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5-7-02
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4148 Lucky St.,
St. Louis Mo.

Miss Lillie Heath,
Secretary to the President,
University of Illinois, Urbana.

My Dear Miss Heath:

Will you kindly inform me as to what public student events are to take place on Saturday May 24 and also their hours? I have been granted permission to call a small meeting on that day, consequently I desire no conflict with other assemblies.

Yours very respectfully,

Wm. Walter Smith, '00.

I am very glad to hear of the President's improvement.

4148 Lucky Street
St Louis Mo.

Pres. Andrew Sloan Draper,
University of Illinois,
Urbana.

Dear Sir:

I saw by the papers that you were in the East and consequently I did not expect a sudden reply. You say that you do not think that the University authorities would be disposed to promote the organization of a coöperative store. I did not anticipate that much. All I want to know is, if there should be a general movement among the student body for such an enterprise would the University put no stumbling blocks in the way, would the University give the organization the same privilege as Cornell gives, namely the use of unused basement rooms for a store room.

Yours respectfully,

March 21, 1902.

Wm. Walter Smith.

4148 Lucky Street.
St Louis Missouri.

Pres. Andrew Sloan Draper,
University of Illinois,
Urbana.

Dear Sir:

I am at last ready to give you some information on my proposed coöperative store. With the writer's permission I shall enclose the letters of Mr. A. D. Stevens, Manager of the Cornell Coöperative Society, who has been kind enough not only ^{to answer} the few questions which I was able to ask but also to give me much additional information. What my questions were you will easily perceive from his answers. However perhaps I had better explain the expression "when you can take care of the elections" in his letter of Feb. 27.

I foresaw that among other things

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Mr. Stevens would want to know how much influence foreign to the University might be brought in opposition to a cooperative store. I made the statement that I thought such influence would amount to very little as the students practically held the balance of power in city politics, as I had some influential friends, and lastly, ~~and lastly~~ that politics had little or no influence in matters concerning the University of Illinois.

You will see from Mr. Steven's correspondence that the Cornell society did a business of nearly \$50,000 last year, a business profitable, as he shows, in more than one way to the University. The conditions for establishing such a store are also very favorable at our institution. At Cornell the opposition is directly off the campus, is handy for the students when anything is needed in a hurry (the 'coop' is in a university building); at Illinois the

nearest store is more than a mile away and street car service is not the best. At Cornell the opposition carries student supplies exclusively; at Illinois the stores handle such articles "merely as introductory to our drug and music trade and as an accommodation to the students; for there is no money in the book business."

I find that nearly all of the leading educational institutions have or are preparing to start coöperative stores. Among the number that have them already are Cornell, Harvard, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Missouri State University. I shall soon be able to let you know something about the societies at these universities.

The idea of such a business at Illinois is not a mushroom development with me. It suggested itself in the spring of my junior year.

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But as I was to have charge of "The Illini" the next year I could not think of undertaking such an enterprise, so I placed the matter before a friend who for some reason did not attempt it. I am sure that Mr. Steven's comprehensive and business-like letters will convince you that Illinois needs a 'coop'; however if you desire further information from him, you have, as you will see from an enclosed letter, the permission to write him and an assurance that he will give you any information you may desire.

As I have not the facilities to make copies of these letters, I shall ask you to return them at your leisure. Should you wish to see me personally, write me as I desire to go home anyhow to have a consultation with my father.

Yours respectfully
Wm. Walter Smith.

March 10, 1902.

4148 Lucky Street,
St Louis Mo.

Pres Andrew Sloan Draper,
University of Illinois, Urbana.

Dear Sir:

I have not yet finished collecting evidence which will clearly prove to you that a coöperative society will be a great benefit to the student body and the University at large; but I will soon finish and shall forward it to you.

Respectfully,

Wm. Walter Smith, '00.

2-24-'02.

Sumner High School,
St Louis Mo.,

Jan. 20, 1901.

Pres. A. S. Draper,

University of Illinois,

Urbana Illinois;

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst. was received today. While your answer was not that I desired yet it was sufficient for the time being. I shall forward you information about co-operative stores at other institutions in a few weeks. All I ask at the present is, that, since I am first on the field, I may have the right of way.

Respectfully yours,

Wm. Walter Smith

Summer High School,

St Louis Mo.

Pres. A. S. Draper,

University of Illinois,

Urbana Illinois;

Dear sir:

I am intending, in the near future, to take a course in civil and mining engineering. Of course at this stage my savings are not adequate to meet the expenses and, as I do not wish to ask further

aid from my father, I must cast
around for means of supporting
myself. After looking over the field
I find that Illinois has no stu-
dents' Co-operative Store, a very common
and a very useful business organ-
ization at other institutions of im-
portance. I suppose it is needless
for me to tell you that these
stores supply students with books
and materials at a much lower
price than the local dealers. Of
course there are some profits but as
the students hold the shares they are
the gainers. At other universities
the business is conducted in some
unused basement of a college build-
ing. Now the question with me is:

Do you favor such a modern stu-
dent organization at Illinois? If you
do, I shall look farther into the matter
and, of course submit, my plans to you.

Respectfully,

Wm. Walter Smith, '00.

Jan. 17, 1902.

(Cor. 15th & Walnut Sts.)