

11 Chancellors Served University

Benton Headed First University Administration

Nebraska Helmed by Many Famed Educators in 67 Year History.

By Charles Q. De France.

The office of chancellor of a state university is dignified and honorable, but not a very lucrative occupation. In addition to being a man of higher education with suggestive initials following his full name, he must be a man of courage, tact, diplomacy,—in fact, a host of those qualities which endear him to the teaching staff and the students, and which enable him to wrangle the greatest possible appropriations from the state legislature, and at the same time "manage" the board of regents into requiring those things done which he desires to be done.

Government Liberal.

The federal government in the "sixties," with an empire in what had been widely known as "The Great American Desert," was very liberal in granting gifts for education, government sections 16 and 36 in each township of Nebraska having been granted for the common schools; and a liberal grant of public lands and gifts of money were made to colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts. This is not the place to discuss this matter, our story having to do with the 11 men who in the past 67 years have held the office of chancellor of the University of Nebraska.

Allen Richardson Benton, LL. D. (resigned), enjoyed the distinction of being the first chancellor of the university. Allen Richardson Benton, after his graduation in 1847, opened an academy in Fairview, Rush county, Indiana, where he was located for six years. He was later elected to the chair of ancient languages in the Northwestern Christian university in Indianapolis, Ind. In 1861 he was appointed professor of Latin in the university at Alliance, Ohio. He succeeded to the presidency in 1869 but in the spring of 1871 accepted a call to organize the University of Nebraska.

University Introduced by Cunningham.

The bill making possible the University of Nebraska, was introduced into the legislature by Ebenezer E. Cunningham of Richardson county, who was born April 6, 1869, near Mark Twain's birth place close to Hannibal, Mo., and passed both branches of the legislature on Feb. 15, 1869, and Governor David Butler, who was elected to three terms as governor, immediately affixed his signature making it a law. The contract was let by the regents to Silver & Son on Aug. 18, 1869. Building activities began at once and the cornerstone was laid Sept. 23, 1869, with Masonic ceremonies. (Governor David Butler died on his farm near Pawnee City, May 25, 1901.) The building was dedicated Sept. 5, 1871. Dr. Benton opened the university Sept. 7, and was inducted into office by acting Governor James. Activities began in the school on that date with less than 100 students. This was a memorable day to the business men and the citizens in general.

The first chancellor was born in Cayuga county, New York, Oct. 1, 1822, and died Jan. 1, 1914. Dr. Benton began his duties while Ulysses Simpson Grant was president of the United States, and the "panic" (now "depression" or "recession") of 1873 was developing and ended in 1876, the year of the Philadelphia centennial celebration and the year that Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden ran almost a dead heat for the presidency, with Hayes the ultimate winner "by a nose." Much praise has been given to the first chancellor for the manner in which he conducted the school.

Fairfield As Chancellor.

Edmund Burke Fairfield, Ph. D., was the university's second chancellor. He was born Aug. 7, 1821, in the Buckeye state, Ohio, and died Nov. 17, 1904, in Oberlin, O. He served as chancellor from 1876

C. W. BRYAN FOLLOWS BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Lincoln Politician Elected To Governorship for Three Terms.

Lincoln's distinguished statesman and politician, Charles W. Bryan, has served his state three times as governor and has been mayor of the city of Lincoln several times.

Prominent always in politics, Mr. Bryan was honored with the nomination for vice president on the democratic ticket, July 10, 1924. The convention nominating Charles W. Bryan for vice president, convened in New York City June 24, and continued in session until July 10. His nomination came thru at 2:10 on the morning of July 10. He was nominated on the same ticket for John W. Davis for president. Official notification of his nomination for vice president was held in Lincoln, Aug. 18, 1924, where thousands of people attended from other states.

