

GANFIELD ON EDUCATION.

AS the time for the departure of Chancellor Canfield draws nearer the loss which the chancellor's resignation will entail is felt more and more keenly. That strong, aggressive personality has been a leading element in the upbuilding of the university, and every department of the great institution will feel the loss of his powerful influence.



The chancellor has been one of the most indefatigable workers the university has known, and he has obtained a wonderful grasp of all details in the management of his charge. Nothing has escaped him. He has labored for the general good of the university, and for the good of each separate department. His ability and his energy have accomplished wonders. It has been said that the chancellor was sorely disappointed over the action of

the legislature in the matter of appropriations, and that his resignation really means that he has lost faith in the cause, or the future, of genuine education, higher education, if you will, in this state. Believing that an expression from him on this subject would be of interest to readers of THE COURIER I sought the chancellor and obtained the following interview:

"In spite of the hard times, there is a most excellent and promising outlook, educationally, in Nebraska at present. The university, while not receiving all that it wished, nor all that it could use to the profit of the state and its children, was granted enough to prevent the necessity of any backward step; and in such times as these to hold one's own is equivalent to an actual advance. The completion of the library building enables us to carry as many students as last year, without the friction and strain that for the last two years have been almost unendurable. The general grants will keep the best men in the faculty and maintain the departments in a fairly efficient way—and when I say this it must be understood that even 'fair efficiency' with us is still far in the lead, educationally. The loyalty of the alumni, and the confidence of the people of the state, were never greater than now. The head of the public system will be stronger than ever, and do better work than ever, during the coming year.

"The high schools throughout the state are going to suffer some from the hard times, which seem to make necessary the reduction of salaries, or a less number of teachers; but they will not suffer as much as many imagine, because these changes will not be as great as are anticipated. In organization, equipment, and teaching force there has been a wonderful advance in the secondary schools during the last three or four years. I doubt that if any state in the union can show greater advance. All our teachers have been more constant and intelligent students of their work, have attended more conventions and taken more educational journals, know more of the latest and best things in education, than ever before. There is a wonderful spirit of self-sacrifice, and a remarkable *esprit du corps* that will go far towards tiding over the financial stress now upon us.

"Nearly all that has been said of the work and the influence of the secondary schools is also true of the grades and the rural schools. I am in a position to know pretty accurately about this and the change that has come is remarkable. It is easily measured by the attendance and the enthusiasm at the meetings of the county, district and sectional associations. The meetings of the latter are often marked by a larger attendance, by better programs, by more genuine professional spirit than used to be known at the state meetings. The rural schools are being graded, teachers are selected with more care, more careful records are kept, there is closer contact with the whole system, than ever before. What is needed in every

state, in this public school system, is closeness of organization, more contact, a greater sense of the value of each part and of the interdependence of all parts. And all this is coming very fast.

"The teachers of the state did not get the county high school law that they desired, from the legislature; but they did get an act which opens the city high schools to pupils from the rural districts without cost to the pupil or his parents, but at the expense of the entire county. This is as it should be, and is a long step in advance. This alone would warrant the assertion that the educational outlook was never more favorable. Under this act there is no longer any outbreak in the great public system of free schools, from the lowest primary form to graduation by the university. Nebraska has again taken the lead, and will never regret this action. The statute may need changes as it is put in force, but the principle is a correct one, and will endure. For this act the state is indebted to that brilliant young fellow McNitt, one of the best workers in the house this winter; and to the present earnest and energetic state superintendent.

"When the people of Nebraska come to talk about securing emigration they are warranted in saying to prospective home seekers 'We will give you as good opportunities for educating your children as can be found in any state in the union; and better than can be found in most of them. And in spite of hard times, we are taking no backward step in these matters, but are more in earnest than ever in giving every child of the state an opportunity to prepare for the highest service that his community or the state may need.'"

FOUND WANTING.

Jeanne D'Arc lacked education;
Pompadour lacked depth of mind;
Maintenon lacked toleration;
Esther might have been more kind.
Hebrew Sarah lacked humaneness;
Good Octavia wanted wit;
Greek Xantippe lacked urbaneness;
Eliot wasn't chic a bit.
Cleopatra lacked humility;
Ruth was minus worldly wealth;
Bess of England lacked civility;
Saint Theresa lacked in health.
Aspasia lacked in social station;
Paula lacked in style and fashion;
De Stael lacked domestication;
Phryne didn't lack in passion.
Polly's perfect, but, you see,
Lacks in toto love for me.

J. EDMUND V. COOKE.

TO THE RESCUE.

"How did the living pictures go out west?"
"Not very well. More than a dozen men rose in the audience and covered them with revolvers."

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