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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA.

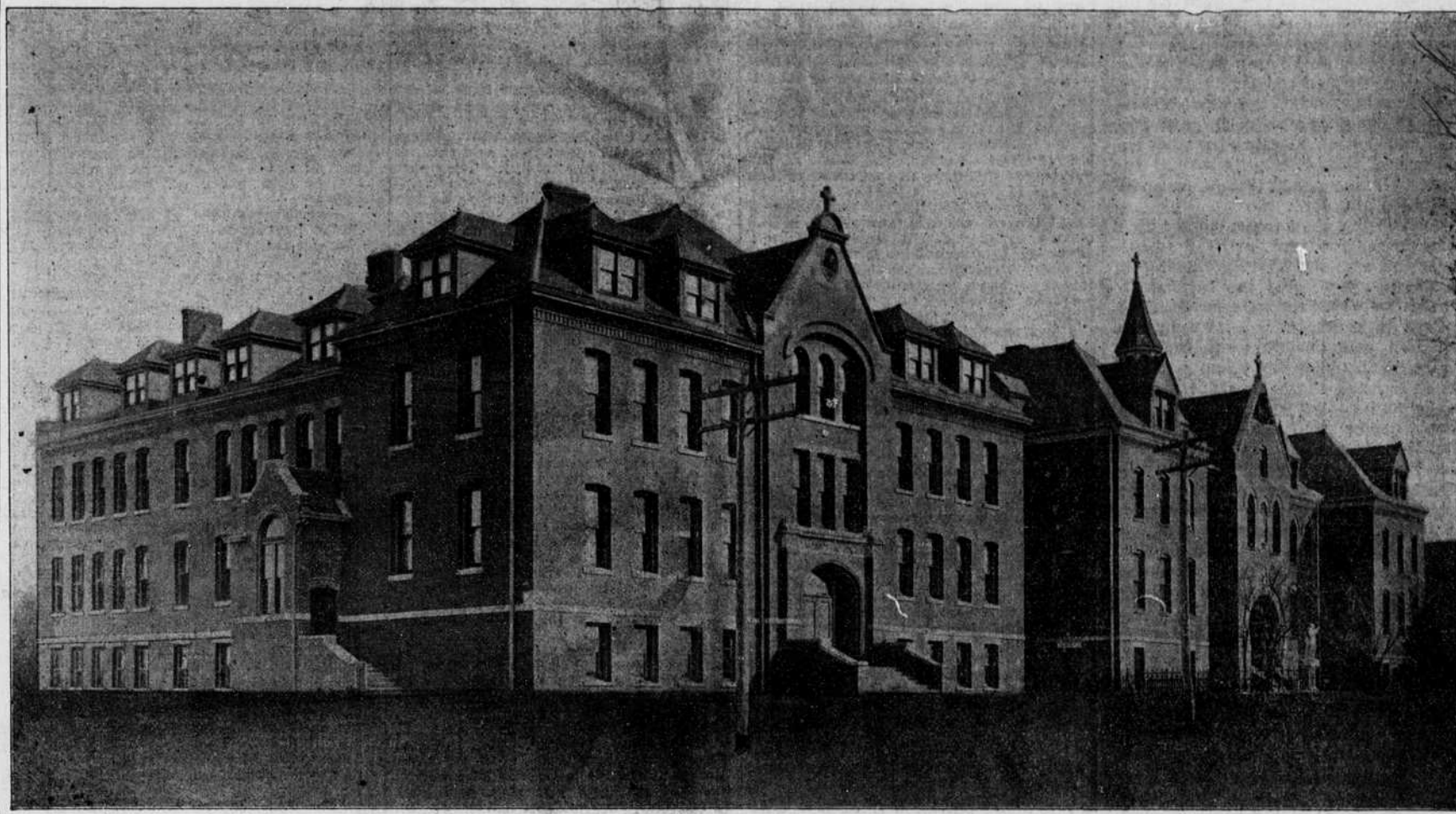
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OF O'NEILL

History of One of Nebraska's Great Educational Institutions.