Charles Bryan is a brother of



Lincoln Journal. Charles W. Bryan.

the famous William Jennings Bryan, who was nominated three times for president of the United States on the democratic ticket and called the Silver Tongued Orator of the Platte. William Jennings Bryan's last case was the Scopes trial in Dayton, Tenn. His opponent was the famous Chicago lawyer, Clarence Darrow. William Jennings died shortly after the trial on July 25, 1925, at Dayton, Tenn.

to 1882, during the term of Rutherford B. Hayes, the brief term of the martyred president, James Abram Garfield, who was shot July 2, 1881, and part of the term of Chester A. Arthur. Fairfield served in the Michigan state senate. In 1856 he was elected lieutenant governor. During the Civil war he took an active part in every republican campaign and was a zealous worker for the overthrow of slavery. During his incumbency as chancellor of the University of Nebraska he was an indefatigable worker and fostered every proposition for the good of the school.

Henry Ethan Hitchcock, Ph. D., was acting chancellor, the third in charge, from 1882 to 1884 or seemingly to Dec. 31, 1883, for his successor began the next day. Hitchcock showed aptitude and was on the alert at all times and endeared himself to the students. As an educator he was a success and enjoyed the co-operation of the faculty and students. He held the chair of mathematics in Knox college in Galesburg, Ill., for 22 years and resigned in 1872 to accept the same position in the University of Nebraska. This public spirited citizen and educator was born in Vergennes, Addison county, Vt., May 3, 1822. During Hitchcock's incumbency President Arthur was unhappy in the white house because of the outrageous whisper-

ing campaign connecting him with the assassination of President James Abram Garfield, who was shot July 2, 1881 but did not succumb to his injuries until Sept. 19



Lincoln Journal. Chancellor E. A. Burnett.

There are a few of the students, living in Lincoln, who vividly recall the third chancellor's administration.

Manatt Fourth Head.

J. Irving Manatt, LL. D., served as the fourth chancellor. This professor and Chancellor was born in Millsburg, O., Feb. 17, 1845, and died Feb. 14, 1915. He assumed the responsibilities of the office Jan. 1, 1884 and served until Dec. 31, 1888, a period covering President Arthur's term, the exciting election campaign of Cleveland and Hendricks against James G. Blain and Logan, and during the first term of Grover Cleveland the ultimate victory of Benjamin Harrison in 1888. It is said by those who knew him that this chancellor possessed a penchant for the recollection of names and could call the faculty all by name as well as many students. He was a success as an educator.

Bessey Acted Fifth.

Charles Edwin Bessey, LL. D., acting chancellor, the fifth in line, was born at Milton, O., in 1845 and died in 1915. He was educated at Michigan agricultural college in 1869 and at Harvard, 1872-75. He was professor of botany at the University of Nebraska and head dean in 1909. His term as acting chancellor was from 1888 to 1891. Doctor Bessey was one of the ablest investigators and teachers of botany of his time, introducing present laboratory methods of teaching that science; edited Bessey's textbooks, a standard for modern work. He was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Without doubt it was Doctor Bessey's profound knowledge of botany which inspired Roscoe Pound, a master of law and jurisprudence, to take up botany as an avocation.

WPA TO PROVIDE \$200,442 FUND FOR UNI WORKS

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be four inch pipe and 3,000 feet long.

Other improvements made possible by the grant will be the extension of the university steam tunnel for 220 feet to the new Student Union building. A three-phase power line from the city campus plant to the ag college will be removed and rebuilt.

On the campus of the College of Agriculture projects include the construction of a strip of pavement between the cattle and dairy barns; painting four classrooms at the Rural Economics building; painting 14 classrooms in the Activities building, remodeling the Animal Husbandry building to provide for three additional offices and enlarging four classrooms and painting them; straightening Dead Man's Run creek which courses through part of the campus; laying 1,000 feet of sanitary sewer, and landscaping ten acres of grounds. The project also provides for removing 350 trees destroyed by drought.

KFAB CONDUCTS MAN ON STREET PROGRAM. FINGER PRINT DRIVE

A man on the street program to ascertain the attitude of the university student upon the fingerprinting campaign which will be conducted May 11 to 14, on the campus will be given by Jack Hansen of KFAB at the Student Union building Wednesday morning from 9:55 to 10:10.

