

BOARD MEETING—DECEMBER 11, 1883.

The Board met at 3 P. M. in the University parlor.

Present—Governor Hamilton, Trustees Bennett, Earle, McLean, Millard, Paden, Pearman and Postel.

Absent—Trustees Follansbee, Cobb and Landrigan.

Trustees Earle and Postel presented their credentials, were duly sworn, and took their seats as members of the Board.

The record of the meeting of September 4, 1883, was read and approved.

The Regent then presented his report, which was read and received:

To the Trustees of the Illinois Industrial University:

GENTLEMEN—The opening of the present year's work presents items for regret and for congratulation. All concerned would be glad to see present at the University a larger number of students. The number for the term is 239 men; 64 women; 303 total. This is less by about 13 per cent. than last year, though it does not differ materially from the number two years ago at the same time. The reduction in numbers is found to be chiefly in the preparatory class. There is a larger proportion of technical students as compared with those in literary courses, than in any previous year. The new students are well prepared, so that there have been fewer conditioned and fewer rejected than usual, without any weakening in the strength of the examinations. It is believed that the general standards of scholarship in the University are gradually improving.

The Faculty has never been more united, competent or efficient than at present. In the various departments, with scarcely one exception, good work is done; and in some the results are exceptionally commendable. The changes which have occurred have all resulted favorably in maintaining or increasing efficiency.

Lieut. Charles McClure, the military instructor, has taken up with zeal and discretion the work left by Lieut. Wood. Miss Hall is gathering the scattered strands of the work which, in her department, has been in a measure neglected for the past three years. The lady you appointed as assistant to Prof. Snyder was found to have made an engagement elsewhere, and, with the sanction of the Executive Committee, Miss Mary E. Darrow, a graduate of Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pa., was appointed to the vacancy. Prof. Snyder speaks with high praise of her work.

On the very day of the opening of the fall term, Prof. Cecil H. Peabody, Assistant in Mechanical Engineering, left to accept an appointment, very complimentary to himself, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Boston. His abrupt departure, leaving five classes unprovided with instruction, caused me much anxiety. With the approval of the Executive Committee, an effort was made to secure aid from the corps of engineers in the United States Navy, which resulted in the detail of Assistant Engineer Arthur T. Woods, a graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, employed at the time of his detail in the Bureau of Naval Construction at the Department in Washington. The detail, as made by Secretary Chandler, was a compliment to the State of Illinois and to its University. The gentleman appointed reported at once, and brings skill and efficiency to his work. I have engaged that he shall receive from the University \$400 per annum in lieu of subsistence and quarters, for which I ask your approval.

ELOCUTION.

Much anxiety is expressed among the students for instruction in elocution. The subject presents many difficulties. The work cannot be satisfactorily provided for unless some arrangement can be made for a resident instructor who shall be here during the year. It does not appear that the funds of the University will warrant the employment of

a full professor for this subject. Such instruction as has been given in past years has been paid for by special fees from the students, but the amount thus obtained has been inadequate to secure a good teacher. I would not advise that the special fee should be remitted, but would suggest that five dollars per term should continue to be collected from each student of this specialty, and that the Trustees add from the general fund enough to guarantee a payment of, say \$80 a month, for ten months. The experiment can be tried for the remainder of the current year, and future action can be shaped in accordance with its measure of success.

THE GYMNASIUM.

Some of the apparatus in the Gymnasium is getting much out of order, and the safety of those who exercise there requires its repair. Nothing has been done for this interest in several years, and I would recommend that an appropriation of \$150 be made for repairs and additions to its material. A portion of our students are much interested in, and I think are benefited by, practice in the Gymnasium.

WORK UPON THE FARM.

