

History

BLOOMINGTON, IND.,

June 3, 1890.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of Indiana University,
Gentlemen:

The year just closing has been a very profitable and pleasant one to me. Considering the general plan of work, the method used, and the general spirit in which the work has been given and received, I think we may justly speak of the year as fairly successful. The execution of the work can be greatly improved in all its details. I have found in the university a remarkably intelligent and earnest student body. I have no reason to complain of a single member of that body.

The following table shows the number of students working in history during the year.

Fall term	Men.	Women	Total.
Sophomore class	29.	15.	44.
Junior "	10	1	11.
Senior "	13	2.	15.
			<u>70</u> total for term.
Winter Term.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Sophomore class	39.	15.	54.
Junior "	11.	2.	13.
Senior "	11.	2.	13.
			<u>80</u> total for term.
Spring Term.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Sophomore class	44	17.	61.
Junior "	42	15	57.
Senior "	11	4	15
			<u>133</u> total for term.

The increase in numbers is partly due to the fact that the subjects dealt with in the spring term are in themselves more attractive than those taken up in the fall, and partly to the fact that students coming here to take the spring term's work found it convenient to take up history. Then since increase is due to the fact that students felt uncertain what would be done in the department next year. Still, making allowance for all these facts it would seem desirable that the American History work should be started as soon as possible so as to relieve our present large classes.

Eight students will take the degree of A.B., and three the degree of A.M. from our department this year.

In our library work we have felt the lack of the documentary materials on which all true study of history must rest. I feel that excellent judgment has been used in the selection of the secondary works forming our present library, but I feel that the best interests of the department will be met by making the most of our new purchases along the line of historical sources, rather than along the line of historical commentary. This class of books must be sought largely through second-hand dealers, and must be secured when they appear. Our present system of collecting selection and purchase does not lend itself readily to this

kind of collecting.

I shall avail myself of the leave of absence granted me at the last meeting of your board to further prepare myself for the work of this department. Most of the year will be spent in collecting arranging and printing the historical materials required in my teaching. My acquaintance with the libraries and professors at Cornell make it best for me to spend most of my year there. I hope, however, to visit Johns Hopkins, Harvard and Clark during the year. I am looking forward with pleasure to taking up my work here again after next year.

Mr. Woodburn will give my sophomore and senior work as outlined in our catalogue; the junior work will be dropped in order that he may begin his work in American History - and in English Constitutional History.

Hoping the university may be even more prosperous and progressive during the coming year than during the past - I remain, gentlemen,

Yours most truly -

Earl Barnes.