

Nebraska Teachers In Annual Session

Those who measure the value of an association by the number of persons who attend it may not do justice to the meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' association just past, for the enrollment is somewhat less than it has been in several years. What may have been the cause of the slight decrease is difficult to judge, but it certainly was not the lack of an attractive program. The president's address and the evening lectures by Prof. Thwing, president of the Wesleyan Reserve university, and Murat Halstead, were all that had been anticipated. The enthusiastic company that attended

himself one of the most able and entertaining speakers of the convention. His address was a plea for the fuller development of the child. He made the criticism that hitherto the tendency had been to pay too much attention to intellectual progress, neglecting what was quite as important—the elements of the physical, social and moral nature. Dr. Snyder emphasized the fact that the child should not be taught the lessons of life by cold, inanimate facts, but through the living world of nature surrounding him. The two subjects arousing warmest discussion were those relating to the improvement of the county institutes and the free

Delzell, Lexington.

Carson, Kearney.

Whaley, Neligh.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—THREE OF A KIND—Photo by U. G. Cornell.

the High school debate Tuesday evening bore evidence that this kind of contest is growing in popularity. While the debating society is an organization entirely separate from the association it has been the custom to devote one evening of the association program to the contest in order that the teachers interested may have the opportunity of attending. The question of the evening was, "Resolved, That England is justified in her course toward the Boers." Lincoln, Nebraska City and Crete upheld the affirmative and York, Beatrice and Omaha the negative. The discussions were spirited and showed careful study of the subject. There were no judges of the contest and no awards were made. The purpose of the society was not to solve the problem under discussion, but to test the ability of the speakers and to further the cause of debating among the high schools of the state. Contests of any sort have always been recognized as a valuable incentive in spurring the pupil on to his best efforts, but in preference to those of an athletic nature many favor the debate, which exercises the mental rather than the physical ability.

Inspiration of Informal Discussions.

The mornings of the association were devoted to the general sessions. While in these meetings it was impossible to have the free and informal discussions of the section meetings, teachers received that inspiration always to be derived from a large company of people gathered together in a common cause. Dr. Z. X. Snyder, president of the Colorado State Normal school, proved

high school attendance law. For some time there has been a growing dissatisfaction at the manner of conducting county institutes. Instead of being a school of methods to better equip the teacher for his work the tendency has been to make them a place for teachers to review the more common branches preparatory to taking the yearly examination. It is felt that the institute is not the place for academic work, but should rather be provided with a corps of instructors qualified to teach better methods of school management, better methods of instruction, music, art and the study of man and nature, so that when the session is over the teacher will be better prepared to meet the duties of the school room, rather than having but a few paltry facts, to be forgotten as soon as the examination is past.

Free High School Law.

Much interest was shown in the discussion of the free high school attendance law adopted by the last legislature. This has been declared unconstitutional by one district judge, though it is in force in the other parts of the state. It is recognized by most teachers as one of the most beneficial enacted and a resolution was adopted recommending that the State Teachers' association appropriate \$100 to provide competent counsel to bring the matter before the supreme court.

Wednesday afternoon opened the sessions of the various auxiliary associations. To economize time it was necessary that these be held in different rooms at the same hour. In this way more time could be given to each subject, though, as one teacher re-

Miss Greene, Beatrice. Miss Burgert, Beatrice. Miss Fleming, Fremont. Miss Garlinger, Norfolk.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—SO ME POPULAR WOMEN MEMBERS—Photo by U. G. Cornell.

Waterhouse, Omaha.

President Fordyce.

Clemmons, Fremont.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—THREE LEADING LIGHTS—Photo by U. G. Cornell.

marked, "It was so tantalizing to think that there were so many good programs and one could attend only one of them."

Those who chose to attend the division on literature found a store of good things awaiting them. The speakers endeavored, not only to show the end toward which they were striving, but gave practical illustrations as to how this was to be attained. All the work was based upon Dr. Sherman's studies in literature as applied to the grades and as a most fitting close to the program Dr. Sherman read a paper on "The Ethical Value of English."

Many good points were brought out in the department devoted to physical education, but the subject most warmly discussed was foot ball. Some teachers considered a good foot ball team a great addition to a high school. In several it is used as an incentive to better work, as no boy can be a member of the team unless his daily recitations are up to a certain standard. However, there were also those who felt that foot ball is a brutal game at best and has no place in the high school; that it should be displaced by debates and contests of a higher order.

Auxiliary Associations.

All the auxiliary association meetings were most helpful. Aside from those pertaining directly to the school room it is interesting to note that meetings were held of the Chautauqua circle, Child Study association, Women's clubs, etc. In fact, scarcely a phase of education in any form failed to receive its share of attention.

In the section meetings the work was divided according to grades rather than subjects. One of the most popular speakers was Mr. Joseph C. Hisey of Chicago, whose mission it was to explain the Speer method of arithmetic. He is an entertaining talker and added to the interest by illustrating his remarks by use of the Speer blocks. This comparatively new method has many enthusiastic advocates among the teachers, but a little general discussion developed the fact that there are still a few doubters, who feel that even it might have its faults.