Without attempting to propose any plan for detailed and compulsory labor on the part of agricultural students, which I am convinced would be impolitic and unprofitable, I have yet a suggestion to make which I hope may be productive of good. I am constantly asked by letter or in person, if we can give work to students who desire to support themselves by labor. We desire to assist such persons so far as may be practicable, but outside of the shops and the grounds, the care of buildings, etc., we really have little to offer. The south farm is too far away to permit of the use of labor by the hour, nor is the work needed there such as can be efficiently done in that way. There seems to be more opportunity for using such labor with reasonable profit and success at the north barn—in feeding and milking cattle, and work in the dairy house, the orchard and the small-fruit plantations. To do this, however, the boys who work should be housed conveniently near their work. Might it not assist in this respect if the south dormitory, near the veterinary house, were moved into the vicinity of the north barn, and the statement could be made to those who ask for work that they could be provided with work at suitable rates, in the ways I have indicated? I would request the reference of this topic to a committee, who should report thereon. If found feasible, the change could be made at no serious cost during another summer in season for the opening of the next year.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Most of the improvements which you ordered in June are now completed.

The blacksmith's shop has been erected. It is 31 by 36 feet on the ground and 14 feet high. The roof has a lantern 10 by 30 feet, with glazed ventilating sash. The shop contains sixteen fires, with anvils and tools to correspond. The freshman class are now at work there, and the anvil chorus rings there with as much music and more attractiveness than that scored by the famous composer. A cupola furnace for melting iron is yet to be placed in this shop; it is now under construction as part of the class work of the students. The amount expended in building and equipping this shop thus far is \$2,256.42; appropriation, \$2,500.00.

The machines and tools obtained from the appropriation for this purpose include in-clude three engine lathes, a hand lathe and a shaper for the machine shop; a series of hand and other tools for the carpenter's shop, and a supply of belting much needed for both.

The amount expended is \$1,559.77. The appropriation is \$2,000.00.

The balance of the appropriation is needed for a series of chucks, and for a supply of small wood-lathes with their necessary driving shafts and pullies.

The sewer has been finished with connections to all needed points, including the farm drainage. It has cost \$526.59. Appropriation, \$550.00.

The changes in the ladies wardrobe have been made at a cost of \$265.05. Appropriation, \$300.00.

The Museum of Engineering and Architecture in the upper story of the west wing, begins to show its capacities as a source of interest and instruction.

All the available cases have been re-arranged and are enough to make one range along the west side of the room.

In them are placed the collection of models received from the patent office, with much that is illustrative of our own students' work.

The material now gathered is much more effective than when it was scattered among the various class-rooms.

The Victor Emanuel Memorial Model, presented by its designer, Mr. H. L. Gay, is in place, under a cloistered dome designed by Prof. Ricker to receive it. It was necessarily somewhat broken in removal, but has been thoroughly repaired and restored, by the skill of Mr. Lorado Taft, who has kindly given attention to this work, assisted by Mr. Baker. The model is one of the most attractive art gems in the possession of the University. The expenditure thus far has been \$313.05.

I ask that a farther appropriation of \$50 be made for carrying forward the work in this museum.

The new boiler for the greenhouse is in place, and is found to be doing its work with entire satisfaction. The cost has been \$260.89. Appropriation, \$265.00.

I invite your attention to reports, herewith presented from Prof. McMurtrie on the Chemical Laboratory: Prof. Burrill on the grounds and Prof. Morrow on the farm.

Prof. Burrill asks an appropriation from fund for chemical, physical and botanical laboratories of \$60 for additional microscopic apparatus, which should be granted.

In accordance with authority given by the Executive Committee, the lots No. — have been purchased of Mortimer C. Chase, on a deed and abstract approved by Hon. J. C. Cunningham, at \$450.

The gents' cloakroom has been remodeled at a cost of \$30.62, and custodians put in at a cost of \$20 per month.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. PEABODY.

The Regent presented an invitation to the members of the Board to attend a reception at his house during the evening. On motion the invitation was accepted.

Adjourned to meet at the Regent's residence, at 10 P. M.

EVENING MEETING.

Board met as by adjournment. Present as before.

