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CHAS. L. SPRINGER, Editor and Publisher.

DEMAND FOR TRAINED FARMERS.

W. K. Newell, President of the State Board of Horticulture, contributes to the June Oregon Countryman an interesting article comparing the Agricultural courses with other studies, given at OAC and has the following to say about the necessity for trained farmers:

"Why do not more boys take the agricultural courses at the College? The records show that there are many more students in the mechanical, engineering, and commercial courses than there are in agricultural. The graduating class last year of 87 members contained only eight agricultural students, while there were seventeen in the electrical, four in the civil engineering, and even the course in pharmacy could boast of eleven graduates.

"This is a strange showing for an Agricultural College and yet it is typical of the American colleges. What is the matter? Where does the fault lie? That such a showing is not a healthy one will be conceded by all, but how shall it be remedied? I do not mean to contend that there are too many graduates in other lines, though that might be questionable, but that there is entirely too small a proportion of those in agriculture.

"Blame is frequently laid upon the management of the schools because, as is claimed, they educate the boy away from the farm. There has been no doubt some justification for such charges, but a little thought will show that the blame, primarily, cannot be laid at their door. These schools have been created and equipped for the express purpose of teaching the agricultural and mechanical branches, and the name itself shows the relative importance the courses were expected to retain.

"If students will not enter these courses, members of the faculty are helpless; they cannot use force to persuade them. Boards of Regents cannot be expected to spend the funds for equipment for courses in which there are no students. The fact that students have persisted in entering other courses than agriculture or the mechanic arts has forced the addition of many other branches for which these schools were never originally intended. I know that the faculty of the Oregon Agricultural College has long lamented that the agricultural classes have not made a better showing, and they have done everything possible to encourage the students in these branches, with the result that the agricultural class this year shows the greatest increase of all in point of numbers. But

it is not growing half fast enough. "There is a crying demand for ten times, yes, a hundred times the number of graduates that is now being turned out. The people of Oregon are intensely loyal in support of the college, but they are beginning to want to see some of the boys coming back to the farms and helping to better the conditions of the country. This is the primary purpose for which they are contributing their money for its support.

"The demand for trained men in agriculture and horticulture is very great. I am continually asked, "Where can I get a man to take care of my orchard, or of my dairy? Are there any who are students at the college that we can get?" I am compelled to answer that the college now scarcely turns out enough men to fill the ranks of its own teaching staff. That the United States Department of Agriculture has great difficulty in finding trained men enough for the service, and that there is nothing at all left for the farm, excepting those favored few who return to their own farms.

"That boys did not turn toward agriculture in past years was not strange. The rapid development of the country made farm products comparatively cheap while at the same time offering great rewards in other lines and the dullard was left as good enough for the farm. A lamentable state of public opinion fostered the idea that only in business or the professions could a man attain any standing or distinction.

"This state of affairs is rapidly changing; the farmer is now judged for what he is and is no longer handicapped because of his calling. There are no longer any cheap lands to produce crops at low figures and with slipshod methods. Prices must rule higher and farm incomes consequently greater. The greatest development of the country must now be that of improving its farms.

"Never before has the attention of thoughtful people been turned so strongly toward the country. Every business or professional man dreams of the time when he shall have money enough to enable him to afford to own a farm, and he buys one when he reaches that point. Then he needs a trained man for a manager and cannot find him.

"You young men who are just beginning, and are wondering what you will do, give this matter your attention; investigate it for yourselves. You will find that the farm today offers as much, or more, than any other line of industry. You will find there ample exercise for all the brain power you possess or can acquire; you can attain a dignity and influence second to none, and also you can make as much money (after all it is the dollars that attract us) as you will at almost any other calling you may follow. There are thousands today starving in the professions who would consider the financial position of the average farmer an enviable one, and who would have succeeded as farmers had they given the care to the preparation for that line that they gave to their professional training."

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OAC REMINISCENT AND HISTORICAL

(Continued from first page)

tion building now used as the School of Mining Engineering. Analyses were made which had to do largely with the introduction of beet culture and the establishment of the sugar industry in Oregon. The School of Pharmacy was installed, the present Mechanical Hall was built to take the place of the one which had been burned down, and to the greenhouses was added the Horticultural Building.

Compulsory labor of one hour per day was required of all students in their respective courses. For extra time, students were allowed ten cents per hour. Board with room in the dormitories was



Thomas M. Gatch, A.M., Ph.D., President 1897-1907

announced at \$2.50 per week, and the small tuition which had been charged was eliminated. Although tuition now became free, and the resources of the institution were reduced by that much, the President and the Board of Regents were so careful with the finances during the panic that the college was enabled to decline \$5,000 appropriated as a maintenance fund by the preceding Legislature. This is probably the only incident of the kind in Oregon history.

August 1, 1896, the Regents elected Hon. H. B. Miller, one of their number, President of the college to succeed Doctor Bloss, who resigned. President Miller, a fine business man of wide acquaintance, administered the finances of the college and directed the experiment station. Professor F. Berchtold, A. M., the senior member of the faculty, was chosen dean of the college. The President developed the industrial features of the institution whenever and wherever it was possible. Hence many changes were made in the curricula to that end. The faculty strove to reach the farmers as well as the students, so as to obtain results more immediate. Farmers' institutions grew more popular, and a large portion of the people were in this way brought into touch with the institution for the first time. The armory and gymnasium was built. The literary societies, which were reorganized and renamed with constitutions of their making, became social as well as literary. In the catalogue, Doctor

COURSE OF STUDY.

