effect so that the first two years consisted of general education upon which the last two years could be based to provide professional teacher education. Revised admission requirements requiring students graduating in the lower half of their secondary school classes to qualify only through examinations, served to raise the entrance requirements to a higher level. Quality point systems as graduation requirements were inaugurated to insure a level of scholarship above that of mere time-serving or the accumulation of a number of semester hours of credit.

The period from 1934 to 1940 was also marked by the growth of the colleges in plant and personnel. The General State Authority building program added from two to four new structures to every campus. At Bloomsburg, the Centennial Gymnasium, the Junior High School (later called Navy Hall), a maintenance building, and a new heating plant were welcome additions to the college on the hill overlooking the valley of the Susquehanna River.

The degree of Bachelor of Science in Education was conferred on more than 1,000 teachers in the elementary, secondary, and business fields during the ten year period ending in 1940. Of this group, 77 per cent taught, and 15 per cent were otherwise employed.