

MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 1901.

The following call for a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois was issued Jan. 16, 1901:

"Upon the call of the President, Mr. Alexander McLean, a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois will be held at 9:00 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1901, in the Trustees' Room, Library building, Urbana, Ill., to consider the question of fees to be charged students of the University, and such other business as may be duly presented."

There were present at the meeting Messrs. Bayliss, Bullard, Hatch, McKay, McLean, Nightingale and Smith, and Mrs. Carriel and Mrs. Abbott; absent, Governor Yates, Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Flower. President Draper was present.

COMMUNICATION FROM PRESIDENT DRAPER.

THE LINCOLN OX-YOKE.

To the Board of Trustees:

For many years there has been in the possession of the University an ox-yoke, with black walnut cross-bar and hickory bows, said, and believed, to have been made by Abraham Lincoln. The University, however, had no definite information to authenticate the fact that the relic was really the handiwork of Mr. Lincoln, and all efforts to secure such information were for many years unavailing. At last the matter has been cleared up, and the fact has been established beyond a doubt.

Some weeks ago, Mr. Watson Pickrell, a graduate of the University in the class of 1875, now living at the City of Tempe, in the Territory of Arizona, saw mention of the matter in a newspaper, and at once wrote to Dean Burrill, stating that he procured the ox-yoke from Mr. Clark M. Smith, a resident of the City of Springfield, Ill., and a brother-in-law of Mr. Lincoln, in the year 1873, and brought the same to the University; that Mr. Smith stated to him that he purchased the same at a public sale held in New Salem, Ill., on the occasion of a visit to New Salem by Mr. Lincoln and himself just after Mr. Lincoln's term in Congress; that Mr. Lincoln was present at such sale, at the time of said purchase, and that said ox-yoke was announced as having been made by Mr. Lincoln, and the announcement was by him acknowledged to be true; that Mr. Smith purchased the same as a souvenir because made by his brother-in-law and a member of Congress, and had kept the same in his store until delivered to Mr. Pickrell to be given to the University of Illinois in 1873.

These facts stated by Mr. Pickrell and fully corroborated, and some additional facts added thereto, by Mr. John S. Condell, Sr., now nearly 90 years of age, yet living at Springfield, Ill., and who in 1873, and for several years prior thereto, was a partner in business with Mr. Smith, under the firm name of C. M. Smith & Co.; and also by Mr. Albert M. Smith, a son of Mr. Clark M. Smith, now living in Springfield.

Mr. Condell says that the ox-yoke was kept at the place of business of C. M. Smith & Co. for many years; that upon the nomination of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency it was placed in a conspicuous place in the counting room of the firm and was much talked about; that Mr. Smith took great pleasure in showing it to his friends and former customers, in giving them its history, and in telling them what his brother-in-law, Mr. Lincoln, said about it.

Mr. Condell says that Mr. Pickrell frequently besought Mr. Clark M. Smith to give the ox-yoke to the University, and after a number of conversations, and much hesitancy, he determined to do so, and authorized Mr. Pickrell to take it and present it, in his, Mr. Smith's, behalf, to the University. So the facts are indisputably established that the ox-yoke was made by Mr. Lincoln, at New Salem, probably about 1830; that it was purchased by his brother-in-law, in his presence, in the year 1849; that it was retained by the purchaser until 1873; and that at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Watson Pickrell it was given to the University by Mr. Clark M. Smith; and that Mr. Pickrell brought and deposited it in our collections.

I have caused affidavits to be prepared and executed by Mr. Pickrell and Mr. Condell, the business partner of Mr. C. M. Smith at the time the gift was made, in order that the University might have and retain an authentication of the facts in due form, which affidavits are as follows:

