Nemaha County District Schools Fine Examples of Modern Methods



INTERIOR OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL, NEMAHA COUNTY, SHOWING SINGLE SEATS, SYSTEM OF HEATING, VENTILLATING, ETC.



PLAYGROUNDS OF THE ROSEFIELD SCHOOL NEMAHA COUNTY-TEACHER AND CHILDREN INTERRUPTED IN THEIR PLAY.



GEORGE D. CARRINGTON, JR., nty Superintendent of Nemaha County.



espondence to The Bee.)-A od general always endeavors to keep in close touch with every ramification of his army, that unity and uniformity of ncerted effort may be had. In peaceful pursuits and business life it is the man

tional the same rule holds true. It is the practical application of this rule, that in four years, has brought Nemaha county the dawn of territorial history Nemaha county (the "State of Nemaha") has been a factor in things political in the state place. of Nebrasica, but only of late years has visited a certain school, which consisted of made a great noise educationally. And this brings us again to the rule first quotedand, what is of more interest, to the man who applied the rule and made it a success.

oroughly familiar with every detail of his ess who succeeds. In things educa-

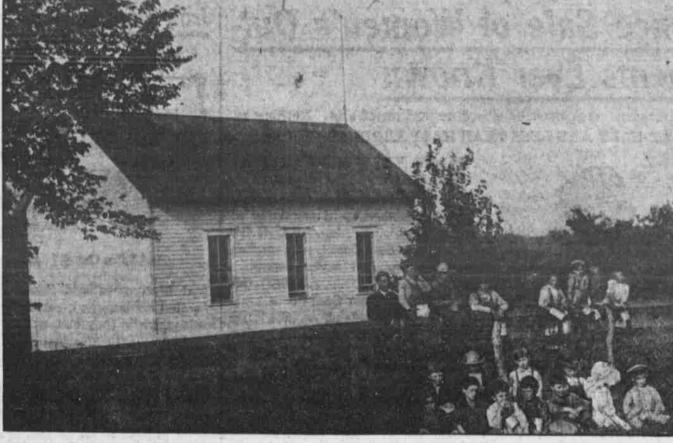
Comes a New Superintendent.

Four years ago George D. Carrington, jr., ary, 1904, things began to happen. There been something moving educationally in Nemaha county ever since. He conof rural schools, or any other system for that matter, is dependent for its success upon correct supervision. And that this supervision should be a personal matter with the superintendent. So he went from district to district, visited the directors and the teachers, "camped" in the school room until the teacher and pupils forgot the presence of a "visitor" and unconsciously reverted to their natural every day routine. Then came out the note book and the superintendent was busy, quietly but earnestly, studying the educational status of each district, taking notes thereon, and devising some plan for its betterment. Then came the suggestions, talks with the school directors, instructions to the teachers, advice to patrons and pupils and in regard to this point Superintendent Carrington says:

"The county superintendent is the elected educational agent for and of the people what the schools need and then let the people know of that need. The people need to be informed regarding many things educational. If, after they have been informed as to better things for their children's It is ever the educate and les betterment as dren, teacher of citizensly

on the other hand, I know of no county times looked upon by the public as an unnecessary and useless office,"

New Deal in School Economy. tical working commission. But Superin- ent and things are set right. tendent Carrington has that fearless impulse which prompts quick action in time of necessity, so the second month of his stroke and the one act woke every teacher



CLIFTON ECHOOL, NEMAHA COUNTY-ARTHUR GILBERT, TEACHER, AND SOME OF HIS PUPILS.

the county. And all this because of a lit- poem: tle common dirt getting out of its natural

It chanced when the superintendent three rooms, he found that if the old rule of "cleanliness is next to godiness" was true, the school in question was indeed far from the divine nature. He saw the condition and in the endeavor to raise both the sanitary and spiritual standard, acted true to the rule which he had adopted, and with his characteristic a native of historic Brownville, was elected promptness and energy. He left the superintendent of public instruction in building, saw the director from whom he Nemaha county. He is a school man all was granted permission to dismiss the over and no sooner does he think out some- school for the day. The smaller children thing which will benefit the schools than were sent home, the superintendent donned he begins to execute the plan. Soon after a pair of overalls, enlisted the large boys he assumed the duties of his office in Janu- and girls and with mops and scrub brushes, brooms and dusters, removed the accumulation of ashes, mud, dust, "last year" decorations, and odd specimens of flora stantly held the idea that a county system and fungus which had been deposited in the rooms during the passing months. It was a strenuous task, but by 6 p. m. each room was sweet and clean and a precedent had been set which resounded from one and of the county to the other. The state superintendent got wind of it and embodied the "precedent" in a circular and the story crept into some of the national educational journals. That night Superintendent Carrington drove home twelve miles through sleet and rain, little thinking he had that day done anything out of the ordinary or that any one outside of the school district interested would ever hear anything about

