

as to our needs, no one connected with the University is at fault; as statements have never been more plain and business-like, and never were submitted so early in the session—even before the session began. Of course, it is barely possible that in the hurry and press of legislative business these reports have not been read, or at least have not been carefully read. If true, this is rather a misfortune than a fault.

Every one knows that the University will receive every cent of its revenues. There is no reason why it should not receive them, there is every reason why it should; and there is no disposition in the present legislature to leave money in the treasury, idle. But it is a very self-evident fact that the revenues of the University are not sufficient for its maintenance. If Nebraska had a reasonably truthful assessment, the three-eighths of a mill tax, added to revenues from the original land grants from the general government, might suffice. But as assessments are now made, the revenues are increasing but a thousand dollars a year, while attendance has increased nearly a hundred per cent. in the last year alone. The total enrollment at this writing is nearly an even thousand. Before another legislature can meet it will be nearly doubled. The state of Nebraska is certainly not going to turn these young men and women away!

But if it does not do this, the legislature must appropriate from the general state fund, for buildings. There is no alternative. The detailed expenditures for instruction and incidental expenses are before the members. The statement has been made up by experienced men, business men, and men who have no personal interest whatever in the matter—other than a very sincere desire to serve the state. It is impossible to change these materially, or to change them at all in the way of transferring from the demands on the state general fund to demands on University revenues, without at once reducing the instructional force, and thereby rendering necessary a reduction in the number of students.

For the Faculty are carrying work at a disadvantage to-day, because of the need of more recitation rooms, and better library and reading room facilities. Already the Regents are obliged to quarter the College of Law in rented rooms in the city; and the shop work (wood and metal working) is practically at a stand. To leave buildings *in statu quo* for three years—for it will take nearly a year after another legislature can meet to finish a building—while the throng of students is steadily increasing, is educational suicide. Those whose parents can pay the tuition fees demanded elsewhere, and those in cities having a high grade of local schools, may manage to push on. But what of the seventy per cent now in the rural district schools? "They can wait." But time does not wait, and opportunity does not wait—and for hundreds of such children the next two years will determine whether they are ever well educated or not.

It would seem *absolutely essential*, therefore—unless the University is to go backward—that the legislature grant the University revenues for the purposes named; and that from the general fund it grant enough to complete the library building, to erect the building for extension of shop work, and to make such additions to the water service as will afford ample protection against fire. Beyond this the legislature *ought* to go. But this is the least it can do without positive injury and neglect.

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Never, in the history of the University, has the result of legislation in regard to it been of as vital importance as at present. The marvelous growth of the institution has placed it where it is unable to stop or to recede. The increase in the number of students; the higher educational methods of teaching that are now in vogue; the splendid laboratory facilities, and the advantages of a large and well selected museum, all attest the wonderful advance and the splendid possibilities yet in store for our University. The members of the present legislature are men who, above all others, should know the