

Oxford and Working-class Education

Being the Report of a Joint Committee of
University and Working-class Representa-
tives on the Relation of the University
to the Higher Education of
Workpeople

Second Edition, Revised

Oxford
Clarendon Press

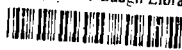
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1909

HENRY FROWDE, M.A.

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PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE second edition has been brought up to date on matters of fact and embodies a few alterations and some additions, principally in the lists of books.

The seven months which have elapsed since the publication of the first edition have done much to confirm the hopes then entertained. The eight classes working under the Tutorial Classes Committee show a uniformly satisfactory record. Moreover, as we had hoped and anticipated, the other English Universities are continuing the work they had already done in this direction, and their activities are developing on the lines suggested in the Report. It is hardly necessary for us to express our cordial sympathy with their action and our desire to co-operate with them, and to secure their co-operation, in meeting the increasing demand among workpeople for higher education.

The reception of the Report by almost every section of English opinion has been so satisfactory that we feel justified in hoping that work of the character described in it may soon be regarded as part of the permanent educational machinery of the country.

OXFORD, *August*, 1909

NOTE

WE are glad to be able to report that the following steps have already been taken by the University to carry out the recommendations made below :—

(1) A Statute was passed through the Convocation of the University on October 27, empowering the Extension Delegacy to form a Committee consisting of working-class representatives in equal numbers with members of the Delegacy.

(2) At a meeting of the Extension Delegacy on October 30 such a Committee was established, in accordance with the Statute.

Tutorial Classes are being held under the new Committee at the following places :—

Chesterfield.
Glossop.
Littleborough.
Longton.
Oldham.
Rochdale.
Swindon.
Wrexham.

(3) The Committee for Economics has agreed to the resolution as to the admission of Tutorial Class students to the Diploma course expressed in § 132 below.

(4) The Committee for Economics, acting on the suggestion made in § 133 below, has passed a resolution in favour of the inclusion of Political Science in the Diploma course for

Economics, and has appointed a sub-committee to draft a scheme.¹

(5) The Trustees of the University Appeal Fund have approached the University with a view to the establishment of a Lecturership in Political Theory and Institutions.

NOTE.—*The Tutorial Classes are of course open to women upon the same terms as to men; there are several women students in the classes now at work. It is intended that the whole scheme shall benefit the education of working women as much as the education of working men. It would be within the province of the Tutorial Classes Committee to consider any further steps with regard to the education of working women which may from time to time appear desirable.*

It should also be kept clearly in mind that the Committee has not dealt with the passage of boys from Primary schools to the University, holding this question, although at least of equal importance, to be outside its reference.

¹ A Statute extending the subjects under the supervision of the Committee for Economics so as to include associated branches of Political Science was passed through Convocation on February 23, 1909, and the regulations for the new course in Political Science have since been published.

PREFACE

AT a conference of working-class and educational organizations, held in the Examination Schools at Oxford on August 10, 1907, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Walter Nield, President of the North-Western Co-operative Educational Committees' Association, and seconded by Mr. Sidney Ball, Fellow and Senior Tutor of St. John's College, Oxford,¹ was passed:—

'That this National Conference, consisting of working-class and educational organizations, affirming the growing desire on the part of workpeople for Higher Education, and anxious for the further co-operation of Oxford in the systematic teaching of historical, economic, and other liberal subjects, approves the formation of a Committee of seven persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and seven persons nominated by the Executive of the Workers' Educational Association, with instructions to report before Easter next to the organizations here represented, as to the best means of carrying into effect the suggestions made in the two papers read before the Conference.'

In pursuance of this resolution, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford appointed the following persons to represent the University of Oxford upon the Committee moved for at the Conference:—

1. Thomas Banks Strong, Doctor of Divinity; Dean of Christ Church; Chairman of the Delegacy for the Extension of Teaching beyond the limits of the University.

¹ The papers read by Mr. Nield and Mr. Ball have been printed and can be obtained from the Secretaries of the Tutorial Classes Committee, Queen's College, Oxford, 4*d.* post free.

2. Herbert Hall Turner, Fellow of the Royal Society; Doctor of Science; Savilian Professor of Astronomy; and Fellow of New College.
3. Arthur Lionel Smith, Master of Arts; Fellow and Tutor of Balliol College.
4. Sidney Ball, Master of Arts; Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College.
5. John Arthur Ransome Marriott, Master of Arts of New College; Lecturer at Worcester College; Secretary to the Delegates for the Extension of University Teaching.
6. Hastings Bertrand Lees Smith, Master of Arts of Queen's College; Professor of Public Administration and Economics at University College, Bristol; Chairman of the Executive Committee of Ruskin College.
7. Alfred Eckhard Zimmern, Master of Arts; Fellow and Tutor of New College.

The following persons were nominated through the Executive of the Workers' Educational Association:—

1. W. H. Berry, Assistant Secretary of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, representing the Educational Committee of the Co-operative Union, Ltd.
2. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the London Society of Compositors, representing the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress.
3. Richardson Campbell, F.S.S., High Secretary of the Independent Order of Rechabites; Ex-President of the National Conference of Friendly Societies; representing the National Conference of Friendly Societies.
4. J. M. Mactavish, Labour member of the Portsmouth Town Council.
5. Albert Mansbridge, General Secretary of the Workers' Educational Association; member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education.

