

PROFESSOR JAMES W. CRABTREE

A Sketch Prepared by a Prominent Educator

THE candidacy of J. W. Crabtree for the office of State Superintendent of Public instruction is one that commends itself in the highest degree to the rank and file of both school men and school patrons interested in the progress of the schools of the state. Among the teachers of the state there is perhaps no other man so well and favorably known. During the seven years that Mr. Crabtree was inspector of the schools for the University of Nebraska he had the opportunity of coming into the closest touch, not only with the faculty of the State University and all the many high schools of the state, but also with the faculties of all the other colleges and normal schools. This splendid opportunity for discovering the conditions and needs of all the various public educational institutions of our state, Mr. Crabtree made wise use of, it seeming ever to be his purpose not only to know personally the men and women who were carrying on the work of the schools, but to seek ways to help them to increase their efficiency and to make their schools stronger. There are many teachers and superintendents in all parts of the state who feel that much of their success is due to his kindly interest and wise counsel at critical times in their careers.

Mr. Crabtree is a man of strong personality—a personality that inspires the best efforts of those who work under his direction. He has a broad way of looking at all things, a keen perception and sympathetic understanding of the difficulties under which teachers and superintendents are working.

Mr. Crabtree is to a large extent and in the very best sense of the word self-made, his parents having come to Nebraska in early days without means and his early education having been obtained by alternately working by the month on the farms in Nebraska and attending country school until he entered the State Normal, of which institution he is a graduate. While carrying on his work at the State Normal, he spent some time teaching country schools to help pay the expenses of his education. At other times he chopped wood and did chores for the professors, and during summer worked as a farm hand. This is the way of getting an education that develops the best quality of manhood—develops men ready and capable for service to the world.

The excellence of Mr. Crabtree's work as a country teacher attracted the attention of the school board of Ashland who offered him a position in the Ashland high school. After one year in that position he was advanced to the superintendency where his work was so successful that that period is looked back upon at Ashland as an epoch in its school history.

From Ashland he went to the State University as instructor

in mathematics, then into the principalship of the Beatrice high school, making an epoch for another school from which position however he was soon recalled by the University and made inspector of high schools. The system of inspection organized by him formed the basis for the work of inspection in the states since taking up that work. After an experience of seven years in that position he was elected to the presidency of the State Normal School at Peru, a position he held for six years and would still hold had he not been too big and broad a man to let petty, narrow partisanship dictate to him in the management of the institution under his charge.

Mr. Crabtree, while a republican in politics, believes, and has testified to that belief by the sacrifice of a position, that the educational institutions of our State both great and small should be run not in the interest of individuals or of narrow partisanship, but in the interests solely of educational welfare of the youth of this great state.

He is a friend of the laboring man and his family. He believes that the child of the laborer is just as good as the child of his employer and entitled to equal advantages with it. He accords to the men who work in the mills and shops the same right to organize to protect and promote their interests that he accords to men who work in offices as managers or as members of a profession to further the interests which they represent. Above all he is a genuine friend of youth and has consecrated his life to a service in behalf of boys and girls.

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The above unsolicited letter was written by one of Nebraska's successful educators; a man who has himself felt the inspiration and profited by the example of Prof. Crabtree. There are hundreds of other successful teachers who have written in similar terms of Prof. Crabtree's work: All

over Nebraska the prominent teachers are working for and hoping for the election of this capable man. Practically all of Prof. Crabtree's life has been spent in Nebraska, and his many years of school work in the state—every year a successful year—has put him into closer touch with the great school system and made him familiar with its needs. This familiarity, coupled with his ability as an organizer, educator and disciplinarian, makes him the ideal man for Superintendent of public instruction. Prof. Crabtree's candidacy is due to a demand coming from taxpayers, teachers, graduates of the state's educational institutions and business men generally. In his election those most interested in education see the school system put in charge of the best possible chief.

Put an "X" after the name of James W. Crabtree.

