

## A Little Glimpse into the Past

The Rise of the Summer Session.

By Dr. Bessey

The summer school of the University of Nebraska originated about fourteen years ago. There had been a growing feeling among the teachers of the state that the University should open its doors to the teachers in the summer time when they could be in attendance. While acting chancellor, from 1888 to 1891, the matter was brought to my attention by many prominent school men, and at their urgent request it was laid before the University faculty. The first year we were not able to arrange for a regular summer school, as professors had made their plans for their summer vacation. However, since the teachers were so insistent, the botanical department was opened for two weeks, and a considerable number of teachers came and took the lectures with the accompanying laboratory work. This work was entirely gratuitous, there being no compensation whatever provided by the University. The next year several other departments united with the department of botany, and this was continued until Chancellor Canfield came to the University in June, 1891. He took hold of the summer school and developed it rapidly, organizing it into something of its present form. The Lancaster county Teachers' Institute was joined with the summer school for several seasons, and the time of the school was extended first to four weeks, and eventually to six weeks.

From one subject as offered the first year, the subjects grew to be many, and one year there were probably eighteen or twenty subjects offered by as many instructors. While at first

there was no money whatever available for paying for such instruction, as the school grew there was a small sum of from \$200 to \$500, which was divided pro rata among the instructors. Eventually the regents took hold of the matter, and a small sum was set aside each year, and at the same time the number of subjects was cut down to about ten, so that the instructors received some slight compensation for the hard work which they did. At no time, however, have instructors received as much pay for the work in the summer school as they receive for their regular work in the University.

The summer school was started for the benefit of the teachers of the state, and this has always been its primary function. For several years the University students took many of the subjects, but I think that recently there has been a falling off in this respect, especially as there has been an effort to make the summer school work more particularly adapted to the needs of teachers.

I hope to see the summer school extended, so as to continue through twelve weeks of the summer vacation. In a twelve weeks summer term much good could be accomplished in the way of solid study. As it is at present, there is too much of a temptation to overwork in the short period of six weeks. I should like to see a twelve weeks term in which the work should be so adjusted that it might be of benefit to the University students who wish to take up the subject offered, as well as for the teachers in the public schools. CHARLES E. BESSEY.

## Present Plans and Prospects

Enlarged Ambitions of Today.

By the Executive Office

The University authorities purpose making the coming University session the most attractive ever held at this institution. They aim to offer not only work demanded by teachers, but a wide range of popular courses. For the first time practical work in physical education especially adapted to the public schools is offered. The best possible preparation for county certificates can this year be attained at the summer term, since special stress will be laid upon the teaching of agriculture and nature study, to fulfill the new requirements made by law and upon geography, physiology, mathematics and pedagogical subjects. For those now practicing medicine or looking forward to doing so a special course in bacteriology will be given. In addition to these subjects regular courses in botany, the English language, English literature, French and German, American history and European history and zoology are offered. A course in art, the renaissance in Italy, is presented by lectures and readings, illustrated by stereoptical views and photographs. A course in sociology relates to the psychology of society. Another course that promises to be popular is that of three weeks in expression.

Thus for a period of six weeks the valuable equipment of the University is placed at the service of persons who can not attend at other times. While primarily for teachers, principals and superintendents of Nebraska, any others qualified to pursue the subjects ought will be admitted. The chan-

cellor and the heads of departments will be in residence. All the instructors are members of the University teaching staff. Conferences will be held by the instructors on the pedagogical aspects of the studies taken.

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In this session students are earnestly advised to concentrate their attention each upon one subject, or at most upon a few subjects. It is far better fairly to master one subject than merely to touch upon several. It is necessary for those who are matriculated, or design to matriculate in the university and desire to gain credit for work in the summer session, to devote their time to a single course, or at most to two courses.

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Credit will be granted for summer session work. The maximum credit which can be secured is six hours, as the summer session of six weeks is one-third of the length of the semester. The least time for which any student can register in any subject for the summer session is three hours. This entitles him, when the work is satisfactorily completed, to one hour credit.

Expenses are not heavy. The registration fee is \$6. Laboratory fees are as follows: \$1 in physiology, \$1 in zoology, \$8 in bacteriology.

A strong feature of the session will be the evening entertainments. Chancellor Andrews, Prof. M. V. O'Shea, of the department of education of the University of Wisconsin; Dean W. S. Jackson, of the University of Chicago;

WHEN WILLIE CAME TO SCHOOL.



Willie's uncle, expecting to send his boy to school, desires to overlook one month's expense account.

Prof. E. A. Ross, of the University of Nebraska, and other well known educators will lecture. Miss Alice Howell will give select readings. On July 11th a picnic will be held at the state fisheries. On July 23rd the last evening of the session an athletic exhibition will be given by the department of physical education.

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During the first and second weeks of the summer session the Lancaster county teachers' institute is in session at the University. It is a school of methods and practice in elementary and graded school work. Only well-known specialists and educators are employed to give instruction. Teachers thus find in the institute an elementary training school, including many subjects not offered in the summer session. County superintendents are usually willing to permit teachers to do their summer work here and to grant certificates on the credit obtained at this session.

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The Lincoln Academy also offers some work for this summer and courses which can not be taken at one place may be found at the other.

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Cool weather continued throughout the entire session last year. The session ends July 24th this summer and there is no reason for expecting that this year's session will not be likewise favored. The session will end July 24th, and thus avoid the August heat.

A program giving the name of the instructor, hour and room for each course will be published the first of June, and may be obtained at the executive office.

## Summer Calendar

June 7, Su., to June 11, Th., commencement week.  
June 12, F., summer session opens.  
July 4, S., national holiday.  
July 24, F., summer session closes.



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