

BUTLER PETITION HAS 125 NAMES

Business Men Point Out Advantages of Moving College to Fairview Park.

The petition to be presented to Robert J. Todd, president of the Indianapolis Street Railway Company, and Dr. Henry Johnson, chairman of the board of directors, requesting that the car company turn over Fairview park to the trustees of Butler college for educational purposes, was made public yesterday with the signatures of 125 business and professional men and citizens of Indianapolis.

The petition, circulated under the direction of S. W. Alderton, financial secretary of the college, suggests that if the company sees fit to give the property, it may mean the establishment of a University of Indianapolis, with Butler as the nucleus of the greater institution. The new school would be located on the park property.

Text of Petition.

The petition is as follows:

"The undersigned committee represent, we believe, a large body of citizens interested in the development here of an educational institution of university grade and preferably to be known as the University of Indianapolis.

"We have conferred with the directors of Butler college concerning the enlargement of that college, which they have already been considering, and the erection of additional colleges or departments, and the incorporation of all of such colleges or departments in some final way within the proposed university. We are now moved to endorse this institution of higher learning in harmony with the present and future development of the city.

Site of Utmost Importance.

"A suitable and attractive site for such a school is of the utmost importance. Fairview park was offered by the street railway company to the city for such purposes. It was not deemed expedient at that time by the city to accept the offer. We are now moved to endorse the street railway company in its way clear, to renew the thought once that it might, that this ground be given for educational purposes, and that of the board of directors of Butler university—since this board already is located in its existing—be designated as the trustees of this property, with the understanding that it be used as a site for an institution, which, it is hoped, will be as distinguished in character and excellence as to make Indianapolis a great educational center.

"It is not unreasonable to expect that through regular college channels and through the generosity of friends of higher education many gifts will come to the institution in course of time, including substantial buildings that will be of educational and architectural contribution of large importance.

Few Available Tracts.

"Comparatively few available tracts of sufficient acreage remain inside the city or immediately adjacent. Fairview park is one of these. It ought to be preserved as an open tract of ground. We think that all will agree that it would be unfortunate for this site to be divided into small tracts. It is diverse and by nature and is susceptible of landscape treatment that greatly enhances its beauty. If this ground should be used as a university campus, it would be preserved and the community would have the advantage of the corporation of a large tract of wooded land and in the line of parkway and anti-flood development. Suitable preparation for business purposes might be made and guarantees given on both sides that would make here a common of unrivaled beauty and accessible to the people.

"Indianapolis needs with an institution, Butler college, a well-equipped college of liberal arts, with a long and honorable history, is admirably qualified to form the nucleus of the university.

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