The committee appointed to examine and report on Nebraska lands belonging to the University, made the following report:

To the Trustees of the Illinois Industrial University:

In the performance of the duty assigned to it, your committee first made an examination of the lands in question. They were visited and carefully inspected by the Regent, and afterwards by Mr. Bennett. A series of diagrams or plats has been prepared and is presented herewith, showing the situation of the lands, their proximity to the city of Beatrice and other growing towns, their nearness to railroads and railway stations, with all streams, highways, school houses, etc., and all occupied and improved farms in the vicinity.

Gage county lies in the southern border of Nebraska, about sixty miles west of the Missouri river, and directly south of Lincoln, the capital of the State. Its county seat is Beatrice, a rapidly growing town of not less than 4,000 inhabitants, and the third town in the State. The county is drained by the Big Blue river and its affluents, the river being, next to the Platte, the largest in the State. It furnishes several valuable water powers, that at Beatrice being the best and most developed. Four different lines of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad in Nebraska, and one branch of the Union Pacific Railway, cross Gage county.

The University lands lie in the eastern part of the county, from 14 to 20 miles distant from Beatrice. The distances from any of the lands to some one of the stations of Holmesville, Blue Springs, Wymere, Liberty, Filley, Crab Orchard and Adams, are between four and ten miles, and in most cases a settler would find an outlet for whatever he might have to market within five or six miles. The lands are well adapted for either tillage or grazing, being high rolling prairie, intersected by living streams. On about one section the soil is comparatively thin, with occasional stones. On all the rest the soil is deep and rich, a fertile loam carrying only sand enough to make it quick, warm and easily worked. The University lands are surrounded almost solidly with cultivated farms, on which were found heavy crops of corn and oats, wheat, flax, etc., with occasional patches of cultivated timber. The country is bare of native lumber except in the immediate vicinity of the Big Blue and its larger affluents. The laws of Nebraska require all cattle to be fenced or tied or herded, so that growing crops need no fence protection. The University lands were found to be parcelled out between herdsmen, chiefly non-residents from Missouri or Kansas. At least six herds of cattle and three of sheep, amounting in all to 10,000 or 12,000 head, were found feeding upon our lands. When the sections were not prairie, the neighbors were cutting and stacking very considerable crops of hay.

Your committee made frequent inquiries of the neighboring settlers concerning the lands and the condition of the land market in the vicinity. They found the settlers kindly disposed toward the University, desirous in many instances of securing portions of the

land for themselves, at prices which they deemed reasonable, and equal to what they would have to pay to private speculators. If the lands should not be sold they could be leased with little difficulty for tillage, pasturage, or for the hay. Careful inquiries were made as to the values of the lands, as indicated by sales actually made and recorded within the past season. Guided by this evidence, your committee believes that some of the lands will bring as much as fifteen dollars per acre, and that all would find buyers within a short time at prices which would average not less than twelve and a half dollars per acre on the whole estate.

Your committee believes that prices of lands in Gage county are now relatively high, and that the rates are liable to be lower in the near future: while there can be no doubt that at a time not far distant there will be little difference in the prices of these lands and those in the older States in the Mississippi Valley.

Every advance in the price of these lands which can be secured to the University assures to it a larger endowment capital, and therefore a larger annual income for the institution for a long period of years. The policy to be adopted should be such as will increase the permanent endowment by the largest possible amount.

If the Trustees decide to keep the lands, a system of leasing should be devised, by which all expenses may be paid, and a moderate income secured, while the title to the lands, and to the increase of values which will surely come, remains in the University.

If the Trustees decide to sell the lands soon, there should be no time lost in offering them for sale.

Your committee believes that the largest returns may be secured to the University by methods of sale which shall deal directly with actual settlers, requiring cash payments enough to secure the sale, and giving long time for deferred payments at reasonable rates of interest. It deprecates any policy of selling in bulk unless at prices very similar to those which can be secured for small lots. The buyer in bulk expects to sell again, and to secure a profitable margin for himself.

This is not unreasonable, but your committee believes that this profit may in the main be secured directly to the University itself, and if so, that it ought to be so secured.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. BENNETT,
S. H. PEABODY,
Committee.

The report was received, and, after considerable discussion, further action was deferred until to-morrow morning.

On motion, the Board adjourned until to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.