

Lincoln a Great Center for Educational Activities

BY P. A. BARROWS.

The city of Lincoln advances so swiftly in the past thirty years as it has in the last twenty, few cities in the country will be able to compare with it in any half century of existence along educational lines.

Nebraska has borne the distinction for many years of having the smallest percentage of illiteracy of any state in the union, but whether this is due to the educational advantages which the people of the state enjoy, because of the high grade of its state university, or because of the system enjoyed by the state at large, is a problem which can only be answered by giving both the credit.

Nebraska was fortunate in having men to start it on its way as a state who were optimistic. At the time it was considered foolishly so. But later years have developed the fact that they built better than they know and those who have lived to see this work materialize are not backward in giving them great credit for their far-sightedness.

Magnificent Endowment of Schools.
When Nebraska set aside two sections in every township, the proceeds of lease and sale to be devoted to education, it put in force a system which has enabled the state to establish one of the best educational systems in the country, until today the receipts from the lands set aside enables the state to distribute to its school children nearly \$1,000,000 annually, thus assisting the districts to pay better salaries to teachers and give the children of the state better educational advantages in the county schools.

Naturally as they receive good educations in the county schools, they advance higher and because of this Lincoln has built up a great educational center, where schools and colleges abound and where the very best is given to the children of the state. Not only does Nebraska give her own young men and women opportunities for success in life, but outside states have for years recognized the educational advantages offered in Lincoln and hundreds of students come to its colleges and universities, not only from other states in the United States, but from foreign countries.

Nebraska State University.
Among the educational institutions which have helped to bring name and fame to Lincoln, is, of course, the University of Nebraska. Others not so large, but assisting greatly in the work, are the Nebraska Wesleyan university, the great Methodist school of the state; Cotner university, the college of the Christian church; Union college, the educational institution of the great Advent church; the Lincoln Business college and the Nebraska School of Business, two institutions which call from other states those who seek business education; the Nebraska Military academy, the military school of the west; the University School of Music, the Lincoln Musical college, the Lincoln Dental college and the International Correspondence schools. All these are doing their share in making Lincoln what it is, in fact, an educational center and recognized as such the length and breadth of the land.

Nebraska and Nebraskans are proud of their state university. As far as situated as were the founders of this great institution when they located it upon the acre of land in the early days of the state, they could not see far enough and as a result the people have just voted to increase the campus until it will cover twelve blocks of land or nearly forty acres.

Plans are being laid to erect upon this land a new modern university, one that will fairly represent the state in the galaxy of educational states, and keep it as it is now, the best in the west. To do this modern buildings will be erected in which will be placed every conceivable device which will add to the educational system of the state and increase its standing. Already the university is fully abreast with the advance of modern education, but as the boys and girls of Nebraska continue to graduate from the high schools of the state and flock to the university in increasing numbers, more room is necessary, and to meet this the people will invest hundreds of



Cotner University



Wesleyan University



Lincoln Business College

thousands of dollars in highly improved city property lying next to the present campus on which in the future will be erected buildings costing millions of dollars. Already the state has invested in its university over \$2,500,000 and contracts are being let for others running up into half a million more.

Seventeen buildings comprise the present university on the city campus. Within these buildings are registered annually between 3,500 and 4,000 students. Connected with the university are nearly 500 people acting in one capacity or another, officers, instructors, clerks, messengers, janitors, superintendents, etc., all doing their part toward making the university what it really is, the best in the west and one of the best in the country.

Though not located in Lincoln, the state university has a medical college which is considered one of the best in the country. This college is situated in Omaha. That this institution of medicine stands high is indicated by the fact that it has been placed in class A by the American Association of Medical Colleges. Graduates of this college carry the diploma of the Nebraska state university, which is sufficient to give its holder prestige wherever he may go.

No mention of the Nebraska university would be complete without a few words regarding its athletic department. That brawn and muscle are given attention as well as "higher education" is evidenced by the fact that for six successive years the Nebraska "Cornhusker" football team have been the undisputed champions of the Missouri valley conference.

Wesleyan University.
Wesleyan university, considered to be the most important of the suburban universities of Lincoln, is situated in the little city of University Place, which has a population of between 4,000 and 5,000, lying about three miles northeast of Lincoln.

Wesleyan is the university of the Methodist church of Nebraska, and has a steadily increasing student body. The first plans for the university foundation were started way back in 1858, but it was not until three years later that it had a student body. Just ten students composed the school at that time, while now about 700 are taking the work of the university.

Buildings upon the university campus are composed of the main building erected at a cost of \$100,000; the Whit Memorial, costing a like sum and other buildings amounting in all to something over \$300,000. The university hall all the modern improvements needed and is considered one of the leading institutions of that denomination in this section of the United States. About forty-five acres are included in the campus which includes a fine athletic field, the total value of the university property running up about \$5,000,000. The university started with an endowment fund of \$100,000, of which Andrew Carnegie subscribed about \$25,000. This has since increased to something like \$500,000 and steps are on foot to increase it to \$2,000,000.

