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OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Most Richly Endowed and Best Equipped of Oregon's Educational Institutions.

A Magnificent Industrial School. Mechanical, Agricultural and Household Economy Courses. The Story of its Growth and the Wonderful Opportunity it Offers Young Men and Women to Obtain a Practical and Useful Education.

ITS LEGAL HISTORY.

The Separation of the School from Church Control.

(BY HON. M. L. PIPES.)

The outlines of the history of the State Agricultural College are known to the older residents of this county. The purpose of this article is mainly to refer to the litigation by which the Agricultural College was transferred from the control of the Methodist E. Church South to the State of Oregon, and finally established at Corvallis.

When the act of Congress in July 2d, 1862, was passed, appropriating the proceeds of public land, of ninety thousand

to dissolve the compact existing between the Board of Regents of the Corvallis College and the State of Oregon, to take effect at the close of the then present scholastic year. The Committee started a subscription, but the public interest in that scheme being lukewarm, it soon became apparent that the plan was hopeless, and at the Legislative Session in January, 1885, the Committee made a formal tender to the Governor and Legislature of the State, of the Agricultural College. Thereafter, in February, 1886, the Board of Trustees of the College authorized a deed to be made to the State authorities, of the College Farm. And the Legislature, on February 11th, 1885, passed an act accepting the tender, and

of the parties, transferred to Multnomah county, and was tried before Hon. E. D. Shattuck. After a voluminous testimony was taken, the Court, considering the law and the facts, decided against the State and in favor of the church. The case was again appealed to the Supreme Court by the State Trustees, and, on October 5th, 1882, the Supreme Court reversed Judge Shattuck's decision and upheld the deed which had been made by the church trustees to the State Trustees. This case upheld the dissenting opinion of Judge Lord in the former case, and held that the Corvallis College Corporation could hold this property independent of the church.

It had been contended by the plaintiffs that the action of the Board of Trustees in authorizing the deed to be made to the State was invalid, because the session of the Board was held without notice to all of the members of the Board. One of the members lived east of the mountains, and at the time the meeting was held it was impossible to notify him on account of the snow in the mountains, but the Supreme Court held that the deed was valid because the action of the Board had been afterward ratified in June of that year, by a full meeting of the Board, and, further, because their action was only a ministerial duty, which they were required to perform by the direction of the church authorities, as indicated at the conference at Dayton in 1884.

That decree ended the litigation, and established the right of the State of Oregon to conduct its own Agricultural College. This is merely an outline of the history. The litigation caused great public concern, not only in Benton county, but in the State. The question was much discussed in the newspapers and in legal circles.

Many of our citizens will remember the long and difficult struggle to raise sufficient money to build a college, in order to insure the location of it at Corvallis. Many meetings were held, committees were appointed, and subscriptions were solicited all over Benton county. The writer well remembers that at a meeting held at the Court-house the reports of the committees soliciting subscriptions, that every dollar had been subscribed that it was possible to get, and it seemed then as if the college was lost to Corvallis. At that juncture, Mr. Wallace Baldwin, then a citizen of Corvallis, arose and stated that it would not do to give up the fight; that the money must be raised, and, after a few words of encouragement, others followed in the same line, and the solicitors were again sent out and the subscription was a success.

The writer of this has not thought it proper to mention the names of citizens who were prominent in these matters, lest by omitting some it might be deemed an invidious omission. It will not be deemed, however, improper to say that the leading spirit in the college matters at home here in Corvallis and in the Legislature, of which he was a member, was Hon. Thomas E. Cauthorn, now deceased. No history of the College can be complete without his name. During the controversy and afterwards in the Senate, his energy and influence secured the State recognition and support, which has placed the College upon a firm foundation and secured for it public favor.

The influence of this institution upon this city is great; not only in a pecuniary sense is it an advantage, but the moral and intellectual atmosphere of the institution spreads and envelopes were made, and the subscriptions were several thousand dollars short of the amount required, and it was then stated by one of the persons who had been the people. Modern progress more than ever depends upon improvement in agricultural processes and in the mechanic arts. This feature of this College, therefore, makes it perhaps more important to the future development of this state than any other institution of learning.

