

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Honorary President
DR. JOHN DEWEY

President
MR. BURTON P. FOWLER

Vice President
MRS. AVERY COONLEY

Treasurer
MR. E. M. SIPPLE

716 JACKSON PLACE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Telephone District 3019



Executive Secretary
MR. J. MILNOR DOREY

Advisory Editor
DR. W. CARSON RYAN, JR.

Editor of PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION
MISS ANN SHUMAKER

January
7
19 32

Mr. S. R. Slavson
4 West 103rd Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Slavson:

I shall be very glad to do what I can to put you in touch with a university demonstration school. Have you talked this matter over with Dr. Lois Hayden Meek at the Child Development Institute, (514 West 126th Street?) Her advice and recommendations would be extremely helpful.

My Secretary is very excited!

The Friends School here in Washington is about to undergo a reorganization. There might be an opportunity for you here. Why don't you write to Mr. Thomas W. Sidwell, the present headmaster? The address is 1809 I Street. *It's an old duck & very primitive in his beliefs, but he's doing money so he's willing to be somewhat modern.*

✓ The Community School at the University of Pittsburg might be a possibility.

✓ Our summer institute is to be held at Syracuse University again. Why don't you try to get on the teaching staff there? Write to Mr. Burton P. Fowler, Tower Hill School, Wilmington, Delaware, and also to Dean Ganders at Syracuse. That will bring your work to the attention of a larger group and might be the means of securing a position next year. *Harry S.*

✓ I also suggest that you write to Dr. Laura Zirbes, Director of the Demonstration School at Ohio University, Columbus, Ohio. Last year she was looking for a man to teach science to the youngsters. She would be a very good person to work with for she is liberal and progressive, and knows how to leave her coworkers alone. If she cannot give you a position, she may be able to put you in touch with some one who can.

Go up to Teachers College and cultivate the acquaintance of Thomas Alexander. He knows more about the possibilities in this field than any other single person in this

Mr. S. R. Slavson
Page 2

country.

✓ You know, of course, that Temple University has taken over the Oak Lane Country Day School, and extensive reorganizations are going on there. You might possibly find a position on that staff if you care to go there. Write to Mr. Joseph Butterweck. *Dean of Education*

You might also write to Mr. Joseph Roemer, Director of the Demonstration School at Peabody College Nashville, Tennessee. There is a place that sadly needs a leaven that you could bring to it.

Who are these?
Have you considered the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina? Mr. Harry W. Chase is the president; also, the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia. Edwin A. Alderman is the president there.

✓ If you are interested in opportunities on the West Coast, I advise you to write to Mrs. Josephine Duveneck, The Pensinsula School, Menlo Park, California; Mrs. Dorothy Baruch, Broadbaks School, Pasadena, California; and Mr. John Hockett, The University of California, Berkeley, California.

If I think of any other suggestions I shall pass them on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Oliver Hummiller

AS:rm

P.S. How about the Institute of Euthenics at Vassar; and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin? Mr. Glenn Frank is the President. Perhaps Dr. Arnold Gesell in the Institute of Human Relations at Yale might be interested. There is, of course, Western Reserve Academy in Cleveland. Dr. Joel B. Hayden is headmaster there. The School of Education of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, might be a good place. Mr. J. B. Edmonson is Director. I should also suggest that you write to Miss Maude M. McBroome who is Supervisor of the Elementary School at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

There are only suggestions and are probably wholly useless.

BUREAU FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

OF THE

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION

264 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ORGANIZED TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE
AND PRACTICE OF NEW EDUCATIONAL IDEAS
THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF TEACHERS.

ROSAMOND DEAN SNOW, DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE: KENMORE 3651

January 19, 1932

Mr. Samuel R. Slavson
4 West 103rd Street
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Slavson:

It is against the policy of this Bureau to register teachers without an interview, but as I haven't many people who are interested in "shop" I am taking the liberty of writing to Miss Elizabeth Irwin and to Miss Goodlander, whom I know personally, for references, instead of writing to the famous people you mention in your letter. It may be that I shall be able to suggest something to you. I am very much afraid though, that your list of activities make you more of a social worker than a teacher. My opportunities for a person of your capacities would be limited to shop or science in a school. I am afraid that trustees that come to me for directors would feel that a little different education and experience would be essential for the leader of their schools.

