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Editorial Remarks

Under the caption "A Mischievous
Discrimination," the Omaha Bee, of
April 30, discusses the professional
pension fund as follows:

"One of the conditions of the munifi-
cent donation made by Andrew Car-
negie last week to found a pension
fund for college and university pro-
fessors requires the exclusion of mem-
bers of state universities from partici-
pation in its benefits. Chancellor An-
drews, in response to the Bee's inquiry

prompt and experienced professional
talent that they will have to content
themselves with serving as a training
school to develop new material, or as
an asylum for Oslerized relicts unable
to connect with one of the pension
fund institutions.

"Should the situation become acute
the state universities will have only
two alternatives to choose from. They
must either increase their faculty
salaries to the point that will enable
them to make provision themselves as
they go along for their support after
retiring, or they will have to improvise
some scheme for a state pension
fund to be created out of the same re-
sources from which the universities
themselves are maintained. The dif-
ficulty here would be that if the states
which maintain state universities
undertake to provide pensions for
their university professors they will
not be able to stop there, but will
have to provide pensions for teachers
in all branches of their public school
system, and then for all permanent
employees in the state civil service.
That none of the state university com-
monwealths are ready for such a
radical departure goes without saying.

"On the other hand, one other solu-
tion remains to prevail upon Mr.
Carnegie to remove the un-called-
for and mischievous discrimination
against state universities and to open
his pension fund foundation to all
higher educational institutions alike.
We do not believe Mr. Carnegie thor-
oughly realized the pernicious conse-
quences sure to follow the conditions
he has attached to this endowment, or
that he would intentionally put the
people of those states who have as-
sumed the burden of supporting their
own universities as public institutions
without waiting for private gifts or
bequests, at a disadvantage as com-
pared with those who have had their
universities supplied to them almost
without cost by benefactions of
wealthy philanthropists. Mr. Car-
negie's principle in the distribution of
his bounty has been to help people to
help themselves and none deserve bet-
ter under this rule than the state uni-
versities which have been established
and maintained by the people and for
the people."

When Mr. Carnegie made this offer
he was doubtless moved to exclude
state university professors because of
a very justifiable reluctance to con-
tribute to the support of state em-
ployees, desiring rather to confine his
benevolence to colleges wholly depend-
ent upon subscription, donation or en-
dowment. While justifiable such
scruples are manifestly unfair for thus
the half-paid instructor in a state uni-
versity is left to make the most of his

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as to his opinion of the probable effect
of this discrimination, characterizes it
as "cruelly invidious," but while this
indicates what may be expected, it
does not explain how this blighting in-
fluence will be felt.


"The promise of pensions for super-
annuated or incapacitated professors
and instructors in the great universi-
ties of the country is equivalent to in-
creasing the salaries attaching to those
positions. Other things being equal,
it will be perfectly natural for the
educator who has devoted himself to
instructional or research work in in-
stitutions of higher learning to prefer
the place which allows him to partici-
pate in a pension fund under cer-
tain conditions over one which leaves
him entirely dependent upon his own
resources when the time comes to re-
tire from active service. In other
words, until something is done to
counteract this disturbing factor, un-
less other conditions enter, the state
universities will be so handicapped in
their efforts to secure and hold com-

mittance, while the well remunerated
instructor in a wealthy endowed insti-
tution is benefitted unjustly. Not that
the benefit is unjust in itself, but it is
unjust in comparison of relative merits
and positions. It is a case of the say-
ing "to him that hath shall be
given," being only too true.

The above article suggests three
remedies: to increase salaries, to
establish a pension fund or to pre-
vail upon Mr. Carnegie to remove the
so-called "uncalled for and mischievous
discrimination," and the writer pro-
ceeds to knock out the second of the
remedial possibilities, leaving an in-
crease in salaries or a change in Car-
negie's mind as the only resorts.

The epithets "uncalled-for" and
"mischievous" are in themselves un-
called for. That such a restriction is
mischievous in its effect there is no
doubt, but that a mischievous spirit

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prompted it we are extremely loathe
to admit. A moment's reflection up-
on the feasibility of an individual
undertaking to pension the employes
of a commonwealth such as ours will
suffice to prove that the restriction is
not "uncalled-for."

Of the three remedies only one,
therefore, is left and if the process
of elimination has been right the re-
maining one is the one to be tried.

If members of our faculty were re-
munerated sufficiently to enable them
to lay by a little "against a stormy
day" less would be thought about a
pension.

Mr. Carnegie's pension idea is a
great and good one and it would be a
splendid thing if it could be made all
inclusive, but a line had to be drawn.
It is extremely doubtful if the donor
can be induced to change his mind.

In the meantime our faculty still
holds the sack and the much deplored
"brain leakage" continues.

It Pays.

In Tuesday's issue of the Nebraskan
appeared an advertisement, calling for
back numbers of the paper. We ne-
glected to state that only one copy of
each was desired, and as a consequence
more copies were brought to the of-
fice than could be taken care of. The
promptness with which the advertise-
ment was answered is an indication
that the columns of the paper are valu-
able as an advertising medium.

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