

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

of federal and state government — something that is done in all our first class public schools. The girl in question speaks of singing classical music from Handel, Mozart, etc.; this simply means that she is in our school choir and sometimes I presume the selections are from these authors.

In our course of study there now are several changes that I would like to make in the direction of simplicity and perfection, but I cannot make them for the reason that we receive an appropriation from the State and those who finish our course at Tuskegee are expected to have studied the things required for a first grade state teacher's certificate. But were this restriction removed I do not mean to say that I would make any great change — were I permitted I should attempt less in mathematics.

Your letter calls my attention to the fact that the names used in our catalogue are misleading in several cases and give an exaggerated idea of what is attempted in the actual instruction. For example, under the chemistry our students are taught the most simple elements mainly with a view of using it in agriculture. From first to last the industrial work is the thing most emphasized at Tuskegee and the class room seems in a large measure to help the industrial work. Since my conversation with you last spring I have taken out the subject embraced under the head of "Economics" in the enclosed course of study though the work was given in a simple way.

In conclusion I would say that your criticism has done us good and I thank you for it. I think in a large measure you would get a different idea of our work if you could spend some time on the grounds and see the earnest way which our students take hold of their work. This I hope you will sometime be able to do.

I shall be glad to have at any time further suggestions from you.
Yours truly,

Booker T. Washington

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