6. David James Shackleton, M.P., Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress; member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education; Secretary of the Northern Counties Weavers' Association; Ex-Chairman of the Labour Party; representing the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress.
7. Alfred Wilkinson, Labour member of the Rochdale Town Council.

The Committee thus constituted has held five sittings, of one or more days, in Oxford between Christmas, 1907, and October, 1908. At its first meeting on December 27, 1907, the Dean of Christ Church was elected Chairman, Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P., Vice-Chairman, and Mr. A. E. Zimmern and Mr. Albert Mansbridge Joint-Secretaries. For the better dispatch of some of its detailed business the Committee appointed two sub-committees—one to deal with financial and administrative questions and the other with courses of study. The members of the Finance Sub-Committee were the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and Secretaries, together with Mr. Berry, Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Marriott, and Professor Turner; of the Curricula Sub-Committee the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretaries, Mr. Ball, Mr. Lees Smith, Mr. Mactavish, Mr. A. L. Smith, and Mr. Wilkinson. The information collected and the courses drawn up by these sub-committees are contained in the Appendices to this volume.

We regret that we were unable to present our full report before Easter, 1908, as instructed by the Conference held on August 10, 1907. But the matters which came under our notice were so important that we decided to defer it until we had had time for further discussion, and, pending its completion, to issue an interim report for the consideration of the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the various University bodies whom its recommendations concerned. This was done in May, 1908. We have now considered, to the best of our power, the subjects covered by our terms of

reference, and submit the results of our inquiries and deliberations in the following final Report.

We have divided it into the following chapters:—

1. *Educational movements particularly affecting workpeople.*
2. *The University and Colleges of Oxford: their purpose, history, and endowments.*
3. *The Oxford University Extension movement.*
4. *The demand made by workpeople for University education.*
5. *The establishment of extra-mural Tutorial Classes.*
6. *The admission of workpeople to Oxford.*
7. *The after career of the working-class students.*
8. *Summary of recommendations.*

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS PARTICULARLY AFFECTING WORKPEOPLE

	PAGE
1. Manifold sources of the movement for adult education	1
2. The Adult School Movement	1
3. Mechanics' Institutes	2
4. The Co-operative Movement:	3
Organization	4
5. Educational grants	4
6. Educational work	5
7. Working Men's Colleges: The London Working Men's College	6
8. The Trade Union Movement	8
9. Ruskin College	8
10. The Workers' Educational Association	9

CHAPTER II

THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES OF OXFORD: THEIR PURPOSE, HISTORY, AND ENDOWMENTS

11. Object of the chapter	11
12. English Universities and Colleges and the advancement of learning	11
13. Rivalry of Universities in the advancement of learning	11
14. Two ways in which Endowments are used for learning: for teachers and students	12
15. <i>Teaching at Oxford</i>	12
16. University Teachers: annual expenditure	12
17. College Teachers: annual expenditure	13
18. This expenditure will not diminish	13
19. Reasons why the higher developments of learning are ex- pensive	13
20. The Committee's recommendations take account of the Uni- versity's duty towards learning	14
21. <i>Students at Oxford</i>	14

	PAGE
22. The University before the foundation of the Colleges	14
23. Turbulence of the students	15
24. The declared purposes of the Founders of Colleges	15
25. The Colleges devoted to learning, mainly theological	16
26. <i>Question for whom the Colleges were founded</i>	16
27. View of the Royal Commission of 1852	16
28. Confirmations of this view	16
29. Reasons against this view	17
30. Evidence from the University records	18
31. Conclusion	18
32. Changes in the composition of the Colleges	19
33. Two sets of causes	19
34. Increase in the fixed expenses of College life	19
35. Decline of the yeoman class	20
36. Result of these causes	21
37. Reasons for bringing forward the historical argument	22
38. Working-class opinion on the historical argument	23
39. <i>Arrangements for students of small means</i>	23
40. History of the scholarship system	23
41. Scholarships originally restricted to certain schools or localities	24
42. These restrictions largely swept away after 1852	25
43. The present scholarship system	25
44. Sums expended on scholarships and exhibitions	25
45. Double character of Oxford scholarships and exhibitions to-day	26
46. The abolition of restricted scholarships and of the servitor system adverse to the children of poor parents	26
47. Summary of discussion of the scholarship system	27
48. <i>Endowments</i> : reasons for discussing them	28
49. Classification of revenues	29
50. Statement of University and College revenues	30
51. Use of endowments for educational purposes	30

CHAPTER III

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY EXTENSION MOVEMENT

52. Reasons for the chapter	32
53. The origin and objects of University Extension	32
54. Method of Oxford University Extension	33
55. Finance of Oxford University Extension	34
56. Results of Oxford University Extension	35