FIRST YEAR.—First Term.—Chemical Physics and Inorganic Chemistry, Structural and Physiological Botany. First five books of Davies' Legendre.
Second Term.—Organic Chemistry. How Crops Grow. English Language.
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SECOND YEAR.—First Term.—Qualitative Analysis continued. Detection and Separation of the Elements. Chain Surveying and Mensuration. Geometrical Drawing. General Principles of Zoology, (or German).
Second Term.—General Principles of Geology. Vegetable Economy; How Plants Feed. Topographical Drawing. Animal Physiology, (or German).
Third Term.—Geology of Oregon. Vegetable Economy. Entomology, (or German).

First Scientific Agricultural Course

Margaret Snell, as manager of the two dormitories, made the following announcement regarding the cost of living at Cauthorn Hall, which brought many new students the following year: "It is confidently believed, from the experience gained in the management of the girls' hall last year, that the cost of living will not exceed six dollars per calendar month of thirty or thirty-one days. The hall will be under the supervision of Lieutenant C. E. Dentler, U. S. A., as commandant."

Doctor Thomas M. Gatch was president for a decade beginning 1897. During his administration the school was more than doubled in attendance and capacity. The Hall of Agriculture and Waldo Hall were built and the Chemical Building was devoted to Mining Engineering. Courses in Music, Forestry, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Literary Commerce were introduced. The attendance, which gradually

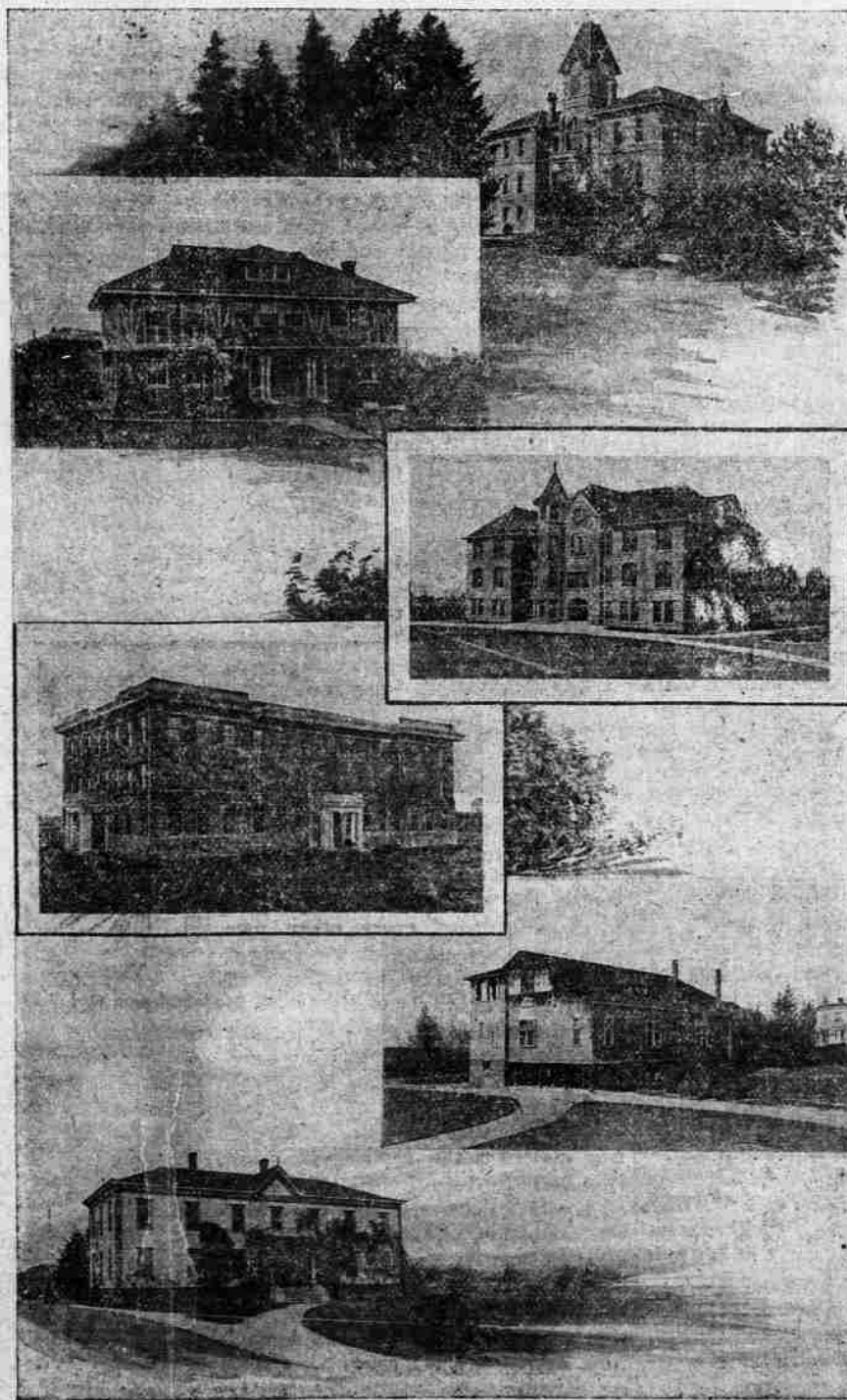
grew to 833, was divided as follows: 745 regular students, 56 short course students, and 32 students taking only music. But let President J. K. Weatherford, who speaks for the Regents, tell you of Doctor Gatch; for the Regents are the highest tribunal in college circles:

"President Gatch, reputed for long experience and classic finish, came to us when we were sorely in need of a guiding mind, and grasped the helm with a firm and steady hand, and with the poise of genius directed its course onward with a well-defined purpose and a definite aim and object in view. He came to Oregon in 1859 as president of the Willamette University, at Salem. Since then he has been president of Wasco Academy, the University of Washington and the Agricultural College, and all of these institutions are indebted in great part for their eminent

(Continued on page three)



President W. J. Kerr, the present efficient head of OAC



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