

THE COURIER

VOL. XVI, NO. LII

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1901

ESTABLISHED IN 1886

EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA

Although Young in Years the Schools of the Commonwealth Have Shown a Marvelous Growth

During the last decade Nebraska has taken long and rapid strides to the fore in development of public schools. For the next decade even a greater development is prophesied by W. K. Fowler, state superintendent of public instruction.

of 47,927. In the same length of time the value of school properties of the state increased by \$2,977,670.38.

While the figures quoted show a marvelous growth in the school interests of the state during the last ten years, Superintendent Fowler, who is espe-

and must be a material increase if we wish to keep in the profession the better qualified persons.

"In 1910 the enrollment will be a larger per cent of the school census than in 1900, but what is of vastly more importance, the average daily attendance will be a much greater per cent of the enrollment and of the school census than in 1900. The number of sod and log school buildings in the state will rapidly decrease, the number of frame school buildings will slightly decrease, while the number of brick buildings will increase. During the next ten years there will be a decrease in the total number of school buildings in the state of Nebraska through the consolidation of rural school districts.

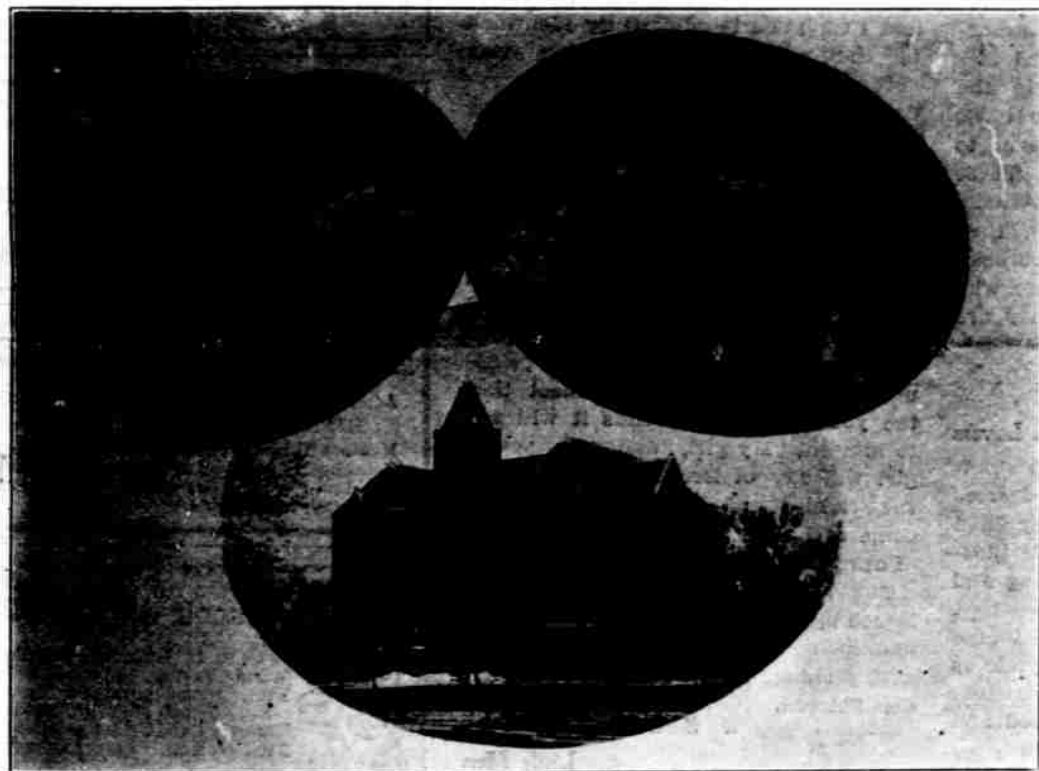
"There will be a material increase in the length of the term in many school districts of the state; and let us hope that in 1910 our county superintendents will average at least \$1,000 a year each. Our state teachers' association, our great university, and our state normal school will increase their enrollment materially. There will then be three state normal schools. In 1910 in many of the rural portions of the state the farmers' children will have the same advantages of education in a well arranged, well organized, well graded school, that the village and city pupils now enjoy. Instead of attempting to let down our hooks and nets and

better preparing our pupils for practical life by giving more attention to the scientific side and less to the classical side than we did in 1890, or than we now do.

"In 1910 we will distinguish between one, two, three and four year high schools, their diplomas or certificates and their graduates, as we now distinguish between university graduates and those who complete only the junior year, or perhaps the sophomore year, or only the freshman year; or as we distinguish between those who complete the eight, seventh, sixth and fifth grades respectively in the grammar department. A high school graduate then will be one who has completed the three-thirds of our public school system, including the high school department of four years.

"In 1910 the high schools of the state will be as free to the children of the farmer and the stock raiser as they now are to the children of the merchant, the banker and the professional man. In 1910 the public will demand that those who train and direct and assist in developing their children's minds and morals and habits and manners have the same thorough training for their work as those who look after their children's bodies in times of ill-health. The teacher will then be a professional man or woman. In 1910 we will have a law fixing the dimensions and other requirements of school-rooms and school buildings, as well as the size and character of school grounds.

