

CONDITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
UTAH

At the request of the president and with the authorization of the council of the American Association of University Professors, the secretary of the association recently visited Salt Lake City and spent four days investigating the conditions at the University of Utah which have led to the resignation of sixteen members of the university faculty. The purpose and the limitations of the scope of the investigation are indicated by the following extracts from the secretary's letter to the president of the university:

The situation that has recently developed at the University of Utah has aroused much concern throughout the country among persons interested in the work of the American universities, and especially among members of the university teaching profession. It has, however, been difficult for those at a distance to be sure that they had correctly gathered the essential facts of the case from the incomplete and more or less conflicting *ex parte* statements which have appeared in newspapers and periodicals. In particular, the statements made upon the two sides of the controversy appear to have failed specifically to join issue upon certain points of interest. It has, therefore, seemed advisable to the president of the American Association of University Professors, Dr. John Dewey, to send a representative of that organization to interview yourself and others concerned, with reference to the matters in controversy; and to endeavor to secure as full and impartial a statement as may be of the relevant facts. It is perhaps advisable to explain the nature of the interest which the Association of University Professors takes in the matter. It is coming to be a well-recognized principle that the general body of university teachers is entitled to know, with regard to any institution, the conditions of the tenure of the professorial office therein, the methods of university government, and the policy and practise of the institution with respect to freedom of inquiry and teaching. In the absence of information upon these points, it is impossible for members of the profession to judge whether or not the institution is one in which positions may be properly accepted or retained by university teachers having a respect for the dignity of their calling, a sense of its social obligations, and a regard for the ideals of a university.

It is, therefore, important to the profession that

when criticisms or charges are made by responsible persons against any institution, with respect to its policy or conduct in the matters to which I referred, the facts should be carefully determined in a judicial spirit by some committee wholly detached from any local or personal controversy, and in some degree representative of the profession at large. It is in this spirit, and for these purposes, that information is sought in this instance. What appears to be particularly desirable, in the present case, is a fuller and more definite statement than has yet been made public upon certain matters of fact which still remain not wholly clear, but which are, presumably, not incapable of ascertainment.

Any information of this sort which—with your assistance and that of others—I may be able to gather, will be laid before the council of the association, and probably also before a joint committee representing this and other organizations. My own report and the findings of the committee will, no doubt, if the council see fit, eventually be made public. We, of course, assume that the administration of the university is equally desirous that all facts in any way pertinent be thus fully made known, and submitted to the impartial judgment of both the academic and the general public.

We therefore venture to count upon your aid in this attempt to draw up a complete and unbiased summary of the circumstances of the case; this, we hope, may be of some service to the university as well as to our profession.

A report upon the case may be expected as soon as a committee of the association is able to consider the evidence brought together by the investigation of the secretary.

THE PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

THE letter from Professor J. N. Bowman, secretary of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies, published in *SCIENCE* for April 9, 1915, gives me the pleasant opportunity of placing on record certain interesting facts concerning the Pacific Association.

Men and women of science residing in the Pacific region were obliged to recognize that the demands upon time and money to enable them to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in the Eastern or Central States, were so severe as to be prohibitive to fully 99 per cent. of the 800 Pacific members. Inasmuch as the