The history of St. Mary's Academy may be briefly stated. As early as 1890, Very Rev. M. F. Cassidy, aided by his zealous and generous parishners, had completed the erection of a handsome edifice costing \$20,000.00. Just one week previous to the arrival of the Sisters who were to take charge of it, fire broke out in the building, and, in a few hours, the first St. Mary's Academy was a mass of crumbling ruins. Whether the fire was of incendiary origin will probably never be known; however, the shock to priest and people was so great that for several years, no attempt was made to rebuild the academy. Doubtless, too, it was thought that the heavy financial loss would render the erection of another building quite impossible for years to come; but "Special needs develop special resources." This is a maxim in the material world and it is true also in the domain of the Church—Hence it was, that Very Rev. Father Cassidy had recourse to the sisters of St. Francis, whose Provincial Mother House was then in Buffalo, New York, and he induced them to erect a new St. Mary's Academy.

Perhaps a brief account of this religious congregation, now numbering 2600 living members, might interest our readers. It was founded in 1836, in Heijthuisen, Holland, by Mother Magdalen Daemen and it is here that the beautiful Mother House of the entire congregation, St. Elizabeth's College and Normal School, is situated. Besides this, the congregation has many other foundations in Holland and in Germany including "Nonnenwerth," built in the fourteenth century, on an island, in the Rhine near Rolandseck, so famous in legend and in story. This particular congregation has also numerous colleges and schools in South America, Missions in Africa and in the East Indies, and twenty-six establishments in the United States. The new Provincial Mother House, "Stella Niagara Seminary," is situated on a beautiful estate, fronting the Niagara River, eight miles below the falls. It is a handsome grey stone structure, costing \$350,000. The object of this sisterhood is three fold; the service of the sick, the care of orphans, and the education of youth; but it is chiefly by its educational work that it is known. The congregation was established in this country in 1874, at Buffalo, New York, and the annals of those early years show that to the high vocation of religious teachers, the Sisters of St. Francis added an apostolic spirit; for the records tell, that from the small band, none of whom could well be spared, a few were sent to St. Francis Mission, Rosebud, South Dakota, where they instructed two hundred Sioux Indian children in the saving truths of religion. This mission and another founded a few years later at Pine Ridge Agency, both of which are under the direction of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus, are today providing for the needs of soul, mind and body of over five hundred children.

But to return to St. Mary's Academy. It was one of the loveliest days of early spring. The sun brightened the lonely road that leads from Holy Rosary Mission, South Dakota, to Rushville, Nebraska, when three Sisters of St. Francis bade an affectionate farewell to scenes of former labors, to begin anew in other fields. Those good Religious were the foundresses of St. Mary's Academy. Arrived at O'Neill, they were formally received and heartily welcomed by the Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Very Rev. M. F. Cassidy and a dele-



gation, representing the people of the parish and the citizens of O'Neill. This memorable day was April 18, 1900. The work of beginning the erection of the Academy was not delayed a single day; and they bravely surmounted difficulties which to less courageous souls would have been deemed insurmountable, testify to the zeal and activity of the workers. Through the succeeding spring and summer the work went steadily on; and yet, it was late in October before any part of the building was habitable. However in the meantime seven sisters had arrived from Buffalo, New York, and school opened the first Monday in September, 1900. The enrollment of that day was 106. The number of students has increased year by year and today there are about 300 pupils in attendance at St. Mary's.

Location.

The Academy is situated on an eminence in the northern part of the city of O'Neill. Recent purchases have made the grounds extensive. These, furnished with basket-ball and lawn tennis courts, render out-door exercise enjoyable and beneficial. Access to St. Mary's is easy from any part of the country, by the Chicago and Northwestern and the Burlington railroads.

Buildings.

The main large building was designed by Mr. J. E. Dietrick, an able architect of Omaha. It is a beautiful structure of pressed brick, and contains the convent and chapel, the studio, reception rooms, music rooms, dining rooms and dormitories. In ten years this building proved entirely inadequate to accommodate the number of pupils in attendance, and accordingly, in May, 1910, ground was broken for a new building, which was ready for occupancy September 6, 1911. This \$75,000.00 addition to St. Mary's was planned by Mr. J. M. Nachtigall of Omaha, a specialist in Catholic churches and schools. Mr. Nachtigall spared neither time nor labor in completing and perfecting the plans and the result is that St. Mary's Academy is one of the most beautiful and modern school buildings of our state. The building was erected by Mr. B. J. Jobst, a well-known contractor and builder of Omaha. The heating and plumbing, modern and satisfactory in every respect, was done by the J. J. Hannighan Co. of

the same city. Both buildings are lighted by gas and electricity, and are equipped with the most sanitary appointments. The fire escapes on both buildings were furnished by the Paxton & Vierling Iron Works of Omaha. The class rooms, study halls, music halls, dormitories, recreation and dining halls, the wide cheerful corridors and broad stairways are all arranged with a view to health, comfort and convenience. The floor construction of the corridors is of the most approved reinforced concrete and tile. The finished floors are of clear, white maple, and the interior cabinet finish of oak.