The principle also established by the decision of the Supreme Court is important, and will be important as long as time shall last. The complete separation of the church and State is a leading principle in the American Government. Notwithstanding this principle, however, for many years a leading institution of the State was controlled and its policy dictated by an ecclesiastical organization. Not only that; but this organization was itself directed from its headquarters in a distant State. This principle was wrong, and none the less so because the members of the church were good people and because the conduct of the college was, in the main, able and enlightened. Now that the bitterness of the controversy is past, it will be conceded by all good people that even under the administration of the church the College was always a good influence for the people of the county and for the State of Oregon. However, the conflict was an irrepressible one, and the final result inevitable. Surely the people of Corvallis and Benton county are to

be congratulated upon their wisdom in securing the College to be located in Corvallis, and upon their public spirit evinced by the public subscription which secured it.

There are many incidents in the history of this litigation which it is pleasing to remember, but the limits of this article forbid more than this sketch.

ITS BIG ENDOWMENT.

Resources and Equipment of the College Discussed by the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

(HON. W. E. YATES.)

All funds of the State Agricultural College and the experiment station in connection therewith are controlled and expended by the board of regents of those institutions. This board is now composed of the Hon. J. T. Apperson, president; W. P. Lord, governor; H. R. Kincaid, secretary of state; G. M. Irwin, superintendent of public instruction; W. M. Hilleary, master state grange; T. W. Davenport, Wallis Nash, W. P. Keady, Benton Killin, Samuel Hughes, J. M. Church, J. K. Weatherford, treasurer, and W. E. Yates, secretary. There are three separate funds to be expended, not considering appropriations heretofore made by the legislature of Oregon for buildings and grounds, which are gen-

erally known as the Morrill fund, Hatch fund and the interest fund. The Morrill fund this year is \$23,000; the next year it will be increased \$10,000, and the next it will reach the maximum of \$25,000, at which amount it will continue.

The Hatch fund is uniformly \$15,000 per annum, and has been since the enactment of the law creating this fund by congress in the year 1887.

What is usually designated the interest fund is the money obtained as interest from loans of money realized by the state from sales of Agricultural College lands, amounting to 90,000 acres, under the act of congress in the year 1862.

The purpose of and uses to which the Morrill fund may be applied is explained in the law of congress creating the same, as follows:

"That there shall be, and is hereby annually appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, arising from the sales of public lands, to each state and territory for the more complete endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts, now established the sum of \$15,000 for the year ending June 30, 1890, and an annual increase of the amount of such appropriation thereafter for ten years by an additional sum of \$1000 over the preceding year; and the annual amount to be paid thereafter to each state and territory shall be \$25,000, to be applied only to instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language and the various branches of mathematics, physical, natural and economic science, with special reference to their applications in the industries of life, and to the facilities of such instruction.

"That the sums hereby appropriated to the states and territories for the further endowment and support of colleges shall be annually paid on or before the 31st day of July of each year, by the secretary of the treasury, upon the warrant of the secretary of the interior, out of the treasury of the United States, to such officer as shall be designated by

the laws of such state or territory to receive the same, who shall upon the order of the trustees of the college immediately pay over said sums to the treasurers of the respective colleges, and such treasurers shall be required to report to the secretary of agriculture, and to the secretary of the interior, on or before the 1st day of September of each year, a detailed statement of the amount so received and of its disbursement.

"That if any portion of the money be diminished or lost or be misapplied, it shall be reported by the state or territory to which it belongs—and no portion of said moneys shall be applied, directly or indirectly, under any pretense whatever, to the purchase, erection, preservation or repair of any building or buildings.

"An annual report by the president of each of said colleges shall be made to the secretary of agriculture, as well as to the secretary of the interior, regarding the condition and progress of each college, including statistical information in relation to its receipts and expenditures, its library, the number of students and professors, and also as to any improvements and experiments made under the direction of any experiment stations attached to said colleges.

The purpose of the Hatch fund is manifest from the law of congress establishing experiment stations as follows:

"That it shall be the object and duty of said experiment stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants, at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation, the analysis of soils and water, the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants, the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese, and such other researches or experiments bearing directly on the agricultural industry of the United States as may in each case be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective states and territories.

"That bulletins of progress shall be published at said stations at least once in three months, one copy of which shall be sent to each newspaper in the state, and to such individuals actually engaged in farming as may request the same, and as far as the means of the station will permit.

"That for the purpose of paying the necessary expenses of conducting investigations and experiments and printing and distributing the results above described the sum of \$15,000 per annum is appropriated to each state out of any money in the treasury proceeding from the sales of public lands, to be paid in equal quarterly payments to the treasurer or other officer duly appointed by the governing boards of said colleges to receive the same.