I am planning, at the moment, to go to Baltimore, to the Progressive Education Conference, and I should be glad to see you then.

Sincerely yours,

Rosamond Dean Snow
(Mrs.) Rosamond Dean Snow.

RDS:AE

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Feb. 20, 1932

Mr. S. R. Slavson,
4 West 103rd Street,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Slavson:

The work which you have done in connection with science education for elementary school children is most interesting. We, of course, as you probably know are much interested in the subject here at the State University. However, there have been almost no funds available for research in the teaching of science here and almost everything which has been done has been experimentation, such as the teachers could carry on in teaching of units.

Just at present the University budget is so materially cut that I am sure we will be unable to go into a new project of any sort very soon.

Another item which I think I should clear up with you is the fact that the University does not train elementary teachers here. This is done at the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls. We do have a few critics in training and offer courses in elementary education for superintendents and supervisors, but we do not train elementary teachers. As I understand it you are interested in that phase of the work particularly.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to make some progress in this field. There is no doubt in my mind but what those directing elementary education must become more and more interested in the field of science. I am sure that before long that subject is going to be a definite part of every elementary school program.

I shall keep your letter and materials on file here and in case we become able to do additional work along this line, I shall be glad to get in touch with you.

Yours cordially,



Maude McBroom
Principal

MMB:PEP

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

THE FALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

February 23
1 9 3 2

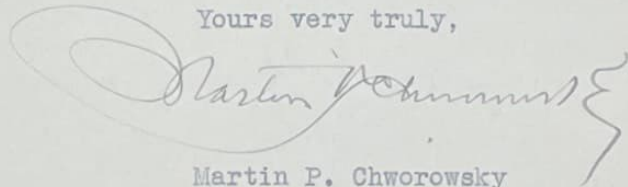
Mr. S. R. Slavson
4 West 103rd Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Slavson,

Thank you very much for your letter, which should have
been answered long ago.

I am very sorry that we shall be unable to make any
additions to our staff for the coming year. I have been
following your work with great interest and hope that someday
we shall be able to have someone with your experience and
interest on our staff.

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martin P. Chworowsky". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Martin P. Chworowsky
Principal

MPC:J

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 2, 1932

Mr. S. R. Slavson
4 West 103rd Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Slavson:

Thank you for your letter of
January 30. I regret to state, however, that
we do not expect to have any opening such as
you desire. I am placing your letter on file
for future reference.

Very truly yours,


J. B. Edmonson

MM

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.

Originally I was trained for the engineering profession at Cooper Union Institute of Technology, where I earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, in 1913. Upon graduation, while awaiting appointment in the engineering profession, I taught mathematics and science at the Eron (Collegiate) School in New York, for about one year. I was then appointed engineer in the State Department of New York, where I served in an executive capacity till about 1919.

My interests in science and education, however, have led me to continually keep in touch with subjects relating to these and, during my free time, I have engaged in various types of educational work. Among these activities were direction of clubs in public school evening centers in the City of New York and direction of the work of the Williamsburgh Culture Center, an educational neighborhood house. I have also taken courses in advanced chemistry, physics and biology at the College of the City of New York, Columbia College, and, later, at Teachers College, Columbia University.

In 1919, however, I definitely decided to enter the educational field and was invited by the Walden School, of New York City, to organize the science and manual arts departments in that school, which I remained until 1927.

In both of these departments, we approached our work from the interest of the children themselves. This was done both for the purpose of effective teaching as well as with a view of field observation concerning children's spontaneous and natural interests, both in science and manual activities, in an ordinary city school environment. I worked with children from nursery to second year high school levels, and have kept consistent records of developments.