Sine then a ceaseless and relentless warfare has been waged against dirt-a campaign in behalf of proper sanitation, re- latale, the line measuring less than five pairs, supplies, new and properly constructed outbuildings, new school houses scarcely a school house in the county sity demanded transportation of this naof his county. It is his business to learn county supervision that is not in first-class municipality to the laying of tracks on repair and all conditions provided for a the roadway. good school.

Magazine to Develop Interest.

education, they then refuse to provide stant and close supervision of rural schools motor harnessed to each rear wheel, the them the superintendent is in a measure under the present system by personal visi- necessary current being taken from an relieved of that responsibility. But as a tation. Therefore to accomplish the thing overhead trolley wire by an improvised general thing the people are glad to learn next best to personal supervision Mr. Car- trolley pole carried on the top of the wagen of the better ways and means and provide rington publishes a county magazine-The cover. A steering mechanism completed freely and liberally fiter they see the need. Nemaha County Teacher-in which appears the pioneer trackless froliey. serintendent's duty to suggestions to the teachers and pathe public opinion into trons, "write-ups" of the schools, and the nated the Neuenahr-Ahrweller-Walpozbe for the children's best kind of articles on education in genkeep ablaze before chil- eral. The magazine has a state-wide repu- half miles long and is used chiefly for and public the highest ideal tation and extracts from it are published by eastern educational journals.

In speak, g of the work of the county In addition Mr. Carrington has devised a superintendent he said: 'There are system of monthly reports, which, by their of \$50,000 for a trolley track over the same of a chain of small flashes. The remedy twenty-four hours of work a day for a concise information, places him at once in county superintendent if he will get busy; possession of every desired detail pertaining to the welfare of each school in the office in which there is the opportunity county. This system has been adopted by for negligence. If a superintendent be many county superintendents in the state lasy and indisposed he may draw his salary. These reports are compiled and published and do absolutely nothing-this has at in the county papers; thus all the people times been done and for that reason the who read are informed regarding the school office of county superintendent is some-conditions, and each school district's pride will not permit its educational conditions to be in the back rank. If any school is not properly supplied and conducted, letters go immediately to the director and It is one thing to commend or adopt a teacher, and if necessary a personal visit rule, but quite another to put into prac- is made to the district by the superintend-

Song of Nemaha. was composed at the suggestion of Mr. Car-

to the forefront in things educational. Since a small riot in one of the little towns of song of the county. The following is the

As the wheat fields softly rustle,
And the corn shakes leaves of green,
And the meadows nod their grasses
To the river in between;
What is it that they whisper,
As the breeze soft kisses all?
'Tis the name of their fair mother,
The sweet princess Newman

Chorus:

With praises to thee, Nemaha, Our consecrated ground.

The squirrel scolds in the eim tree Where he has his rough nest made. And the bright birds of the morning Sing 'mid Hawthorne's leafy shade: And the bluffs-long shadows casting-

The sweet princess, Nemaha..

Oh Nemaha, oh Nemaha,
The fairest of the fair;
Our voices join in gladsoms hymns
To sing thy beauties rare.
From Lafayette to St. Deroin,
Let hill and vale resound
With praises to the Nemaha

As the purple evenings fall, Ah, yes all, united to praise thee, Serene princess, Nemaha. Chorus:

> Oh, sweet Nemaha, the fairest
> Of thy sisters in the state;
> Midst the jewels of the counties,
> Thou a gem without a mate;
> If fields and hills and woods and sky forever sing thy praise, much more should we extol thee ow much more should work own much more should war. Throughout all the coming days. Chorus:

Something Doing for Children, It has been Superintendent Carrington's teachers, both for practical teaching work and intellectually. To this end teachers' work required. Talented speakers are employed to give addresses at educational rallies held in the various towns. The great event of the year in the teachers' of the county work, and one period of the



SS ADA PHELAN, TEACHER OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL, COUNTY, AND THREE OF HER EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES.

success of such a measure, but it proved especially provided program. so successful that it has been advantageously adopted by other counties.