"Schoolrooms will then be arranged with reference to proper seating, heating, lighting and ventilating, with greater regard to the comfort and convenience of school children. Every schoolroom will then be provided with maps, a globe, a dictionary, and a library. Our teaching body will then be the same earnest, progressive, hard-working people they now are, even though a larger per cent of its membership will be changed three times during the decade, but the third group



Evolution of a Nebraska School—Views of North Platte Schools—'68, '76 and 1900

In 1890 there were 792 sod school houses in the state. Ten years later this number had diminished by 287, and in each instance almost without exception the building of sod was replaced by a substantial frame structure. During the same time the number of log school houses diminished from 210 to 112. Thus it is seen that there are still 505 sod school houses and 112 log doing service throughout the state today.

The total receipts for school purposes from all sources, for the year ending July 1900, exceeded the receipts on the same date ten years previous by \$771,283.39, aggregating for the year \$4,410,400.33. Expenses during the same period increased at about the same rate, the total expenditures for 1900 being \$4,404,222.07, and those for 1890 being \$3,499,300.26. The total number of men teachers employed dropped from 2,861 in 1890 to 2,062 in 1900, and the number of women teachers from 7,964 to 7,401. A peculiar feature of the decade was the increase of men's salaries from an average of \$43 a month to \$46.26, while the women's average decreased from \$37.92 to \$36.90.

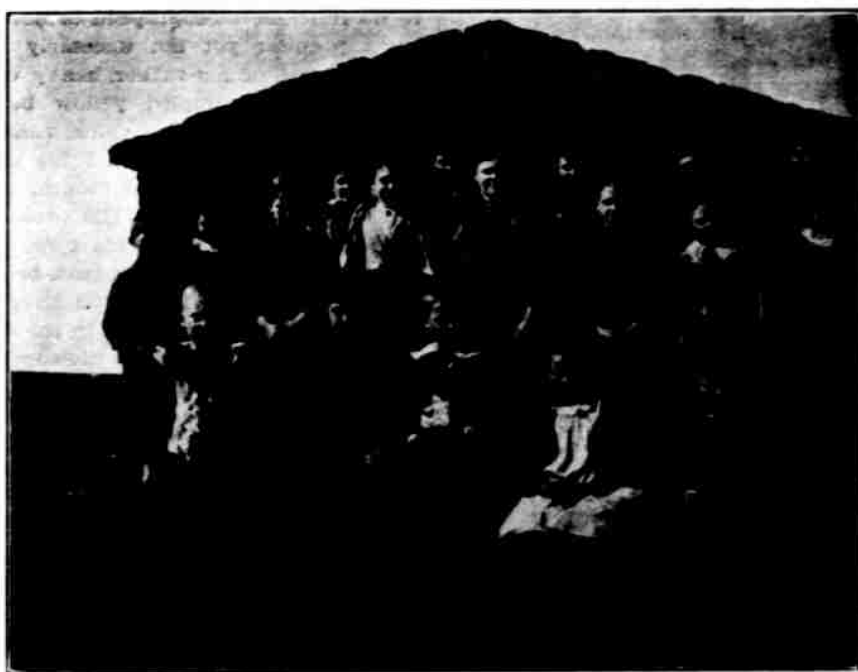
Both the census of school children and the enrollment of school children show marked increases. The census of both boys and girls increased 45,548 during the decade, aggregating 377,791. The total enrollment for the year ending July, 1900, was 288,227, an increase

cially well situated and fitted to speak with authority, expresses the opinion that the future holds out greater promise. In an address before the Southwestern Nebraska Teachers' Association held at Holdrege last month, he said:

"I prophesy that in 1910 city superintendents and principals will be required by law to make as complete reports and to furnish statistics of school as county superintendents now are; that their work will be done more systematically. There will, let us hope, be a revision of the method of assessment and levying of taxes before that time; a consequent reduction of the maximum tax levy, a slight increase in the receipts for all school purposes, a very slight increase in the expenditures, but that waste through lack of organization and system will be largely reduced. Let us hope that the number of men teachers employed, which decreased nearly thirty per cent during the past decade, will increase, while the number of women teachers, which decreased only about four per cent during the same time, will remain stationary. May their shadows never grow less! In this connection permit me to call your attention to the fact that the average monthly wages of men during the decade increased \$3.26, while that of the women decreased \$1.02. In both there should

the university above, in 1901 we will build from the kindergarten up, carrying the better features of the kindergarten through the primary grades, correlating with it manual training and domestic science and elementary agriculture in the grammar grades, and

will be better prepared in advance for its great work than the first group. You, nor I, nor any one else, working alone, can do an appreciable amount toward effecting these improvements, but all of us, working together, may accomplish much for the schools and school children of Nebraska and of this southwestern district."



Sod Schoolhouse in Western Nebraska—District No. 14, Frontier County