As a result of the children's needs, we found that four or five different methods of presenting science materials and facts were necessary to suit age and individual differences of children and groups. We have also evolved, as a result of following up children's interests, methods of unifying the sciences into a unit body of knowledge as they are automatically related in the mind of the child. Thus physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, geology, biochemistry, hygiene became a single field of exploration in the child's inquiry, aided and amplified by the teacher. Individual research on the part of children as young as eight, unit studies, lectures, discussions, etc., were some of the means by which children satisfied their curiosity and learned the sciences.

Most of the children of twelve have mastered the rudiments of the high school sciences and some of the college subjects, such as anatomy, physiology and astronomy and, in some cases, elements of biochemistry. As already stated, we have fairly complete records of this work.

In our shop work, which included woodwork, metal work, printing, linoleum block designing, weaving and other industrial arts, we have pursued a similar method of procedure. Here, also, individual work was carried on by the children, together with group activities in class projects.

In addition to teaching, I acted as consultant to group teachers in methods of class procedure, not only in my own subjects but also in other subjects in the curriculum.

In 1927, I was invited by a group of English scientists headed by Lord Rutherford, Professor Sir Percy Ninn and J. B. S .

Haldane, to direct a research into scientific manual arts interests of young children, in Cambridge, England. I was chosen for the position from a following list of applicants which appeared in the June 4, 1927, issue of the Spectator (London):

- 8 professors and University lecturers
- 13 workers in pure research
- 19 workers in industrial research
- 29 medical men engaged in Public Health and general practice
- 37 professional educators
- 40 with other qualifications
- 47 without any qualification.

Here a laboratory and workroom were set up, similar to those we had at the Walden School, with the only difference that both the shop work and science laboratory were combined in one room. I have about ten thousand pages of records taken stenographically, with numerous sketches and photographs, recording in great detail the children's activities, methods of pursuing them and the conditions of activities leading to learning. As a result of the analysis and classifications of these records, we were able to deduce fairly definite and reliable information as to the nature, patterns and types of children's activities; environmental requirements for creative work on the part of very young children, four to eight years of age, and other significant information bearing upon child learning and activity. This project was abandoned in 1929, due to lack of funds, and I returned to the United States, after a stay of two years in England. It devolved upon me to train a staff of seven for this school. In the capacity of Educational Advisor to the Pioneer Youth of America, I trained about fifty club-leaders in an activity-program where we introduced various manual activities as a coordinate to their social studies and other club activities.

I am teaching now at the Center Academy, in Brooklyn, in charge of the science and manual arts departments, and shall probably spend some time each week next year at the Ethical Culture Normal Training School. We plan to demonstrate, to the normal students, methods of coordinating science work with children's activities and with studies in other related subjects. We shall use several classes of children of different grades at the school for demonstration purposes.

I am able to advise on the various manual activities listed above, and the sciences, - physics, chemistry, biology, physiology and health education - in the elementary grades. In all my work in this field, I made a specialty of coordinating science with other subjects in the curriculum and of detecting and utilizing children's scientific interests.

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

INSTITUTE OF SCHOOL EXPERIMENTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 18, 1931

Mr. S. R. Slavson
385 Central Park West
New York City

Dear Mr. Slavson:

I have delayed answering your letter hoping that some way might develop in which I could offer to be of assistance to you in carrying forward your work. I have no doubt that you have a very important piece of work and I hope that some way may yet develop by means of which it can be carried through and published for the benefit of school people generally. I am sorry that I cannot now do anything about it.

Sincerely yours,



OTIS W. CALDWELL

OWC:AGG
Dictated but not read.

Teachers College
Columbia University
New York

February 18, 1932.

Mr. S. R. Slavson,
4 West 103rd Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Slavson:

I have heard some very interesting things about your work, and would like to meet you at some time. Unfortunately, I ~~shall~~ be in Washington all of next week. Could you not take luncheon with me at the Men's Faculty Club on Monday, February 29th? If you can, you might meet me in my office at 12 o'clock. If you find that this is an inconvenient time, I wish you would suggest some hour.