The section meetings, more perhaps than any others, dealt with the practical, everyday work of the school. Owing to the small numbers in attendance the speakers are enabled to come in closer touch with the audience and the discussions are animated and interesting.

The sentiment expressed by nearly every speaker brought out in the discussions and

Martindale, Niobrara. Elwanger, Nebraska City.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—TWO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.—Photo by U. G. Cornell.

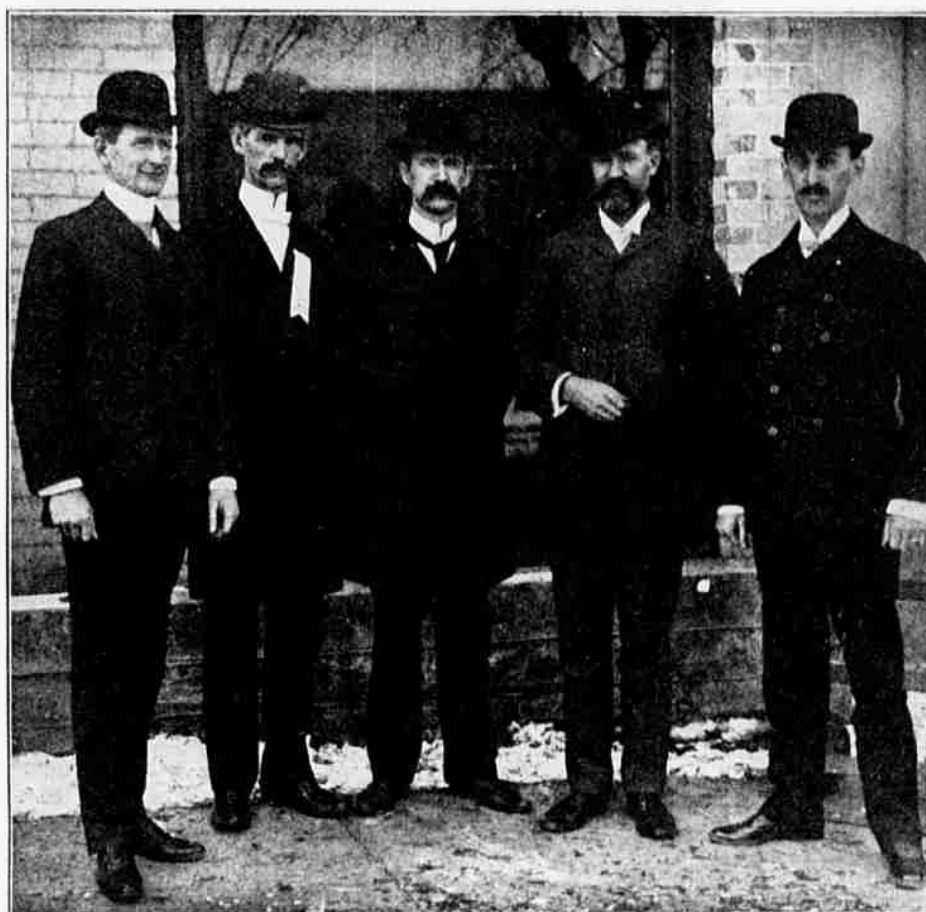
Stephens, Fairbury.

Fowler, Blair.

Conn, Wayne.

Thomas, Minden.

Fling, Nebraska City.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—THE TALL MEN OF THE ASSOCIATION.—Photo by U. G. Cornell.

which seemed to pervade the general assembly was in favor of the newer education. In brief, that the child should be developed, not crammed; that he should learn to do by doing; that he should be restrained only when he cannot be taught to govern himself and, above all, that it should be the duty and pleasure of the school to bring out all that is best in his physical, mental and moral nature.

History of Organization.

Although the meeting of 1899 may not have been perfect in every way, the inspiration for better work was not wanting for those who sought it. This has been the trend of the whole history of the organization. This history, by the way, is worth reviewing.

In 1865—two years before Nebraska was admitted to the union as a state—a small party of pioneer school teachers met in Omaha and organized the Nebraska Teachers' association. From this small beginning it has grown to be one of the largest and strongest of the western educational associations. There were no railroads in the

best of his class. He later received the degree of A. B. in Yale college, holding the second rank in a class of 122. He studied in the Princeton Theological seminary, the Union Theological seminary of New York City and the Yale divinity school at New Haven. After graduating Mr. Perry spent several years traveling in Europe. He came to Nebraska in 1872 and has since been connected with Doane college in various capacities. He was elected president of the institution in 1881 and has held that position until the present time. President Perry received the degree of D.D. from Yale university in 1898.

James E. Delzell, who was elected for the third time as treasurer, is superintendent of schools in Lexington. He held a similar position two years in Gothenburg and has been active in institute work for the last ten years.

The position of secretary of the association was given to the North Platte territory, the person elected being Miss Lucy S. Williams of Norfolk, who holds similar positions in the North Nebraska association.

Thompson, Minden. Miss Miller, West Point. Miss Clark, Fremont. Julian, Hastings.



NEBRASKA TEACHERS IN SESSION—TALKING OVER CANDIDATES.—Photo by U. G. Cornell.