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Letter from A. E. Wilson

A. E. Wilson

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OGDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

High School.

Ogden, Utah, Apr 20 1903.

President W. J. Kerr,
Logan, Utah,

My dear President Kerr, I have been at work on the courses I wish to submit to you and have finished about one half. I wished to make a careful study as to what would be the best in each case; hence the delay. I wish to ask for some information as to what changes if any will be made in the courses of study. It seems to me that in the preparatory courses, corresponding to High School work, some opportunity ought to be given for the study of foreign languages

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particular Latin or German. The amount of English is not in proportion to the benefit secured from its exclusive study. Most students and teachers confess that greater benefit in English is to be derived from two years study of Latin than from a similar added time spent on English. Goethe said, "He who does not understand foreign languages does not understand his own" and this is reasonable on the ground of the relativity of knowledge. English Grammar is rarely understood until after a course

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in Latin, and 577 of the English vocabulary is derived from this source. In a technical school Latin has a special right on account of the terminology, and training afforded. In secondary work throughout the country the work in language is about evenly divided between English and foreign languages. Only those students who have a foundation in Latin have been considered the strongest in further language work in our school. Elementary Latin is not taught in any college departments of any standing, and hence it should be placed in preparatory course, either optional

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or required. It will soon be found indispensable. Besides it gives better standing to a school or a student.

I have before me an agricultural course in an Eastern High School and some foreign language is required throughout the school course. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology requires two foreign languages for entrance. Stanford University allows a maximum English Entrance credit of 4 points, while over 10 credits may be obtained in foreign languages. A great deal of the elementary work in English

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Grammar, sentence structure, etc can be better taught in connection with Latin, and translation into English than any other way. Some colleges insist that students who have not had the benefit of such training must present double credits in English.

I hope to see the A. C. stronger in foreign language work, for this together with solid work in mathematics, science, English and History must be the basis of excellence in any technical work.

I enclose outline of courses as far as I have gotten. Please let me know your views.
Yours truly A. E. Wilson