"All this fund must be expended in experimentation, except five per centum thereof, which may be used in the erection, enlargement or repair of a building or buildings necessary for carrying on the work of such station.

"It shall be the duty of each of said stations annually to make to the governor of the state a full and detailed report of its operations, including a statement of receipts and expenditures, a copy of which report shall be sent to each of said stations, to the commissioner of agriculture and to the secretary of the treasury of the United States."

The purpose of the funds arising from the sale of agricultural lands under act of 1862 is substantially the same as that above stated describing the object of the Morrill fund.

The biennial reports of the state officers of Oregon, of December 31, 1896, show that there the sum of \$137,306.36 to the credit of this fund. The interest of this money loaned at 8 per centum annuities, if collected in full, would be about \$10,000. Thus the total of funds under the management of the board of trustees to be expended this year is about \$48,000. These moneys are all paid out by the treasurer of the board, by check upon the bank after bills for the several items of expenditure are audited and allowed by the auditing committee of the board. These bills as allowed by the auditing board are annually examined by the finance committee of the board in detail, and have always been approved by the committee. Receipted bills for the expenditures of these funds are kept on hand subject to inspection. It is creditable to the board of regents that all of its reports of expenditures of these funds have been approved by the authorities in Washington.

In addition to the above-mentioned funds of the college and station, the legislature of Oregon has at various times appropriated moneys for the purchase of grounds and erection of buildings—and the citizens of Benton contributed enough money to construct the administrative building, at a cost of \$25,000; so that now the amount of land owned by the institution is 183 acres, and the reasonable value of the property, lands and equipments is \$100,000.

The financial condition of the college is excellent, and the institution has a bright outlook.

WHAT IT TEACHES.

The Three Courses of Study.—The Faculty.—Expenses of Students.

It is perhaps not strange that a very large majority of Oregonians are ignorant of the magnitude and scope of the work being accomplished by the Oregon Agricultural College. The college is not alone great in its possibilities, but it is capable of accomplishing and is now accomplishing magnificent results.

Hardly a visitor views the extensive apparatus of the college and watches the hundreds of students at work in the various departments, under the direction and instruction of able and careful instructors, without expressing astonishment. People know in a general way that there is an agricultural college located here; that it is well attended; has a number of professors; and they suppose that something is being done with Uncle Sam's liberal endowment. There their impressions end. The experiment station, through its bulletins and farmers' institutes, is better known.

The college is in fact worthy the princely aid extended by the general government. Certain matters in connection with the school that have called forth criticism from the public have been remedied by the wise action of the

training the engine-room, heavier machinery and blacksmith shop, is two stories, and the new addition is three stories. The hall contains a 40-horsepower engine, 50-horsepower boiler, wood and iron working machinery, blacksmith shop, dynamo, etc.

The freshmen are instructed in wood work, Mr. W. D. Prichard, a first-class mechanic, having charge of this branch. The chief idea is to teach the students the use of tools by having them make various articles from exercise drawings. The machines used here are the turning lathe, band saw, jig saw and planer. Students are also taught the use of hand tools.

The second year class takes up blacksmithing and the study of mechanical drawing. The students make tools from exercise drawings, learn to temper steel, etc. A practical blacksmith has charge of this department.

The third year students are occupied in the machine shop, working in iron and steel. They learn the use of the turning lathe, drill press and hand tools. They work from exercise drawings.

The seniors continue their junior year work. Usually the fourth year class builds some machine. The class of 1893 built a dynamo. The following year the seniors built an eight-horsepower engine, and the class of 1896 made two wood turning lathes which are now in



CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

board of regents, and the institution has entered upon a new era of usefulness.