"United States of America, Territory of Arizona, County of Maricopa, ss.: Watson Pickrell, being duly sworn, says that he is a graduate of the University of Illinois, in the class of 1875, and is now a resident of the City of Tempe, Territory of Arizona; that in the year 1873 he presented to the University of Illinois an ox-yoke made by Abraham Lincoln; that his knowledge that the said ox-yoke was made by Mr. Lincoln is based upon the following facts, namely: That the yoke was given to this deponent by Mr. Clark M. Smith, late of the City of Springfield, Ill.; that Mr. Smith was a brother-in-law to Mr. Lincoln, and a man of well-known and high repute; that Mr. Smith stated to deponent that soon after Mr. Lincoln returned to Illinois from his term in Congress, Mr. Lincoln and he (Smith) together visited near New Salem, Menard County, Ill., where Mr. Lincoln once lived; that while there they attended a public auction of farm chattels, among which was the ox-yoke; that the yoke was announced at the auction, in the presence of Mr. Lincoln, as having been made by Mr. Lincoln, and that the announcement was by him acknowledged as true; that it was looked upon and talked about as a curiosity because made by a Congressman; that Mr. Smith bid off the yoke at said auction and retained the same in his possession until he gave it to deponent; that Mr. Smith also stated to deponent that at the time of buying the yoke he had no thought that Mr. Lincoln would ever become President, but that he thought the yoke was worth buying and keeping as a souvenir because made by his brother-in-law and a former member of Congress.

"WATSON PICKRELL."

I, Charles C. Woolf, a notary public, in the County of Maricopa and Territory of Arizona, hereby certify that on the 6th day of October, in the year 1900, there appeared before me Mr. Watson Pickrell, known to me to be the person who signed the above statement and acknowledged that he signed the same, and upon being duly sworn by me said that the statements therein contained were true.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and attach the seal of my office at the City of Tempe, county and Territory aforesaid, this 6th day of October, 1900.

My commission expires on Feb. 11, 1902.

[SEAL.]

CHAS. C. WOOLF,

Notary Public.

State of Illinois, County of Sangamon, ss.: John S. Condell, Sr., being duly sworn, says that he is a resident of the City of Springfield, Ill.; that in 1873, and for several years previous, he was the business partner of Mr. Clark M. Smith, the brother-in-law of President Lincoln, under the firm

name of C. M. Smith & Co.; that during said years there was in their store an ox-yoke which was frequently the subject of conversation, and that Mr. Smith frequently stated that it was made by Mr. Lincoln when a young man living at New Salem, Ill.; that he (Smith) bought the same as a souvenir at an auction at New Salem soon after Mr. Lincoln's return from Congress, and upon the occasion of a visit to New Salem by Mr. Lincoln and himself; that the yoke was bought in Mr. Lincoln's presence after the public statement that it was made by him and he acknowledged that the statement was true; that said yoke was in the attic of the store for a long time, but that it became an object of interest and value, and was cleaned up and kept in the counting-room for several years; that Mr. Smith took great pleasure in showing it to his friends, especially to farmer customers, and giving them its history and telling them how it came into his possession at New Salem; that Mr. Smith frequently had conversations with Mr. Watson Pickrell, a student at the State University, about giving the yoke to said University, and finally yielded to Mr. Pickrell's request that he should do so, and allowed Mr. Pickrell to take the yoke and present it to the University as coming from Mr. Smith, and Mr. Pickrell took it away for that purpose.

JOHN S. CONDELL, SR.

Sworn to before me this 19th day of November, 1900.

[SEAL.]

FRANK L. HATCH,

Notary Public.

Having been able to establish the facts so clearly, it has seemed well to place the ox-yoke in a favorable and prominent position in the University. Some weeks ago, Hon. James S. McCullough, a resident of the City of Urbana, and now State Auditor of Public Accounts, was good enough to procure some oak boards, which had formed a part of the original flooring in the Lincoln home at Springfield, and send them to the University. These boards have been used to make the frame of a case for the ox-yoke. The whole has been prepared by the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds of the University and mounted in the rotunda of the Library Building.

This communication is presented because of the manifest desirability of having a statement in complete form preserved in the records of the Board of Trustees of the University.

January 23, 1901.

A. S. DRAPER, *President.*

This communication was accepted for record.

The following resolution was adopted, on suggestion of President Draper:

BOND FOR ARMS.

Resolved, That the University execute, as principal, and deliver to the Government of the United States, a bond in the penal sum of three thousand six hundred and twenty-two dollars for additional ordnance and stores, consisting of one hundred Springfield cadet rifles and sets of equipment, about to be issued to the University for the use of the military department by the Secretary of War, and that Mr. Alexander McLean, President of the Board of Trustees, be and is hereby authorized to sign said bond on behalf of the University, and attach thereto the seal of the University.

