

Principal's Office.  
Saturday, Nov. 21, 1931.

Dr. Percival came in to see me this morning principally with reference to the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ imperfect and unsatisfactory marking of examination papers which, he says, was done by Professor Reilley, Physics; Professor Evans, Chemistry; Professor Tate, Mathematics; Professor Thomson, Latin.

He claims that Reilley acknowledges some of the papers were more difficult and involved than he thought they were when he prepared them and he admits that he made a mistake in the marking of one question. Percival claims that 17 marks were involved, whereas Matthews said only 7 were involved one way or the other. He also claims that Professor Evans' marking was unsatisfactory, owing to the fact that some 38% of the pupils were failed in Chemistry; whereas the normal number ~~xxxxxxxx~~ failed by Evans was between 7 and 10. He claims that the students each year are of the same average intelligence and that the teaching is certainly not getting any worse and that the high percentage in failures arises from the undue severity of the paper or the severity of the marking.

With reference to Tate, he claims that a comparison of papers shows a great discrepancy in the marks awarded, that all were not treated in the same manner.

He also claims to have positive instance of mistakes in declension in Latin, showing indifferent marking on the part of Professor Thomson, and points out that this is not the first time objection has been taken to Professor Thomson's marking. He

He ends up by asking me what I am going to do about it, pointing out that the University, on account of its matriculation examinations is as much involved in a way as the Department of Education and he speaks of what the public are going to think if these facts become known. I have come to the conclusion that he desires to get rid of these men as examiners but he wants me to take the responsibility of saying their services are not satisfactory from the University standpoint, and he wants to put the onus of the change in examiners on my shoulders.

I think the stand I should take is this: that the High School leaving examinations are under the High School Leaving Board and if any faults are found in the severity of the papers or the marking of them it is the responsibility of that committee to make a report and to say what they think should be done. It will then be up to the Department of Education and the University to act on that report if the body concerned sees fit.

AWC:DM