Sincerely yours,



Gerald S. Craig
Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences

GSC:BG

MARGUERITE E. SCHWARZMAN
Director

THE CHILDREN'S LABORATORIES
QUAKER RIDGE
NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

February 23, 1932.

Mr. S. R. Slavson
4 West 103 St.
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Slavson:

I understand from Mrs. Rosamond Dean Snow that you are doing a very interesting and worthwhile science program in the intermediate and high school grades.

My work, chiefly with children of the elementary school grades, is along scientific lines and I am therefore vitally interested in all work of this sort. I should certainly like to know more about your work and perhaps you might be interested in hearing of my project.

I shall be in New York on Wednesday, March second and I am wondering if you are free at four o'clock. I shall be glad to meet you at a place convenient for you.

Trusting that I may hear from you and that it will be possible for us to get together, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,
Marguerite E. Schwarzman



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
TEACHERS COLLEGE

April 1, 1932.

Mr. S. R. Slarson,
4 West 103rd Street,
New York.

My dear Mr. Slarson:

In answer to your letter of March 30th, the Oak Lane Country Day School does have an outstanding need for a really good science instructor. However, I am only a member of a committee of four who are handling this matter, and it is the responsibility of Dr. Butterweck to secure the names of two or three people to bring before the committee.

My present job is to secure a very good person for the third grade. I know that Dr. Butterweck has had some correspondence with you.

I will be very glad to have you visit us on Monday, although I am not able, at this moment, to say whether I will be here or not. There is a possibility that I will be in New York city.

I remember very distinctly that Dr. Thayer told me of your very excellent work at the Walden School, when he visited our school during Schoolmen's Week.

Sincerely yours,

Emma Johnson

EJ:AOS

Emma Johnson, Director,
Department of Early Childhood Education.

Four West 103rd Street
New York, N.Y.

Women's Educational and
Industrial Union,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam:

I am enclosing a condensed statement of my training and experience in Progressive Education with a view of enlisting your help in securing a position in a school of a progressive nature. I am also sending you two reprints which indicate in a general way my method and theory in science education.

The scope of my experience, I think, qualify me for a directorship of a school and I should be glad to consider such a post if one is available. As a matter of fact, during my tenure at the Walden School much of the directorial work and the training of teachers was done by me. *I have also trained the Pioneer Youth Club leaders in methods of progressive club activity.*

I am qualified to teach science, carpentry, printing, metal work, and the initial stages of the plastic and pictorial arts, mathematics and social science.

~~If there is an opening in a school connected with a university and used as a demonstration school I feel that I would be most happy and useful in such an institution as I am both experientially and temperamentally suited for such work.~~

Miss Elizabeth Goldsmith, Walden School, 34 West 68th Street, New York, Miss Ann Shumaker, Editor "Progressive Education," 716 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C., Mrs. Beatrice Ensor, World Educational Fellowship, 77 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, Josh Lieberman, Pioneer Youth of America, Bible House, Astor Place, New York, know my work intimately.

Successfully
Although I have worked with children of high school age I prefer ~~children between six and fourteen.~~
to work with children four to fourteen twelve.

If there are any other details you wish to have I shall be glad to supply them ~~on~~ upon request.

Yours truly

Samuel R. Slavson
Samuel R. Slavson.

Happy and
~~however,~~ I feel that I should be most useful *or a school connected with a university*
in a demonstration school, as I am both
experientially and temperamentally suited for
work with student-teachers.

S. R. Slavson
4 W. 103rd Street
New York.

Past educational interests and activities:
1912--1920

Introduced progressive methods in club work at Evening Center P. S. 141, Brooklyn, N.Y.; taught mathematics and physics at the Eron Collegiate School, New York city; directed children's educational work at Williamsburgh Educational Alliance, Brooklyn, N.Y.; lectured on philosophy at the Rand School of Social Science, New York city; edited a daily educational section in the "New York Call."