President Draper presented a communication from the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association, suggesting three gentlemen, Messrs. H. C. Porter of Rockford, G. M. Bennett of Urbana and Henry Biroth of Chicago, from whom the Board of Trustees should select a member of the Advisory Board of the School of Pharmacy. Upon recommendation of the Committee of the School of Pharmacy, made at the September meeting of the Board, Mr. G. M. Bennett of Urbana was selected for the term expiring in 1905.

A proposition from Mr. John N. Beers with regard to forty acres of land adjoining the south farm was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A proposition from the Illinois School of Dentistry was referred to the Committee on the College of Medicine.

President Draper handed to each member of the Board present, as a gift from the Y. W. C. A., the calendar published by the Association, and the Secretary was directed to acknowledge the receipt of these and to return to the Y. W. C. A. the thanks of the members.

ABOLISHING FEES.

The special order for the meeting (see p. 43) was then considered. After much discussion, the previous question having been ordered, Mr McKay's motion

“That the Legislature be asked to appropriate to the University, in addition to other amounts, thirty-five thousand dollars a year, in order that the University might thereafter collect no fees from the University students”

was adopted by the following vote: Yeas—Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Carriel and Messrs. Hatch, McKay, McLean, Nightingale and Smith; nays—Messrs. Bayliss and Bullard; absent—Governor Yates, Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Flower.

On motion of Mr. Smith, Mrs. Carriel and Mr. Hatch were added to the steering committee.

The Committee on Buildings and Grounds made the following report, which was adopted:

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS.

URBANA, ILL., Jan. 23, 1901.

To the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

Your Committee on Buildings and Grounds desires to report that the contracts for the new agricultural buildings have been completed and the buildings accepted and that they are now in use by the agricultural department.

We are gratified to report that Messrs. Valentine Jobst and Sons, the general contractors, Baumgarten Brothers, the plumbing contractors, and Messrs. Thomas and Smith, the steam heating contractors, have all done their work and completed their contracts in a manner satisfactory to the architect, Mr. Llewellyn, and to your Committee.

We wish to say further that in the matter of extra work, some of which seems inevitable in building operations, and in deductions the several contracting firms have been very fair and reasonable in making prices.

We wish also to commend the architect, Mr. Joseph C. Llewellyn, an honored alumnus of this University, for the patience and the painstaking care which he has always maintained throughout this work, that the wishes of the agricultural department and the Agricultural Committee be completely satisfied in the planning and construction of this group of buildings. That he has succeeded in his object, we have the assurances of all the parties deeply interested in the agricultural department. That he has designed a handsome group of buildings, we all know. We believe that the University may look with pride upon this great and artistic addition to its already large collection of buildings.

It is gratifying to your Committee to report that all of this work has been successfully performed without materially exceeding the appropriation. It is seldom that the expenditure in erecting a public building can be confined to a sum less than 5 per cent added to the appropriation. In this case the excess is not beyond 1½ per cent. In this estimate there is not included the expense of the increase in the central heating plant which was necessitated by the new buildings.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

General contract—Valentine Jobst & Sons	\$117, 193 00	
Extra work required.....	1, 407 11	
	\$118, 600 11	
Less deductions required.....	2, 230 42	
Total amount of contract.....		\$116, 369 69
Plumbing and drainage contract—Baumgarten Bros.....	\$11, 366 00	
Extra work required	450 68	
	\$11, 816 68	
Less deductions required	34 67	
Total amount of contract		11, 782 01
Steam heating contract—Thomas & Smith	\$14, 786 00	
Extra work required	408 39	
	\$15, 194 39	
Less deductions	648 55	
Total amount of contract		14, 645 85
Total of three principal contracts.....		\$142, 797 54
Lighting fixtures, deducted from general contract		1, 250 00
Gas main in tunnel to building, 4 inches in diameter.....		269 80
Two bronze tablets, to be placed in halls of building.....		160 00
Two electric transformers, estimated.....		500 00
		\$144, 977 34
Architect and superintendent—commissions.....		7, 248 86
Total cost of buildings		\$152, 226 20

The extra work which was ordered was required principally because of changes in the plans to conform to views of the members of the faculty of the College of Agriculture as the work progressed. These changes have improved the working possibilities of the buildings for the College.