Charles Bessey Heads Nebraska In Second Term

FRANK JOHNSON RUNS FOR NEBRASKA REGENT

Lexington Man Graduated From Law College Here in 1925.

By Carroll Browning.

Frank M. Johnson, prominent attorney from Lexington, is a candidate on the non-political ticket for University of Nebraska regent,



Lincoln Journal. Frank M. Johnson.

Sixth district. He is capable, public spirited, possessed of civic pride, and known thruout the state for his fine record of public service in Nebraska.

Born on a farm in Dawson county, Johnson received his preparatory education at Cozad high school. He matriculated in the University of Nebraska, college of law, where he earned his expenses by working during the school year and summer.

Upon his graduation in 1925, he located in Lexington, Neb., and was associated with E-District Judge George C. Gillan until Jan. 1, 1927. Mr. Johnson was appointed and served as secretary to Governor Adam McMullen from 1927 to 1928.

Following the period of service as secretary to Governor McMullen, this statesman and politician re-established law practice at Lexington and he has been located there since that time. Prominent in law, Johnson is a member of the Dawson County Bar association, Western State Bar association, and a past president of the Western Nebraska Bar association. This barrister belongs to the Kiwanis club and the Lexington Chamber of Commerce.

REGENT C. Y. THOMPSON SERVES UNI INTERESTS

Board Member Starts Many State Improvement Projects.

Members of Cuming county point with pride to Regent Charles Y. Thompson of West Point, Nebraska. Popular and highly respected, Mr. Thompson has done much to better his community and the university.

Serving as a member on the industrial education, property, and student relations committees, Mr. Thompson has been the instigator of many projects which have done much to improve conditions in and at the university. He has the interests of the students very close to heart.

No one that voted for him has regretted it. Public spirited and willing to aid others, Mr. Thompson's term does not expire until Jan. 1, 1941.

Late Samuel Avery Elected Uni Chancellor in 1900; Served Till 1929.

James Hulme Canfield, L. L. D., was the university's sixth chancellor. His services was from 1891 to 1895, during part of President Harrison's administration and most of President Cleveland's second term, when Nebraska farmers sold corn to R. E. Moore and others for from seven to twelve cents per bushel. Farmers residing in the territory contiguous to Lincoln can testify to the foregoing facts, at this late date. The recent visit of Chancellor Canfield's daughter, on Feb. 15, 1938, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, the famous novelist, who had been a Lincoln resident during her father's incumbency, as chancellor, caused a considerable stir up of recollections of both him and the daughter. People who attended the Founder's Day program of the University of Nebraska, Feb. 15, were thrown into a retrospective frame of mind when she appeared on the platform and pleasant relations were recalled by many. During Canfield's incumbency the Farmers Alliance and the Populist party were trying to get control of the state. Dr. Canfield was born in 1847, and passed away on March 30, 1909, after an eventful and public life that endeared him to the faculty and students as well as all whom he contacted in a business and educational way. "The name Canfield will be revered for generations to come," said Colonel Frank D. Eager, who was a student during Canfield's administration. According to Colonel Frank D. Eager, Chancellor Canfield sought to sustain a close and vital relation to the high schools and common schools and other institutions of learning.

MacLean Seventh Chancellor.

George Edward MacLean, (L. L. D.), was the university's seventh chancellor. This educator, statesman and patriot, was born in Rockville, Connecticut, Aug. 31, 1850, and now resides in Washington D. C., at 1721 P. st., N. W. His services began July 1, 1899, and ended Aug. 31, 1899, during the last of the president's second term, the monumental political battle be-



Lincoln Journal. George Edward MacLean.

tween William McKinley and "sound" money against William Jennings Bryan and "16 to 1," and most of President McKinley's term. Chancellor had many friends and many bitter enemies, and it speaks well for his diplomacy that he lasted four years. Somehow his perennial smile lacked that endearing quality which characterized that of Dr. Bessey, who succeeded him for a short period. Dr. MacLean was an earnest scholar and an enthusiastic worker and no labor seemed too arduous and no research too difficult for him to undertake. Under his administration strenuous efforts were made to unite more closely, the university and the schools of the

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