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# Ruskin College: The American Side of the Oxford Movement

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One hundred miles Northeast of Kansas City at Trenton, Mo., on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, stands an institution that represents the center of the Oxford movement in the United States.

This institution was formerly Avalon College, and was on the verge of failure when Mr. Walter Vrooman, founder of Ruskin Hall, Oxford, England, returned to America to establish here the Ruskin movement. He heard of Avalon, investigated, and the result was Ruskin College.

The college farm, consisting of 1,500 acres, was the gift of Mr. Vrooman. In addition to the land is the college building, which is commodious, handsome, and worth \$40,000. Here is located the executive offices, classrooms, college book and sup-



ply store, the carpenter shop, and sewing room. New industries and departments are constantly being added. Nearby is a large laundry. Within a few blocks is the Trenton-Ruskin factory, under the direction of practical businessmen, where will be carried on the manufacture of brooms, handles, and various forms of wood novelties. Ruskin College seeks to educate the hand as well as the head, and fits the student with an armor of knowledge that stands him in good stead when he comes to enter the world's industrial arena.

On the farm there is a dairy department, and canning is soon to be made one of the important industries. The college course of study has recently been reconstructed throughout, the course like that of Harvard, being elective, and leading to the degree of B.A. There is no ironclad curriculum; on the contrary, the course is at all times subject to change and improvement, thus offering many advantages over the old-fashioned way. This plan, one can readily see, is conducive to growth on the part of the faculty, and stimulates and brings forth their best effort. Ruskin College is absolutely free from the influence of capitalism; its teaching is unmuzzled; stress is laid upon studies that fit the student for participating in the greatest movements of the age; it educates the whole man, the head, hand, and heart.

This college, now known from ocean to ocean and beyond, is the American side of the Ruskin movement, whose European side is Ruskin Hall, Oxford, England. Its students come from almost every known country.

Ruskin College gives the young man an education worth having — it fits him to earn his own living in the world. Such an education certainly should be worth working for. It is not likely that you will ever have another such a chance to secure a college education as the *Appeal* now offers you. It is well worth the effort necessary to get it. Think this over.

*Edited by Tim Davenport. Photograph: Wikipedia.*

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