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. BULLARD,
 THOMAS J. SMITH,
 A. F. NIGHTINGALE,

Committee on Buildings and Grounds.

The Committee on Agriculture made the following report which was adopted:

URBANA, Jan. 23, 1901.

To the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

The Committee on Agriculture recommends that paragraph 15 of the committee report on legislative appropriations adopted at the meeting of December 11, 1900 be changed to read as follows:

“For providing additional teachers in the College of Agriculture, and also to meet the demands for instruction at Farmers’ Institutes, the sum of \$10,-000 per annum.”

The Committee also recommends an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00, to be paid from the State appropriation for buildings and grounds, for the purpose of dressing and oiling the floors of the rooms of the domestic science department.

The Committee also recommends that the executive department of the Illinois Farmers' Institute be invited to recommend to this Board one of their number to serve on the Advisory Board of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE ASBURY ABBOTT,
MARY T. CARRIEL,
FRED L. HATCH,
F. M. MCKAY,

Committee on Agriculture.

CAPT. CLARK'S CLAIM.

A majority report from the Finance committee, signed by Messrs. McKay and Smith, was presented by Mr McKay, recommending that the sum of \$550 be paid Capt. Clark. Mr. McKay moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Nightingale, of the same committee, presented a minority report, declaring that there was due Capt. Clark only so much as remained unpaid of the amount which it was agreed to pay him on account of his children's tuition, and recommending that this amount, and no more, be paid. Mr. Nightingale moved that the minority report be substituted for the majority report.

After a long discussion, the previous question having been ordered, the minority report was substituted for the majority report by the following vote: Yeas—Mrs. Abbott and Messrs. Bayliss, Hatch, Nightingale, McLean and Bullard; nays—Mrs. Carriel and Messrs. McKay and Smith; absent, Governor Yates, Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Flower.

The minority report was then adopted by the same vote.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board has learned with pleasure of the promotion of Captain Daniel H. Brush, for four years professor of military science and tactics in the University, and now with the army in the Philippines, to the position of Major in the United States army, and hereby sends its congratulations to Major Brush, with its best wishes for his good health and his prosperity.

The Board adjourned until 2:00 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

When the Board met pursuant to adjournment the same members were present as in the morning.

At the suggestion of Mr. Bullard, the Board listened to the statement of Mr. Llewellyn, the architect of the Agricultural Buildings, regarding the construction of the buildings.

Mr. McLean offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three members of the Board be appointed to suggest and plan for the public dedication of the Agricultural Buildings now completed and to report the same at the March meeting of the Board.

It was ordered that the President of the Board, together with two members to be appointed by him should constitute this committee, and that President Draper should be, *ex officio*, a member of the committee.

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Carriel were appointed on the committee.

Dr. King, of the College of Medicine, was heard with regard to the organization of a school of dentistry as a department of the College of Medicine.

With regard to this matter the Board adopted, on motion of Mr. Smith, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees approves the proposition that the College of Medicine establish a department of dentistry, and hereby authorizes the authorities of said College to proceed with the steps leading thereto in conjunction with the Committee of this Board on the College of Medicine and the President of the University, it being understood, however, that nothing should be consummated until first reported and passed upon by this Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Bullard an appropriation was made to meet the deficiency of \$2,226.26, shown by the report of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, in the excess of liabilities incurred over appropriations for the erection of the Agricultural Buildings.

President McLean called attention to the fact that the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Fulkerson, was no longer a member of the Board, and appointed Mr. Hatch chairman of that committee.

Mrs. Abbott moved that the salary of Professor Shattuck be made \$3,500.00 a year from the first of January, 1901. The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas—Mrs. Abbott and Messrs. Bayliss, Nightingale, McLean and Smith; nays—Mrs. Carriel and Messrs. McKay and Hatch; absent—Governor Yates and Messrs. Bullard and Conrad and Mrs. Flower.

The Board adjourned.

W. L. PILLSBURY,

Secretary.

ALEXANDER McLEAN,

President.