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**SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT**

Twelfth Annual Commencement of the Red Cloud High Schools.

ELEVEN SCHOLARS GRADUATE.

Six Boys and Five Girls Start on the Real Journey of Life--A Brief Review of Their Last School Work.

Once more our high school has shown its efficiency by sending out another graduating class full of life and hope fitted for the realities of practical existence. The program as carried out was quite a divergency from the former exercises. Wednesday night was class day, Thursday night commencement proper and the Alumni banquet. Wednesday night the opera house was filled to its utmost capacity at 8.30 with the relatives and friends of the class anxiously waiting the time when each should go through the ordeal and become conqueror or conquered. Nobly did the class respond to the confidence of their teachers and as each one demonstrated his ability to grapple with his first attempt there was but one word to express the entire program and that word was "success". The scene on the stage was most pleasing to even a confirmed pessimist. The decorations were the perfection of taste and the graduates and teachers sitting in a half circle looked their very best.

Miss Anna M. Hallock greeted the audience with a unique salutatory. Departing from the traditional policy of "our modesty," "you'll forgive mistakes," etc., she showed that this was an exceptional class--the most cultured class--the brightest class--the century class--and then showed their chief virtue to be their utter lack of egotistical tendencies. She followed her salutatory with a recital from David Harum. She showed herself to be an adept at personation and was realistic in the extreme. One could almost see the demon sitting in the rain swearing.

Alive to the sociological problems of the present day, Bud McCune forcibly presented the facts and deductions connected with the banishment of Count Tolstoi and traced out the result of generations of growth and thought.

Delving down into the records of the past Miss Alice I. Pope found food for thought and material for fun in bringing to light the lives of former graduates and her effort on "Our Predecessors" proved to be interesting and instructive.

Time is a wonderful producer of change, developing the human mind to such an extent enabling it to forge thoughts of such power that when fitly expressed they become like the calls of a trumpet in the ears of mankind, enabling it to set in motion agencies and movements which effect the destinies of generations and nations. The formation of the great steel trust, the association of gigantic labor organizations attracted the practical mind of W. Leigh Pope and his discourse of "Combination of Power" met the approval of the entire audience.

Originality creeps out in every movement of the class and as an instance Miss Mabel E. Beckwith drew up the formal papers of the "Class Will" being the last will and testament signed while still in a sane condition of mind--by the entire class. This showed considerable thought as well as originality and Miss Beckwith is to be congratulated for so fittingly presenting a difficult subject.

Amid the prosaic calmness of Webster county and surrounded by a circle of realistic classmates Clarence M. Gross surprised his hearers by presenting, as a product of his genius, the "Class Poem". It was hardly up to the excellence of Virgil's beautiful iambic verse, and may have lacked the fire of Byron yet it showed the poetic powers of the young graduate and we trust he will develop his talent by further application.



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with by Samuel G. Foster in bright, clear happy manner and disclosed the fact that while his attention has been centered upon his studies, he has not permitted himself to become a mere book worm but has acquired a keen insight into the intricate cog wheels of finance.

Hugh R. Beal collecting data and robbing tradition presented the "Class History." Hugh showed that while history may sometimes be somewhat dry and uninteresting yet in the hands of an expert many quaint and humorous facts may be overlooked.

The intellectual brightness of Miss Susie E. Engles, gained for her the high distinction of valedictorian and her closing remarks were especially to be commended and admired.

Once again the class change the regulation tactics by delivering the class prophecy in dialogue form. Miss Winnifred M. Sherman and Joseph S. Garber meet after fifteen years have elapsed since they completed the course in the Red Cloud High School and they proceed to form each other in the good old fashioned way where each of the class is and what each is doing. So faithfully did they assume the role that one could almost imagine the extra grey hairs already crowning the cranial appendages of those excellent entertainers.

The musical element of the program was well represented by Miss Jeanette Dysart, Miss Lillian Smith and Mr. G. S. Albright, the mere mention of whose names at once bespeaks high class talent.

Thursday night the graduation exercises, proper commenced with a beautiful solo rendered by Miss Dysart entitled, "Angel's Serenade." Then followed the invocation by Rev. J. H. N. Cobb of the M. E. church. Superintendent Sams then announced that the speaker of the evening, Dr. Fletcher Wharton had missed his train and was unable to be present. This was the only disappointment connected with the exercises this year. A musical program consisting of the very best solos, duets and quartets was substituted wherein Miss Dysart, Miss Smith, Mrs. Baum, L. P. and G. S. Albright were the performers, and while regrets were expressed at the non-appearance of the speaker, the music was highly satisfactory. John S. Dwight says: "We need some ever-present, ever-welcoming influence that shall insensibly tone down our self-asserting and aggressive manners, round off the sharp, offensive angularity of character, subdue and harmonize the free and ceaseless conflict of opinions, warm out the genial individual humanity of each and every unit of society, lest he become a mere member of a party, or a sharer of a business or fashion." Surely those who listened to the musical of Thursday night will appreciate those words of Mr. Dwight.

Prof. H. L. Sams then in well-chosen words addressed the class upon the

possibilities before each one of them and showed that one's avocation was immaterial so long as character is developed. The problem of life was now assigned to them and if they would live a well-rounded life, one full of the best, they would begin the solution at once by choosing intrinsic excellency as their formula. His words were expressive, pat and practical.

Mr. C. F. Cather on behalf of the board of education then presented the class with their well-earned diplomas. Among the good things he said that they were educated by the public and the public had a right to expect from them their very best talents and achievements; that the public would be responsive to any display of merit. He then called attention to the class motto, NON PALMA SINE LABORE, and pointed out the fact that life's victories were not attained by mere accident; that one must strive with the whole soul of his being if he would triumphantly grasp the palm.

Floral emblems were then given and the school life of class 1901 was ended.

Right here permit us the liberty to say a few words in ecomia of our high school teachers. In Prof. Sams, Miss von Pilsum and Miss Schneller we have a corps of instructors which it is safe to say has never been excelled or equaled since the foundation of the school. While in times past there has been individual preceptors who were unquestionably proficient, yet at the same time as a whole the faculty has never been so strong. We have three of the very best instructors, each one specially adapted, specially equipped and specially qualified for developing and moulding the character of the young, which after all is the true education.

The twelfth annual alumni banquet was held in the Masonic hall immediately after the exercises in the opera house and was the most successful affair in the history of the association. Each person present seemed to feel the responsibility of entertaining and as a result the meeting was a brilliant success. Music, laughter, repartee, mirth and pleasure were all mixed together in harmonious confusion. The custom of banqueting the graduates is a commendable feature of the exercises and is a fitting culmination of the process incident to the joys of student life. The following were the toasts: Prof. G. M. Caster, Toastmaster.

"Between Ourselves," Roscoe C. Cather.

"Our Anticipations," Winnie Sherman.

"Our Realizations," Estella Ducker.

"A Mixture," Prof. H. L. Sams.

"My First Appearance," Anna Hallock.

"Bumps," E. J. Overing, Jr.

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