

*COLLEGE OF LAW.*

With this issue, the College of Law is introduced to the readers of the NEBRASKAN as a part of the University. It may seem a little strange that after two years of successful work the Law department needs any introduction; but it has not been long since its existence, if not unknown, was at least unthought of by many of the students of the academic college. Owing to an unfortunate combination of circumstances, we have not in the past been able to identify ourselves with the interests and feelings of the University to that degree necessary in order to arouse our enthusiasm and pride in our institution. However, under the new order of things we expect to see all this changed. Now that we hold our sessions at the University, we hope that a closer contact with University methods, and with the students of the other departments, will incite our members to a more vigorous and student like methods of study. The aim of the school, as expressed by Chancellor Canfield, is to have students study, and not simply read, law.

During the early part of the year 1891 the idea of opening a Nebraska School of Law in connection with the State University, was much discussed by the lawyers of the state, and particularly by the local bar association. In July a committee of local attorneys met with the Chancellor for the purpose of devising plans to accomplish this purpose. There were many difficulties in the way of the proposed department. The University buildings were already full; there were no funds for such a purpose, and even the forlorn hope of a legislative appropriation was more than a year ahead, as the legislature did not meet before that time. However, at a meeting of the Board of Regents held August 18, 1891, the Law School was established as a department of the University. A sufficient amount of funds to run the new department for the ensuing year was voted from the University appropriations.

W. Henry Smith, who was then at the head of the Central Law School, was chosen

dean; and a faculty which comprised the names of some of the best lawyers in the state was selected, and the work begun. A class of thirty-eight was enrolled for the first lecture. During the early part of the year the lectures were delivered in Nebraska hall, but owing to the crowded condition of the building the Law School was removed to the Burr block. This enabled the department to have more commodious rooms; but it was unfortunate in that the Law School was thus separated from the University proper. Lectures were held here during the year, and a class of eleven was graduated in June. The enrollment for the next year was fifty-five, of whom thirty-two were graduated.

An effort was made at the last session of the legislature to have some adequate provision made for the Law School; but the same close-fisted policy that makes the site of the new library building resemble the wreck of a World's Fair hotel scheme, made it impossible to secure an appropriation, aside from that given to the University as a whole. However, in spite of lack of support of the legislature, the Law School has steadily advanced in numbers, efficiency of instructors, and methods of instruction. Our instructors and lecturers are the best obtainable; men who are successful in their profession, and are in sympathy with the students.

Judge M. B. Reese, as dean, needs no introduction to the people of Nebraska as a man of ability and integrity, and no word of commendation as a teacher to students who have been under his direction. He has been a member of the faculty since the organization of the Law School, and is a practical and efficient teacher. His geniality makes him at once the friend of every student, and serves to brighten even such a tiresome subject as common law pleading. Judge Reese was chosen dean to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Smith, which took place at the close of the last academic year.

The faculty is made up of the following instructors: Hon. H. H. Wilson, a graduate of the University, and a lover of his alma mater, evidence; Hon. Joseph R. Webster,