

Robins, Iowa, July 27, 1891.

Pres. J. M. Coulter:

Dear Sir, —

When I was last with you you requested me to send you an account of my training that would aid you in arranging the equipment and scholarships of the new faculty. I have delayed thus long hoping I might be able to announce the publication of an article of mine which the "Arena" has accepted and paid for. As it did not appear, however, in the July number, I have decided to wait no longer for it. The following will perhaps give you as complete an account of my training as you could in any case make use of.

In Jan., 1882, at the age of fifteen, I entered Case College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I pursued the classical and scientific courses together and was graduated in June, 1886 with the degree of A. B. I was youngest in a class of six. No honors were awarded but my record in the college register shows a higher average, term by

term, than was obtained by any other member of the class of six.

During the third of my junior year I had taught country school and at the same time kept up my college studies. After graduation I worked for two years in the Fort-Dodge Collegiate Institute of Fort-Dodge, Iowa. My teaching included English, German, psychology, ethics, and others of the higher branches. My pupils were native and included many teachers. My work was successful and I was requested to stay for a third year but declined.

The summer intervening between my two years' of work at Fort-Dodge I passed in the Summer School of Languages at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon Iowa, reading extensively in German, and studying French and Spanish. The next summer I was invited to teach the German classes in the Summer School in place of Professor Curme who had been called to teach German in the Amherst Summer School. After completing this work in August, 1888, I went abroad with a view to studying modern languages and fitting myself for work in Germanic philology. I settled in Berlin and passed there a year of very

severe study and research. Although my aptitude
for languages led me at one time and another
to acquaint myself with Dutch, Italian, and
Volapük, I soon discovered that the work of
philology was very little to my inclination or
taste. After acquiring some insight into the value
of the work I threw the reins upon the neck
of inclination and went over to philosophy, history,
and politics. In these my teachers were Zeller,
Païlsen, Giezzei, Grimm, Von Treitschke, Wagner
and others. In August-1889 I left Berlin and
passed five months in travel and in study
in the libraries of Paris and London. In February, 1890,
I entered Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore
in the department of History and Politics. I remained
there continuously working, in vacations as well as
during the regular sessions, until June, 1891.
My foreign study ended me easily to pass
a "first minor" examination in philosophy. My
attention, hence, was concentrated on Political Economy,
and history; the former my major subject, the
latter my "second minor" study. Besides these I took
courses in Greek and Prussian Politics, Roman
Comparative Jurisprudence, Administration, and

Diplomacy. I received the degree of Ph.D. last June. My thesis was entitled "Sinking Funds" my work traced the history of sinking funds in British and American financing and sought to derive from this a new classification and theory of the modes of paying public debts. This thesis will be published during the coming year.

While in Baltimore I lectured before the Aldermen Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore on "Bimetallism" and before a church economic guild on "Difficulties of Socialism".

I have now in view the following pieces of original work.

- 1st - I am to write in collaboration with Dr. Ely of Johns Hopkins a book on "Modern European Socialism". This I shall take up immediately.
- 2nd - I have been invited to write with Dr. Ely and one or two others in the preparation of a large and detailed treatise on Political Economy, on the plan of Schönböck's "Politische Ökonomie". This work will not be taken up for two or three years and perhaps had better not be mentioned as it is only to make known the plan.
- 3rd - I am working steadily on a plan to illustrate by diagrams, logically developed and geometrically proved, the main propositions of the new Austrian

economics. Several of my³ diagrams have been used
at Johns Hopkins ~~and~~ in the lectures and Prof.
Ely has had me insert certain diagrams as an
appendix to this forthcoming book on "Socialism".

As yet - nothing of my scientific work has been
published. The "Arena" has taken an article
of mine on Current-European Persecution but has
not yet published it.

I think Pres^t. Jordan received some letters
from men I have worked under giving my
work and record. If anything euphotic as to my
general ability is desired it would be best to
write to Professor Griffin or Ely of Johns Hopkins.
I believe the above contains all I ever per-
mitted to say concerning my work. Hoping the
account will meet your need I remain

Very truly yours,

E. A. Ross.

File this in New York and -

thus Ross Centenary

Very truly yours
J. W. Ross