CONTENTS

xiii

	PAGE
57. <i>Reasons why the Oxford University Extension system has not yet supplied the education desired by workpeople</i>	36
58. It is too expensive	36
59. It necessitates the attracting of large audiences	37
60. The teaching is not systematic	37
61. It is too much withdrawn from the University	39
62. Necessity of closer contact	39
63. Suggested means of contact with Oxford	40
64. Prospects of the Extension Movement	40

CHAPTER IV

THE DEMAND MADE BY WORKPEOPLE FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

65. Connexion between the University and social movements outside it	41
66. Two causes of the growing demand for University education	41
67. (1) Growth of State-supported education : its direct and indirect effects upon the Universities	41
68. Effects of State-supported elementary education	42
69. The University and the problem of secondary education	43
70. The Trades Union Congress secondary education policy	44
71. Policy of connecting Oxford with the public secondary schools	44
72. Necessity of supplementing this policy	44
73. Informal means of further education among workpeople	45
74. (2) Increased interest in social problems	45
75. Difference between the present movement and earlier movements	45
76. Significance of the movement	46
77. Urgency of the working-class appeal owing to changes in the distribution of political power	47
78. The older Universities as a training-ground for political life	47
79. <i>The functions of a University in a democratic community</i>	49
80. It should be accessible to every class	49
81. It must not necessitate a change of class : it should therefore offer a humane education to all classes	49
82. The relation between general and technical education	50
83. It should inquire into educational needs	52
84. Representation of workpeople on University governing bodies	54
85. Importance of the principle of direct working-class representation	54

CHAPTER V

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TUTORIAL CLASSES BEYOND
THE LIMITS OF THE UNIVERSITY

	PAGE
86. Two lines of advance	55
87. The two must not be dissociated	55
88. The Tutorial Class	56
89. The organization of the class	56
90. <i>Advantages of working-class management</i> : the education will meet the needs of workpeople	57
91. It will disseminate a desire for education	58
92. Necessity of systematic and continuous courses	59
93. The Rochdale Tutorial Class	60
94. Limited size of the class	60
95. Preparatory classes	61
96. Personal relationship between student and teacher	62
97. Continuity of study and attendance	62
98. Necessity of regular private reading	62
99. Necessity of an organized supply of books	63
100. Duties of the teacher	64
101. Qualifications of the teacher	64
102. Necessity of some experience of the working-class point of view	65
103. Status and remuneration of the teacher	66
104. <i>Reasons for giving the teacher an academic status</i>	66
105. Prestige of the direct connexion with the University	66
106. It will preserve a high level of work	66
107. It will be helpful to political and economic study at Oxford	66
108. It will increase the attractions of the profession	67
109. It will be of advantage to undergraduates	67
110. Necessity of arrangements for study in the University	67
111. Awarding of certificates	68
112. Admission to Diploma courses	68
113. Proposed Diploma in Political Science	68
114. Expenses of the Tutorial Class	69
115. Expenses borne by the local organization	69
116. The cost of books	69
117. Contributions by the centres and by Oxford towards the salary of the teacher	69
118. The Permanent Joint Committee at Oxford	70

CHAPTER VI

THE ADMISSION OF WORKPEOPLE TO OXFORD

	PAGE
119. The problem of bringing students to Oxford	71
120. The Committee of Selection	71
121. Instructions to this Committee	71
122. Analogy with the Rhodes Scholarships	72
123. Necessity of financial provision	72
124. Recommendation for provision of scholarships or exhibitions	73
125. <i>Sources for the provision of such funds</i>	73
126. Oxford Colleges	73
127. Labour Organizations	74
128. Local Education Authorities	76
129. The question of residence in Oxford Colleges	76
130. Facilities for political and economic study at Oxford	78
131. Degree students will be rare	78
132. Adaptation of the Diploma in Economics	78
133. Need for the inductive study of Politics	79
134. Need for increased staff of teachers in these subjects	80
135. Necessity of using the vacations	80
136. Suggestions for using the vacations	81

CHAPTER VII

THE AFTER CAREER OF THE WORKING-CLASS
STUDENTS

137. They will return to their town and society	82
138. Increasing number of responsible positions for workpeople	82
139. Knowledge required for Trade Union work	83
140. Parliamentary and municipal work	84
141. Work as teachers of Tutorial Classes	84
142. These proposals only a first step in a new development	84
143. The career open to talent	85
144. The need for education in all ranks of life	85
145. Conclusion	86

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	PAGE
1. Teaching beyond the limits of the University	87
2. The admission of working-class students to Oxford	88
3. The position and payment of teachers	88
4. The authority for organizing working-class education	89
5. Ruskin College	89
6. Diploma in Political Science	90
7. Special Inquiry Department	90

APPENDICES

I. THE ORIGINAL COLLEGE STATUTES	91
II. ON THE COST OF LIVING IN COLLEGES	95
III. GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR TUTORIAL CLASSES	97
IV. THE POWERS OF LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT OF 1902	99
V. CONDITIONS OF GRANTS IN AID OF TUTORIAL CLASSES FROM THE GILCHRIST EDUCATIONAL TRUST	103
VI. REPORTS ON THE TUTORIAL CLASSES AT ROCHDALE AND LONGTON	104
VII. COURSES OF STUDY	109
VIII. SUGGESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY STUDY	155