1920--1927

Taught the twelve year old group and later directed the science education and the industrial arts departments at the Walden School, New York city; acted also as educational advisor to Pioneer Youth of America in their club and camp work.

1927--1929

Directed a research in the scientific education for very young children at the Malting House School, Cambridge, England.

Educational Background

Civil Engineering School, Cooper Union Institute, New York city; Student of Biological and physical sciences, psychology, and education at the College of the City of New York, Columbia College, and at Teacher's College, Columbia University. Studied analytical psychology for eighteen months with Dr. Leonard Blumgart, New York. Extensive private reading and study in the New Education and in the sciences, sociology, and psychology as they relate to the newer trends in child education.

Degrees

B.S., C.E.

Age

Forty years.

P.S. Have contributed in recent months to the "Progressive Education" magazine ~~articles~~ in the October, 1930; December, 1930, issues and ~~book reviews~~ for the forthcoming January and February, 1932, issues; also to the January, 1932, issue of the "New Era," London, England.

WESTERN
RESERVE
ACADEMY
HUDSON.O

April 29th

OFFICE OF THE
HEADMASTER

1932

Mr. S. R. Slavson,
4 West 103rd Street,
New York, N. Y.

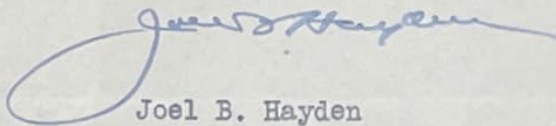
My dear Mr. Slavson:

Please pardon our delay in responding to your letter of application.

Our staff and faculty for the coming year is now complete, but we shall be glad to keep your letter on file for future reference.

Thanking you very much indeed for your interest in Western Reserve Academy as indicated by your application, and with very best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



Joel B. Hayden
Headmaster

JBH:k

4 West 103rd Street
New York, N.Y., May 16, 1932

Mr. Irwin S. Chanin
122 East 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Irwin:

I am more grateful than I can tell you for your willingness to intercede in my behalf with the National Broadcasting Company and I am writing this letter at your suggestion, giving a few general details of my past experience and interests which might qualify me for the position of directing educational work, if such a department exists, or for securing speakers on various social, psychological, economic and educational topics.

I have had twenty years' experience in educational work with children, adolescents and adults, in schools and in general cultural work. I was chosen from the following list to carry on a psychological investigation in Cambridge, England, by Lord Ernest Rutherford, the physicist, Professor Sir Percy Nunn, foremost educationist in England, and J. B. S. Haldane, the famous biologist:

- 8 professors and university lecturers
- 13 workers in pure research
- 19 workers in industrial research
- 29 medical men engaged in Public Health and general practice
- 37 professional educators
- 40 with other qualifications
- 47 without any qualifications.

Some of my specific past titles are as follows, and you can use any or all of those which you may see fit, in writing to the National Broadcasting Company:

Formerly instructor in science and mathematics, Bronx Collegiate School; principal Brooklyn School of Individual Instruction; Educational Director of Williamsburg Educational Alliance and Williamsburg Culture Center; Educational Editor of the New York Call; Director of the Science and Industrial Arts Departments in the Walden School; Educational Advisor to Pioneer Youth of America, and Research Director at Cambridge, England. *

I also spoke over Station WOR, in the series on Education, and received very favorable response. It so happens that my voice broadcasts very well.

To I.S.Chanin.

May 16, 1932

#2

Of course, you know that I always have had a keen interest in social, economic and psychological matters and have given these subjects much thought and read a great deal in these fields. I have also wide acquaintance among leading academic and non-academic authorities in these fields, on which I could draw for speakers.

I am sure I need not tell you just what material contained in this letter would be most effective in writing to Colonel Aylesworth, and I leave it to you to use your judgment.

I really did not mean to sound as conceited as this letter may imply, but one has to do some self-advertising under the circumstances.