Equipment.

No expense has been spared in the equipment of the various apartments, each of which has been furnished with all that the most refined and scholarly taste could desire.

The library contains over a thousand volumes of all the standard authors, the French and German classics, cyclopedias, magazines, reference books, most practically helpful in the different lines of work in which our students engage. Valuable additions are made each year. The beautiful art square that partly covers the highly polished floor of this attractive room, the massive oak table, the leather chairs, and artistic window draperies bear testimony to the loyalty and generosity of the members of St. Mary's Alumnae association.

Laboratories.

The Laboratories are amply supplied with material and apparatus for experimental work in chemistry, botany and agriculture, as well as instruments for illustrating the laws and principles of physics.

The Assembly Room.

The Assembly Room has a seating capacity of 200. Its name suggests its use. It is set apart for concert practice, recitals, debates and lectures. The fourth floor is mainly taken up with the dormitories, large airy and bright, curtained off into cozy alcoves; the private rooms, for those desiring individual apartments; and the ward-rooms.

The Gymnasium, 90 by 70 feet, is finely equipped and affords excellent opportunities for physical training.

The Bath Rooms, eighteen in number, always supplied with an abundance of hot water, furnish an opportunity for bathing at any time.

Departments.

St. Mary's provides instruction in the following departments: Primary, preparatory, academic, music, art, physical culture and oratory.

The aim of the primary department is to establish correct habits of study, and to impart a thorough knowledge of the elementary branches, thus laying a good foundation for successful work in other departments.

The preparatory department prepares pupils for the academic department and offers a comprehensive four years' course.

The academic department has a two-fold object. To prepare the student for college or university work and to fit her for the position she is to fill as a woman of culture and refinement.

Music is taught as a science and as an art and the work of the department has won high praise from musicians

of note. The best European methods such as Czerny's exercises, Chopin's and other works are used for advanced pupils. The Sartorio Method is employed for beginners.

In the department of art, as in other departments, the leading principle of the institution is thoroughness, hence pupils are given a clear understanding of each lesson. They learn not only to acquire, but how to impart that which they have acquired.

The department of physical culture and oratory is conducted along modern lines and each student of the school enjoys its benefits. The teacher in charge, Miss Mary E. Colonius, is a graduate of the Missouri University and of the Stevens School of Oratory, and under her directorship excellent results are being attained.

In addition to the graduation requirements in the classical and modern languages, the arts and sciences, homekeeping and adorning are included in the allotment of time at St. Mary's.

Religious Instruction.

The most important element of the education that the Academy aims to impart to its students is the moral and religious training that forms a part of the curriculum. Regular and systematic instruction is given in Christian doctrine. The religious principles of any denomination are not interfered with; yet, for the maintenance of order, all are required to attend the public religious services.

The Academy is legally incorporated and has been accredited to the State University for several years. A normal training class under the direction and supervision of the state superintendent is organized at the beginning of each scholastic year.

It is the intention of the faculty of St. Mary's Academy to add in the near future, a two years' Normal course to the four years of academic and normal training work.

Sister M. Antoinette, who has been absent the past year attending the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., will return in the early summer. She has completed the course of the University for the degree of Bachelor of Arts and will receive her M. A. at the completion of the course.

Several of the other teachers at St. Mary's will join a number of the members of their community and resume their course at the Creighton University, Omaha, at the close of this term.

The following will be the graduates of 1914, having fulfilled the necessary requirements: Misses Mae Barker, Marguerite Carney, Anna Dennis, Teresa Devlin, Grace Hopkins, Elizabeth Janzing, May Jones, Cecilia Kloke, Catherine Loob, Alvira Monahan and Laurentia McNichols.

The entire attendance at St. Mary's is about 300. Of these, the following are enrolled as boarders:

- Anna Dennis, Spencer, Neb.
- Mae Barker, Gregory, South Dakota.
- Grace Hopkins, Westfield, Iowa.
- Elizabeth Janzing, O'Neill, Neb.
- May Jones, Lusk, Wyoming.
- Cecilia Kloke, Spencer, Neb.
- Laurentia McNichols, Atkinson, Neb.
- Lucille Berigan, Ewing, Neb.
- Bridget Carr, Stafford, Neb.

