

DR. BENZINGER HAS RESIGNED OFFICE

~~In Letter to President Falconer~~
Withdraws From the
University

NO EXCHANGE ARRANGED

Professor Benzinger Thinks His
is Only Course to Relieve
Situation

The following correspondence has passed between President R. A. Falconer of the University and Dr. L. Benzinger, Professor of Oriental Languages:

Toronto, Dec. 31st, 1914.
To the President of the University of Toronto.

Mr. President: When I was informed, on December 7th, by the Secretary of the Board of Governors, that I had "been granted leave of absence on salary until the 30th of June next," I came to the conclusion that my best course in the interest of the University would be to resign my position. But as you had already conceived the idea of having the work continued by means of an exchange of teachers with one of the Universities of the United States, I regarded it as my duty to take no step in the meantime in this direction. Now that this project has been abandoned, it is more clear to me than ever that the situation, in which the University at present finds itself, can only be relieved through my withdrawal.

I therefore beg to present to you my resignation as professor of Oriental Languages in University College.

Yours, sincerely,
(Signed) L. Benzinger.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

Dear Mr. Benzinger: I have just received your letter asking me to lay your resignation before the Board of Governors. Coming as it does from you on your own initiative and in view of the uncertainty as to the duration of the war I shall not ask you to withdraw it, though I deeply regret that the University is to lose

your services. As you are aware, when the Board thought it expedient to place you on leave of absence for the rest of the session I entered into correspondence with some of the leading Universities and professional schools of the United States in the hope that I might effect an exchange with a scholar of Arabic and Oriental Archaeology, but unfortunately my efforts have been unsuccessful.

President Lowell of Harvard, President Hadley of Yale, Dean Matthews of Chicago, President Francis Brown of New York, President McKenzie of Hartford, and others have answered in the most cordial way possible, and would welcome you to do teaching, but unfortunately there are very few men qualified to undertake your work. Of those who are, most have their courses arranged with their students for the whole academic year, and in two cases the only possible exchange men are of German birth. You will be pleased to know that a well-known scholar of the University of Pennsylvania writes, "I beg to assure you that, in common with all scholars, I have the the very highest opinion of Professor Benzinger's eminent scholarship."

On leaving this University it must be a satisfaction to you to be told that you have won the respect of your colleagues of the department in the various colleges and those members of the staff who have got to know you. It must be no less gratifying to be assured by your students that your learning, teaching ability, and character have gained for you their confidence, no suggestion having escaped you during this testing crisis which was unsympathetic to their convictions, loyal to the core, as they are.

Result of War.

Your resignation will, I am afraid, cripple the work of this department, especially on its graduate side, one student who had come from India having already left to pursue his studies in Chicago.

This unfortunate event, however, is but one of the results of the terrible war into which our Empire has been forced on behalf of a higher humanity among the nations of the world. When we have won a satisfactory peace, we hope that a new era for civilization will dawn and that through the Universities, homes of pure patriotism, the light of a culture will stream, which, while Canadian and provincial, will be colored also with the brightest ideals of the wide moral and intellectual world.

I will transmit your resignation to the Board of Governors for their action.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

R. A. Falconer,

President.