Thanking you again for your interest, I remain, with kindest regards,

Yours as ever,

SRS/ICP

S. R. Slavson.

ELEMENTARY DEPARTMENT
TEACHER TRAINING DEPARTMENT
33 CENTRAL PARK WEST

BRANCH SCHOOL
27 WEST 75TH STREET

ETHICAL CULTURE SCHOOLS

GENERAL OFFICES
33 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY

FIELDSTON SCHOOL
FIELDSTON ROAD
AND SPUYTEN DUYVIL PARKWAY
FIELDSTON LOWER SCHOOL
3900 SPUYTEN DUYVIL
PARKWAY

19th May, 1932.

Mr. S.R. Slavson,
4 West 103rd Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Slavson,

In talking over plans with Dr. Thayer last Monday I learned that it may be necessary, for financial reasons, to omit the course in general science in the teacher training department in the coming year. It is not possible for the school to spend money on equipment, and as we feel that without equipment very little of value could be accomplished, it seems the wiser plan to omit the course for one year, offering a substitute by a teacher who is already in the department.

I regret to have given you any inconvenience by asking you to come to the school, but I did it in good faith as I had expected that the course would be offered. The material that you brought impressed me deeply with its completeness and appropriateness to the needs of modern education. I hope that you may find some way of publishing your work.

Most sincerely yours,

Jessie E. Beers

Principal,
Teacher Training Department.

JEB/EWC

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March Eighth

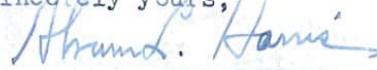
1 9 3 3

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Dear Dr. Slavson:

I am very sorry about the mix-up in our correspondence. I had suggested to the chairman of our University Forum that he invite you to deliver a lecture here. Two or three letters were sent you but all of them came back to us. As soon as I received your letter yesterday I gave the chairman your new address. If he has not secured speakers for all of his meetings it is likely that an invitation will go forward to you some time in the near future. When I am in New York some time I will drop in to see you.

Sincerely yours,



Abram L. Harris.

Dr. S. R. Slavson
Madison House Society
226 Madison Street
New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON SQUARE EAST, NEW YORK

March 13th, 1933

Mr. S. R. Slavson
220 West 13th Street
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Slavson:

Things are going along now very well, I take it. As you may have learned, I was out almost the entire time for a month. This naturally slowed me up some. I expect to have definite material to turn over to you in a very short time. It begins to look now - that is in terms of the general situation - that we may have difficulty securing publication. Who knows!

The real purpose of this letter is to convey information that really saddens me. We are not in such hot financial condition here in the School of Education, and from surveys made it seems that next year in all likelihood things will drop off. We ourselves have to cut sixty thousand dollars more from the budget proposed for next year. My own recommendation was that we maintain a decent program and divide money shortages between us. This, I believe, is the only honorable thing to do to students who are paying just as much money now as they did years ago, and who are therefore in my estimation entitled to just as decent an offering. The choice was between cutting salaries of those now engaged or cutting the entire program. The mass of our faculty seemed to be in favor of a cut in the program. This looks like saving our own skins, but it is clearly evident that that is what is in their minds.

In order to salvage what we could, I was obliged to put more confidence in our Dean than I would on the vote of the faculty. The outcome was that the Dean was made practical dictator with the consent of the faculty itself. The Dean's action has been to decree that we maintain next year the program we have this year, but that there shall be no extension, and that therefore the two courses which I have recommended should be dropped. Unfortunately one of those two courses is the one I had hoped you would give. I have written rather lengthily so that you might understand my personal attitude, and also that you might understand somewhat the point of view of the Dean. I am sorry, but I have no recourse.

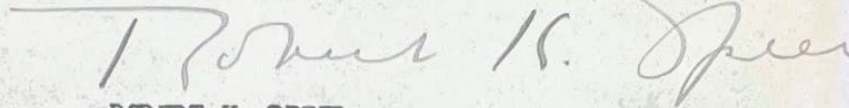
Mr. S. R. Slavson:

-2-

March 13th, 1933

I hope that things are going decently for you. I will contact you very soon.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert K. Speer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

ROBERT K. SPEER
Professor of Education

RKS:WK