- Shirley Engle, Long Pine, Neb.
- Bernadine French, Clearwater, Neb.
- Irma Fisher, Wahoo, Neb.
- Loretta Higgins, Platte Center, Neb.
- Agnes Hughes, Battle Creek, Neb.
- Marguerite Hanamen, Ewing, Neb.
- Maud Jones, Lusk, Wyoming.
- Esther Kelleher, Tilden, Neb.
- Ethel Kasper, Wahoo, Neb.
- Neoma O'Kief, Woodlake, Neb.
- Jennie Tierney, O'Neill, Neb.
- Agnes Vifquain, Springview, Neb.
- Anna Carr, Stafford, Neb.
- Esther Cole, Emmet, Neb.
- Catherine Corey, Omaha, Neb.
- Cella Farrell, Charlotte, Iowa.
- Josephine Jotter, Crookston, Neb.
- Dessie Keleher, Norfolk, Neb.
- Cecilia Kelleher, Tilden, Neb.
- Kathryn McCarthy, O'Neill, Neb.
- Hattie Pribil, O'Neill, Neb.
- Josephine Stecker, North Bend, Neb.
- Barbara Borowiak, Norfolk, Neb.
- Donalda Barker, Crookston, Neb.
- Florence Brogan, Tilden, Neb.
- Nellie Clyde, Neligh, Neb.
- Helen Daxon, Neligh, Neb.
- Rita Gallagher, Laurel, Neb.
- Ruth Grant, Fremont, Neb.
- Olive Johnson, Omaha, Neb.
- Maria Johnson, O'Neill, Neb.
- Verdi Jones, Lusk, Wyoming.
- Hazel Lyons, Winside, Neb.
- Mabel Lovelace, Battle Creek, Neb.
- Lucille Neiter, Sheridan, Wyoming.
- Helen McNichols, Atkinson, Neb.
- Helen Spindler, Pensacola, Florida.
- Etha Strohm, Carns, Neb.
- Helen Tierney, O'Neill, Neb.
- Florence Daxon, Neligh, Neb.
- Clara Farrell, Charlotte, Iowa.
- Bernice Heelan, Arabia, Neb.
- Leopoldina Weisenbeck, Pierce, Neb.
- Cecilia Hynes, Turner, Neb.
- Verona Jones, Lusk, Wyoming.
- May O'Brien, Allenson, Neb.
- Genevieve Moran, Jackson, Neb.
- Francis, McMann, O'Neill, Neb.
- Clara Rhody, Phoenix, Neb.
- Josephine Vifquain, Springview, Neb.
- Frances Abbott, Okreek, S. D.
- Elizabeth, Blado, Lincoln, Neb.
- Grace Cottier, Allen, S. D.
- Dorothy Jones, Lusk, Wyoming.
- Agnes Tierney, O'Neill, Neb.
- Frances Tierney, O'Neill, Neb.
- Marie Seidell, Chadron, Neb.
- Jane McGinnis, Fremont, Neb.
- Clara Martin, Joy, Neb.
- Frances Ketterer, Pierce, Neb.
- Agnes Shoemaker, O'Neill, Neb.
- Louise Sattler, Norfolk, Neb.
- Dorothy Smith, Chadron, Neb.
- Irene Smith, Chadron, Neb.
- Gerrude Taylor, Des Moines, Iowa.

The New Building One of the Finest School Buildings in the State.

By CELIA A. GORBY, Superintendent.

The public school of O'Neill has entered upon a new era of prosperity. Through the generosity of its citizens and the sound business management of its board of education, it has just completed one of the most practical and up-to-date school plants in the state. Its architecture is beautiful and substantial, its ornamentation and color are rich and artistic. It is constructed to meet the needs of the present-day practical education.

Its basement is a half-story above ground, well-lighted, heated, and ventilated. It contains a well-equipped domestic science laboratory and dining room, a manual training shop, a little girls' playroom, a little boys' playroom, sanitary toilets, a large gymnasium, hot and cold showers for both boys and girls.

The first floor contains the Superintendent's office and library, five airy well-lighted grade rooms, a public assembly room, fitted up with stage for public school assemblies or citizens' meetings, and for daily use in music and speaking drills and commercial work, fireproof corridor and stairways.

The second floor contains a high school assembly room, three large reception rooms, a finely equipped general science laboratory, three grade rooms, and corridor and stairways as on the first floor, and a teachers' rest and pupils' sick room.