State Agricultural Farm.
Next to the state university and, in the minds of a great many people of Nebraska, equal in importance, is the State Agricultural school. The buildings of this institution are situated about two miles from the main university on a 230-acre tract, the southwest portion being used for the campus, on which are situated eighteen buildings of different sizes, while a new engineering building costing fully completed and equipped about \$175,000 is in process of construction.

The College of Agriculture, with a student body of something over 600, equips young men and women for agricultural duties, about 75 per cent of whom go back to the farm or become instructors in agricultural lines.

The agricultural school, connected with the main agricultural college, is a secondary school, where boys and girls who have completed the eighth grade may come and receive instruction fitting them for either farm work or for teaching in rural schools, it being estimated by Dean Burnett, head of the college, that about 75 per cent go back as teachers in rural schools.

Thus the agricultural interests of the state are directly benefited by the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural school, the former receiving the graduates of high schools, fitting them for the more advanced lines of agricultural teaching and work, the latter taking the boys and girls who have not the advantage of high school training, and fitting them for actual farm work and instruction in the country schools of the state.

Nebraska Military Academy.
Off to the west of Lincoln on a slightly hill stands the beautiful Nebraska Military academy. It was founded in 1898 and passed through its first hard-ship when one month from the time of its opening it was burned to the ground. But Colonel H. D. Hayward, its founder, was not discouraged. Securing another building in the city, he moved what had been saved from the fire to the new location and continued the work of building up a new school.

Work was also begun on a magnificent new building on the old location, and as soon as completed Colonel Hayward and his assistants and students moved in and began the work of building up Nebraska's military school. That the work has been successfully carried on is evidenced by the fact that after six years of effort fifty cadets finished the prescribed course of study last year and are filling places successfully along the lines they selected.

The school is essentially a home school with home surroundings. Colonel and Mrs. Hayward look after the boys as if they were their own, and for that reason every lad attending the school leaves it a better boy for having come under

the influence of the superintendent and his good wife.

The form of athletics at the school catches the boy and he is enabled to build up a rugged constitution and is given plenty of chance to mix with his hard study plenty of play and exercise.

Business Colleges.
Lincoln is fortunate in having two business colleges which will compare with any in the country. Both are equipped with all the modern advantages and both are turning out hundreds of students every year capable of stepping into every avenue of business and filling the places assigned them.

The form of athletics at the school catches the boy and he is enabled to build up a rugged constitution and is given plenty of chance to mix with his hard study plenty of play and exercise.

Lincoln Business college is the oldest of its kind in the city. About two years ago it moved into its new building, which had been erected especially to fill the needs of a college of this kind. The college first started out as a small school in 1884, and for years was situated in the Oliver Theater building. Its business increased so rapidly the last few years that it was necessary to have more room and better facilities for carrying on the work, and so the present building was erected. Last year about 800 students attended this college and this year has been increased considerably. President E. C. Bigger feels that the acme of perfection has been just as nearly reached as it is possible to do so in the new location and the success with which he is placing graduates of the institution and their ability to make good, convinces him that no mistake was made when the new building was erected at the corner of Fourteenth and P and the college moved from where it had been from infancy. All student graduates are found positions when they leave the school.

The Nebraska School of Business dates its creation back to 1894, when as Brown's Business college, it first sprang into existence. It continued in its location at Fifteenth and O for several years, when it was purchased by W. M. Bryant and

Miss Beers, who christened it the Nebraska School of Business, and three years ago moved into the Electric building at Fourteenth and O. The building is very neatly fitted up with everything needed for the instruction of students along business lines, and the number of students being sent out indicate that as business instructors President Bryant, Miss Beers and their able corps of assistants are delivering the goods.

President Bryant has had many years' experience in the turning out of successful business students. For eight years he was superintendent of the School of Commerce of North Dakota university, and when he came to Lincoln and became interested in the present college he brought with him one of the ablest instructors of that college in stenography, Miss Gertrude Beers, who came here in the capacity of vice president of the present school and took charge of the course in stenography. Graduates are found places when they quit the school and very few of them fail to make good.

T. A. Blakeslee and F. R. Means have recently joined the executive forces of this college, both having former experience in this line.

Where Music is Studied.
As a musical center Lincoln ranks among the first in the west. Every educational institution has its musical department, while a dozen music stores contribute the accessories needed to go with the education.

Among the schools which are doing so much to keep Lincoln on the musical map are the University School of Music, the Wesleyan Conservatory of Music, Cotner Music school, College View Conservatory of Music, Lincoln Musical college, Wheatly-LeBaron school, Moller Violin school, Normal Musical school, and a dozen or more schools of a lesser nature.

These have all had a tendency to spread a musical atmosphere about the

(Continued on Page Nine—Col. Two.)



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