For the rural pupils there is always "something doing." 'The Boys' Experiment club to promote the raising of corn, for which prizes are given; the Domestic Science club for the girls brings them awards for cooking and needlework. Composition policy to raise the qualifications of the and spelling contests for prizes are of common occurrence, and a special department in the Nemaha County Teacher is associations are held and reading circle devoted to the publication of children's compositions. Superintendent Carrington makes the Eighth grade graduation exercises in the rural school a special feature

instrute, held in connection and conjunc- program on a stated day at the chautaution with the Auburn chautauqua. This qua each year is devoted to an exercise for was an original idea in this county, and all the Eighth grade graduates of the when first announced by Mr. Carrington county, they being admitted free and given many misgivings were expressed as to the seats of honor on the rostrum during the

Bulletins of Service.

In addition to circulars and the Nemaha County Teacher, Mr. Carrington issues builetins, splendidly printed and illustrated, along certain lines of school improvement. Two of special note may be mentioned. First, one on the "Proper Heating and Ventilating of School Rooms" is a valuable treatise on a common evil, and explains the means of overcoming the same. The results of this bulletin are apparent everywhere in the county. The latest is on "Art and Schoolroom Decoration," illustrated by halftone reproductions of the masterpleces. Its spirit may be caught from an introductory paragraph: "With the physical environment improved we are ready to inaugurate a movement toward the cultivating of the finer qualities in the children's natures - a movement which must result in refining and beautifying." Here are also a few significant clippings from one of the late issues of the Nemaha

County Teacher: I cannot think of any circumstances where I would permit one child to correct the reading or any other work of another.

A child from 7 to 10 cannot do much individual study. He must be taught. He must be priven such work as he can do; he must be given such work as he can do; he thus learns by doing.

As to discipline, teachers are divided into two classes, viz. The "Cans and the "Can'ts," The "Can'ts," should be "canned"

and the "Can's" should be "canned" and the "Can's" should be paid \$75 per month at least.

To be ambitious to succeed; to work hard and do one's best every day; to lead little children in ways of truth and delightful wonderlands of knowledge; to be lightful wonderlands of knowledge; to he an example of pure, ideal manhood or womanhoed—is living and enjoying in the truest and richest sense.

Did you ever watch a bunil walk to the front of the room, get some book or naper he pretends to want, then "mosey" back, "gawking" slong, surpresse in the enjoyment of his idleness. He should be "brought up" with a "short ferk" and a full dose of business injected into him. business injected into him.

Commendation for the Teachers.

Besides discussing all phases of education and keeping the teachers and patrons posted on every move in the teaching world, the Teacher has a department of the "Record of Superintendent's Visits," in which is written what the superintendent sees worth mentioning. Where there is nothing good to say, 'nothing is said. The teachers understand this. Glancing through the December number, the folloying may be taken as a sample of the system used in encouraging a good teacher:

The visitor knows just what to expect at the Champion school and is not disappointed. This is Miss Dora Morton's second year here at \$50 per. Her work is always as nearly perfect as the surrounding advantages will permit. Under the most disagreeable disadvantage of a smoking stove, sile conducted a model school Wednesday morning. November 13, so far as gludy and recitation were concerned. I would not know where a single suggestion could be made upon those reading recitations. And what readers are those children! I challenge any "grown folks" to do better. Miss Morton teaches—there is no "hearing recitations" and letting them go at that. Every class receives attention and instruction. The highest compliment that I could be the second second compliment. The visitor knows just what to expect the Champion school and is not disap-

go at that. Every class receives attention and instruction. The highest compliment that I could pay Miss Morton is to say in its fullest meaning—she is a teacher. The personality of a teacher is reflected by the school—the teacher's personality is the school. Every school has an individuality and personality of its own. Many elements enter into the school to make it stand out individually—but nothing so characterizes it as the personality of the stand out individually—but nothing so characterizes it as the personality of the teacher. Tenure has much to do with the school's personality and the character of the work. This is Miss Adda Phelan's fourth year as teacher of the "Washington" school. As I sit here in the Johnson high school this minute one of the pupils Miss Phelan prepared in "Washington" for the high school is making one of the most intelligent, thorough and complete reci-



was detained elsewhere. It was ar portunity which afforded me both pleasand profit. After studying the problems in the rural schools from the viewpoint of a supervisor I could again study these problems from the view point of the teacher. One teaching thirty or forty children in many grades has problems which are indeed difficult of solution. I found this school doing the best kind of work. The results of tenure and good instruction were everywhere in evidence.