The building is equipped with new furniture throughout.

The school district has a city organization under Sec. 21 which requires a board of six members elected at the city election, a superintendent with high educational qualifications and an experience of two years' teaching, one of which must be a principal-ship in a school of not less than four teachers. Its teachers must have a high standard of scholarship and experience of two years, or normal training with one year of experience for the grade positions.

The present board is composed of T. D. Hanley, President, M. H. McCarthy, Secretary, S. F. McNichols, Neil Brennan, Dr. J. P. Gilligan and Dr. P. J. Flynn.

The teaching corps is composed of Miss C. A. Gorby, Superintendent and Miss Emma Snyder, Principal and Music Supervisor, Miss Lottie M. Robertson, Domestic Science Instructor; Mr. F. E. Marrin, Mathematics and Athletics; Mr. Taylor, Agriculture Supervisor; Miss Mary G. Horriksy, Eighth Grade; Miss Margaret Donohoe, Seventh Grade; Miss Lovena Adams, Sixth and Departmental; Miss Mary Stannard, Fourth and Fifth; Miss Agnes Kelly, Third Grade; Miss Kathryn Devlin, Second Grade; Miss Mary Timlin, First and Kindergarten; Miss Mary Gallagher, Ward School.

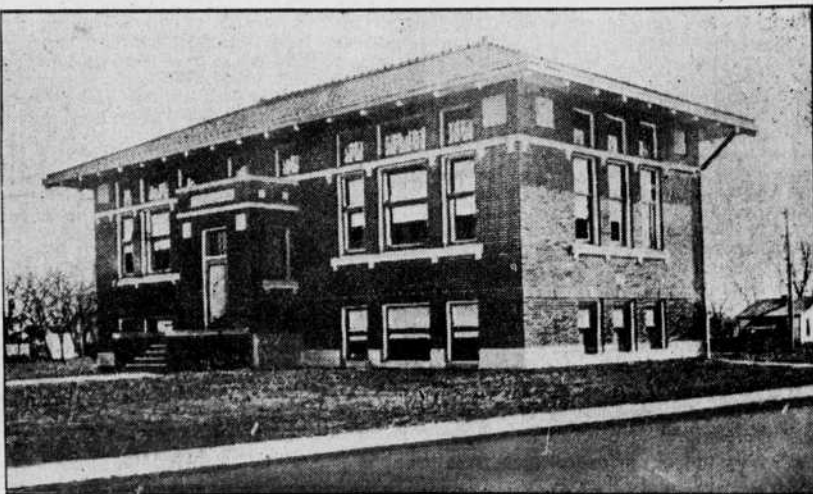
There is an enrollment of 98 in the High School, and 281 in the grades, making a total of 379. New pupils are being enrolled every week.

The plan and equipment of the school plant are in harmony with the economic and practical system of education which trains both in 'how to make a living', or vocational, and 'how to live more completely', or cultural, combining the vocational and cultural in education.

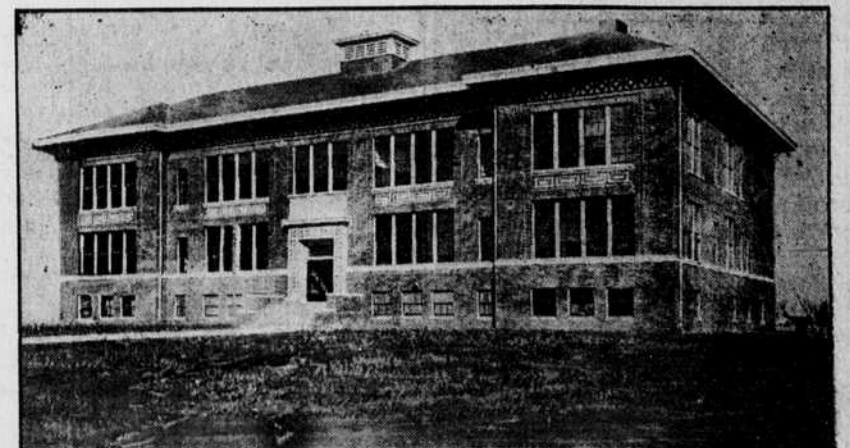
The High School offers two courses,—the regular course, which emphasizes language training and prepares for college entrance without further examination, and includes Normal Training for teachers; the industrial course which emphasizes agriculture, manual training and do-

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O'NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY.



O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.