

Gaiser Quits Superintendency



PREXY—Dr. Paul Gaiser has resigned his post of superintendent of Vancouver schools and will serve full time as president of Clark Junior College.

Presidency Of College Full-time

Dual Role Eschewed; No Successor for Post Yet Selected

Dr. Paul F. Gaiser, superintendent of Vancouver schools since 1934, this morning resigned this position he has held for the past 18 years and accepted the full-time presidency of Clark Junior College, it was announced by Horace Daniels, president of the Vancouver school board.

Doctor Gaiser has, since 1945 had the double responsibility of filling both posts. His resignation of the district superintendency becomes effective August 31. There was no disclosure made at this time of Doctor Gaiser's successor in this post, the board president asserting that the directors had not yet had time to consider who will head up the district.

Still Available

Under the change it was indicated by Daniels that Doctor Gaiser will be available in an advisory ca-

capacity if and when his long experience with the school system are considered essential in the consideration of problems.

The board for sometime has been considering the necessity of a second assistant even if this change had not been made, it was said. At an informal dinner conference last week between the superintendent and the directors, Doctor Gaiser brought out that he felt the groups should give consideration to the increasing responsibilities of the superintendent of schools. At the same time he pointed out the growing problems in connection with the administration of Clark College.

The board members indicated they were not surprised that the district head and college president felt the double responsibility was becoming too great. Daniels observed that the directors had thought for several years that two administrators would soon be required, one for each position, as the duties of each increased in scope.

Directors agreed that they wished to retain the services of Gaiser and asked him whether he would be interested in taking over the presidency of the junior college as a full-time position.

Had Other Offers

He made no immediate decision but promised to give the matter thought. He revealed, at this time, that he had received offers of other college positions which he was giving consideration.

Questioned this morning, Board President Daniels made this statement: "Doctor Gaiser suggested to the board that he would be disposed to submit his resignation fully and completely to the board if it would make the selection of successors in both posts easier for the group.

"The board reacted immediately and unanimously with the suggestion that Doctor Gaiser would be ideally fitted to continue as the full-time president of Clark College if that were to his liking and acceptable to him. He promised to give the matter consideration. The board is delighted to report that Doctor Gaiser has just this morning accepted the presidency of the college and has resigned as superintendent of schools effective August 31."

Daniels went on to state that the entire board was "delighted that Doctor Gaiser has made this decision." He said it was the opinion of the board that the school system will continue "even more rapidly to grow in importance from now on."

Points to Growth

"During his administration," Daniels observed, the college has grown from one of the smallest in

the state to, we believe, the most important. During this time it was the first junior college to become fully accredited in the state.

"We feel that he will continue to take a great deal of pleasure in its continued growth and that he should be here. I, myself, have known a number of times when other institutions have tried to get him away from us but he was faithful to Vancouver."

Doctor Gaiser is well known both in the Northwest area and nationally. As chief administrator of the local junior college, he has been on the accrediting committee of the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, being a member of the Higher Commission.

He also is a past president of that association which is the accrediting organization for secondary and high schools including four year colleges and universities in the Northwest including California, Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Utah, Nevada and Idaho.

Was Principal

Paul Gaiser came to Vancouver in 1931 as principal of the Vancouver High School. He stepped up to the superintendency three years later. In 1945 he accepted the additional post of president of Clark College, then having an enrollment of 78 students. Today the total registration, including both full-time and part-time students is close to 1,000.

Twenty years ago the Vancouver schools had 3,838 students, an administrative staff of 119 persons, the school budget stood at \$242,497 and school property was valued at \$734,000.

On March 20, Thursday, the system had an enrollment of 11,116. Its total staff had increased to 398 and its budget had risen to \$2,678,736. Valuation of the properties was said to be in excess of 22 1/2 million dollars.

Was Experienced

Doctor Gaiser came to the Vancouver district from the University of Washington where he took a year of graduate work in 1930 to finish his doctorate. Prior to that he served as superintendent of schools at Cheney Wash. in 1926-30; and from 1923-26 was junior and senior high school principal at Corvallis. Before going to Corvallis, Gaiser served as high school principal in Pullman, Wash., from 1919-23, going there from Reardan, Wash., where he taught in the high school. Gaiser was a second lieutenant in the field artillery in World War I.

In making his decision to remain in Vancouver and accept the presidency of the college, Gaiser said today that he had deep feelings about severing official connection from any branch of this

school system in which I have worked for over two decades."

Appreciation Told

"I want to express my admiration for the devotion to duty, for the ability and for the civic sense of responsibility of the board of education," he said.

"I realize it has been my unusual good fortune to have had throughout my entire tenure in this school system, without exception, board members of exceptional caliber, representing the best citizens of this community, who have exemplified at all times the highest sense of civic responsibility.

"To the staff of the school system I want to express my deep appreciation for the splendid cooperation which I have received at all times," the school head went on. "I have been proud to be their leader in my humble way and shall continue to be devoted to them as a colleague in continuing educational service for this community and Southwest Washington."

It is expected that Dr. Gaiser's successor as superintendent will be decided at the meeting of the board scheduled for March 25.