One thing, which was a joy to me, was the Smith system of heating and ventilating which is installed in the room. I did not reach the school until nearly 9 o'clock. I made a fire in the heater and ere long the room was evenly heated. The test I gave the plant that day, in which the weather was not cold, was entirely satisfactory. It required only a little fire to beat the room. I found the coal burned evenly and slowly by reason of correct draughts, the pure air which came into the 'shield' was thoroughly heated before passing into the room and with that low fire the ventilating flue was working admirably. There was a very preceptible current, enough to draw a silk handkerchief passing into the room and with that low fire the ventilating flue was working ad-mirably. There was a very preceptible cur-rent, enough to draw a silk handkerchief right up the flue.

The "Washington" school is a fine place for the education of boys and girls.

Prizes Won by Schools.

The Nemaha county schools have made several creditable displays of work at the state fairs, winning a valuable array of premiums. Throughout the whole county there has been a special effort made toward the permanent improvement of school grounds. School flower gardens have flourished and vegetable gardens planted and tended by the pupils and teachers. This movement is growing, and there is now a systematic effort being made under the direction of Prof. French of the State Normal at Peru. Next year promises a beautiful array of flower beds in the school yards. The directors are taking an interest and foncing the school property and building screens about the outbuildings over which vines may grow.

Consolidation of Rural Schools.

One of the latest movements which Superintendent Carrington is promoting is that of consolidation of the rural school districts and the free transportation of the children. Several meetings have already been held. Superintendent O. J. Kern of Illinois has been here and there is a lively interest among the farmers who have boys and girls ready for the high school. Parents want their children at home and gladly embrace an opportunity of providing high school privileges for their children in the country. Superintendent Carrington is recommending that the school money be spent in a more economical and better way. One of his reports shows that some twentyfive rural schools having from six to eight months of school are paying more per child for education than the city of Auburn is paying per child for nine months of modern education. Several of these districts are paying as high as \$50 per child per year on a basis of average daily attendance. against the cost in the city of Auburn of 321 per capita. One district is paying \$58 per capita for an eight months' school, with poor equipment at that. The next year will see wonderful strides along this line in Nemaha county. The people are being shown that they may have better educational advantages for their money.

Nemaha county stands, in many respects, as a model in its progress educationally, Her school patrons are progressive and are ever willing to do their quota in furthering a worthy cause. The teachers are able, energetic and professional. The highest ideal is ever kept before the children and they are taught to take great pride in their beautiful county and keep the name "Nemaha" to the fore. Marked departures in any line cannot be separated from the man or men who make them, therefore we have in this story the adoption and administration of a rule which may in like manner be repeated in any county by whose-

Progressive Events in the Field of Electricity



hours of the present century, says the electrical house established a short trackless trolley system near the town of Blemiles in length and serving as a medium for transporting manufactured products and comfortable furniture, until there is from the factory to the ratiroad. Necesamong the eight coming directly under the ture on account of the objection by the

Success in a minor degree was attained. the scheme proving not only feasible but economical. The wagons employed were In spite of the desire there can be no con- heavily built vehicles with an electric

One of the early German lines, desighein system, has a line three and one passenger traffic, but has cars for freight transportation. It was built at a cost of course. Much of the cost was occasioned ing of one over-charged cloud by a d.s. test period in which the car covered 150 and a number of discharges are needed to miles. 1063 passengers were carried for even things up.

