

September 17, 1915.

Mr. A. Stuart Robertson,
East Radford, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Your letter dated September 15 was not received by me until 5 p. m. yesterday, owing to the fact that the B. & O. mail is not delivered until 5 p. m., altho it arrives at 10:42 a. m. This makes it necessary that I reply at once and address the letter to Radford. Miss Sprinkel is working as rapidly as possible on the summer session statement, and if possible I will enclose same herewith.

Regarding the past due and unpaid bills I will say that we are not badly behind, in fact we have practically paid everything in the invoice file. When you looked over the June accounts there were numerous bills unpaid, but these have been settled since. You may recall that last winter I told you that I anticipated a deficit at the end of the nine months' session, due to the fact that we pay the salaries of teachers (which is by far the largest item) in nine monthly installments whereas the amounts appropriated by the State are paid in twelve monthly instalments. However, we always catch up in the summer, and this year is no exception.

As to the grading I will say that practically all of the grading which has been done this year was necessary on account of the new building having to be protected against surface drainage. As you probably have observed the location of our present buildings is much lower than the grounds in front of same, and as we erect buildings on this side it is absolutely necessary to grade around them to keep the water from doing considerable damage. We have not yet succeeded in putting enough earth about the buildings to keep the basements dry, but hope to complete this soon. You doubtless had in mind the work you saw going on on top of the hill. This work was necessary in order to get the water line low enough to prevent freezing in winter and to protect from traffic passing across it, etc. We have never cut on this hill simply for the sake of the hill, but always to get dirt to fill in around the buildings and build up for the driveway. In cutting down this hill we had come to the point where the water line was and could not afford to leave it uncovered during the winter. We had to blast thru practically solid rock for most of the distance in putting this pipe lower and that required considerable work, which you probably noticed. You may have noticed the new driveway, so I will say in regard to that we have done little or no work on that this year. Nearly all the filling was done last year. We have accumulated a lot of rock, and owing to the fact that we have to get a crusher when it is not engaged elsewhere, we crush rock and put it on this piece of roadway from time to time.

While I cannot say that the grading has interfered in any way with the payment of bills, I will state that I have felt compelled to expend a considerable amount in this direction. I felt that the exigencies of the situation demanded it. I do not anticipate, however, that it will be necessary to do a great deal of this from now on until we have some funds available for this purpose.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the Town of Harrisonburg paid the cost of the new sidewalk and roadway in front of our property. If you will refer to the report which I made to the Board of Trustees under date of April 15, 1915, page 3, you will read: "The town has recently agreed to lay a cement sidewalk along the frontage of the property, which will greatly improve its appearance from the street." (I may also add that in the same section I refer to the necessity for immediate grading to protect our buildings.)

In regard to this work done by the Town, I want to say that we have been after the Council for the past five years, the former Board of Trustees appointed committees to see the Council, write letters to them, etc., but without success. The Council passed the matter by every time until this year, after further effort on my part the work was ordered. I consider this to be one of the greatest achievements of my career! Many of our citizens have stated to me that they consider it to be so, knowing the Council as they do!

As to the envelopes for the vouchers in the Treasurer's office, I will say that I shall gladly install any system that appears to you to be best. We want our office up-to-date in every respect. Miss Sprinkel had already spoken to me about the matter and I told her to find out just what you considered the most up-to-date and advisable system to install, and with this information in hand we could order the necessary filing cases and supplies.

Miss Sprinkel has been working steadily all morning on the summer session accounts, and now it is time for the mail to close. In order that this letter may get to you in time I shall have to send her results with the statement that they may have to be slightly revised upon more careful auditing. According to the calculations she has been able to make, the amounts are as follows:

Total Receipts	\$9,996.78
Total Expenses	9,477.96
Profit	\$ 518.82

If time were available we could of course give you the statement in detail and with positive accurateness. I think, however, the above totals are correct. For reasons stated at the beginning of my letter, we have had very little time to

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prepare such a statement.

In this connection permit me to say that we have ~~never~~ attempted to make "profits" out of our summer school work or out of any other part of our school work. We have understood that the state is not in the money-making business, and have striven merely to "come out even" each time. This we have succeeded in doing, for which I am very grateful. This summer work is the most valuable part of the work of our school, in my estimation, and I consider it a vital and integral part of the regular work of the school. The results this past summer have been in every way satisfactory and there is no estimating the amount of good the school has done in this summer term for the improvement of the teaching force and consequently the improvement in general of the public school system of Virginia--and sure that is our work.

I regret that I cannot for reasons stated in a letter to Mr. Davis, be present at this meeting of the Board. In addition to other reasons Saturday is the day for our primary election--and I cannot afford to miss voting. Please express my kindest regards to the members of the Board, and with best wishes for a good meeting, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

B/J

President.