Power in a Lightning Flash At a recent lecture Dr. Charles P. Stein mets, the genius of the General Electric company, told of the power which goes to

waste in every thunderstorm. It is not possible to use any instruments for the purpose of figuring the forces of of calculating familiar to every mathematician. Dr. Steinmetz has figured that the amount of light given by a single flash is enough to illuminate an area two miles To develop a school spirit and local square. The belt itself would be visible in the county; set more dust flying in Fington, both words and music were com- as much light as would be given by a explained. every educational center than had been posed by local talent, the song published candle-quite enough to read by. To promoved at one time in years; created a run and sent to all the schools. All the chil- duce such a light it would be necessary to Electrical Locomotives for Tunnels. on the broom market and almost caused dren sing it and it is today the favorite expend 18,000 herse-power for a second. The Great Northern railroad has recently

The figures appear very large, but the time placed orders with the General Electric HE trackless trolley, brought is short. The flash might be for only company for four 100-ten electric locome-out in Germany in 1901, experi- 1-1000 part of a second, but the impression tives to be used in handling its trains mented with in France two on the eye would continue for a tenth of through the Cascade tunnel. This tunnel years later, is now growing in a second anyway. Figured down to the is bored through the Cascade mountains popularity in Germany, France exact hour, this amount of force would east of Seattle. The tunnel is three miles

and Italy. In the opening mean only about four horse-power. According to the professor, lightning is to obviate the nuisance and danger from Technical World Magazine, a German flashes usually occur within thunder clou's high temperatures and lecomotive gases and only rarely from one ordinary cloud that the electric service is being installed. to another or from a cloud to the ground. tricity formed in a thunder cloud is not although a number of three-phase rallways like that which is produced by electrical have been installed in Europe, the Great machinery. Lightning is static electricity. the same kind as is produced by rubbing amber with silk. When a body like a European roads. tricity the charge stays on the surface four motors, rated at 325 horse-power, or limited by the area over which it can wheels are sixty inches in diameter. Cur-

Dr. Steinmets says that when a large number of vapor particles unite to form Each locomotive will be capabe of hauling a raindrop their electrical charges are cam- a 1,600-ton train at a speed of fifteen miles bined, but there is not as much surface per hour on a 2 per cent grade. on a big drop as on the many par.icl s which went into it. Consequently there is more electricity than the drop can h ld. It must bunt up other accommodations either in some cloud or on the cartin Flashes in the clouds are often several \$32,000, as compared with an estimated coat miles long. These finshes are composed by the steep grades encountered. In a charge into another increases that cloud

Lightning discharges from one cloud to another or to the earth differ greatly in force. Some lightning bolts are very heavy and aplinter trees into toothpicks, destroy buildings and fuse rock. Others are more

mild and do little or no damage. The question of how the static electricity gets in the clouds is very difficult to anlightning, yet there are many other ways by the evaporation of water by the sun's rays. Another that static discharges are continually taking place from the earth into the air and are there readily collected by particles of moisture. When the particles of moisture condense they form first term chronicles his first original pride as well as patriotism a county song several miles further off, but the remotest heavy thunder clouds and this formation part of the region mentioned would have of raindrops causes the lightning flashes as

in length and on a 2 per cent grade. It

The installation is attracting the uni-They seem to follow the rapid condensa-versal attention of engineers, because it tion of vapor in the air and to be caused is the first to employ three-phase motors by that phenomenon. The kind of elec- for railway service in this country, and, Northern locomotives are much larger and more powerful than any in use on the

brass globe is charged with scatte elec- Each locometive will be equipped with of it. The quantity of a full charge is a total of 1.36 horse-power. The driving rent will be supplied to the locomotives at 6.600 volts at a frequency of 25 cycles. motors will be used for "braking" down grade as well as hauling up grade; that is, the motors will be used as generators on down grades, assisting the air brake system of holding the train and making additional current for the line.

The flexibility and cleanliness of electric power makes it ideal for tunnel work and the railroads of the country are rapidly installing electrical equipment wherever underground conditions make steam locomotives a dangerous nuisance.

Value of Electrical Industries.

The immense value and importance of the electrical business in the United States are shown by a statistical summary in the January number of the Western Electrician. Electrical and auxiliary manufactures for 1907 are given at \$315,920,000, this being a slight decrease from the totals for 1906, but an increase of about 30 per cent over 1908. The decline for 1907 had been anticipated and seems to have been chiefly in the line of new construction Grouping the figures, the Western Electrician finds that wire and cables manufactures for the year amount to \$88,625,000; dynamos and motors, \$74,000,000; telephone apparatus, \$28,500,000; lamps of all kinds, \$13,125,000; cars, trucks, and railway supplies, \$15,700,000; prime mevers, \$27,750,000,