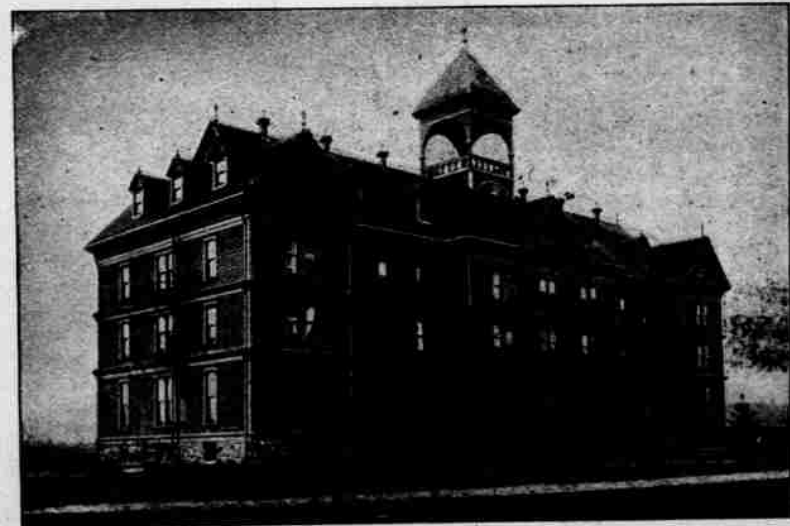
At the head of the college is Thomas M. Gatch, whose name is in itself a tower of strength. Professor Gatch brings to the institution an extensive and mature experience in educational work, a mind that is both learned and practical, splendid executive ability, and a coast-wide reputation as a successful teacher. The hundreds of his former students scattered throughout the state give hearty testimony to the splendid qualities of the new president of the Oregon Agricultural College.

Equipment and Funds.

The college has 183 acres of land immediately adjoining the city of Corvallis. The campus is a beautiful piece of ground containing 35 acres, and worth over \$30,000. The main college building was erected by public-spirited citizens of Benton county at a cost of \$25,000. This building, the chemical laboratory and conservatory are in the campus proper. The mechanical hall, ladies' boarding hall and the dairy building are in the plaza adjoining. At some distance from these are the barn buildings, and still further stands Cauthorn hall, the young men's club house. These buildings, together with the apparatus they contain, represent an outlay of over \$100,000, and the entire tract of land is worth over \$50,000.

The college receives from interest on its land fund about \$8,000 per year. The Morrill act provides this year \$23,000 from the general government, and the experiment station receives \$15,000 a year under the provisions of the Hatch act. The article of Hon. W. E. Yates, secretary of the board of regents, which appears in this issue, discusses at length the school's financial standing.

The teaching force is 22 strong, besides a number of assistants.



CAUTHORN HALL.

Course of Study.

The institution is a mechanical as well as an agricultural college. There are three courses of study offered, the agricultural, the mechanical, and the course of household economy. The student is given the practice with theory. Young men and women wish to fit themselves for mechanical and agricultural pursuits or for home duties have a splendid opportunity offered them at the Oregon Agricultural College. In another column Professor F. Berchold, dean of the faculty, gives the courses of study in detail.

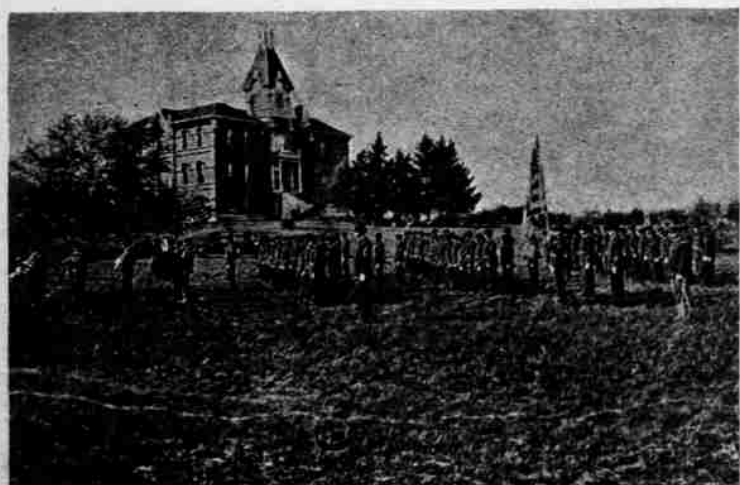
The Mechanical Course.

Mechanical hall is a very large building. The original brick building con-

Besides the regular course in dairying, stock-raising, and stock-feeding, soil, cultivation, etc., the student has the benefit of all the station experiments—a practical education in themselves. The college farm contains 145 acres of good land and is well equipped with barns, machinery, stock, etc.

Department of Dairying. This work is connected with the department of agriculture, and the course of study and practical work in butter-making, under the direction of Professor F. L. Kent, has assisted in making the agricultural course very popular among students.

The dairy department was established by the board of regents at their annual



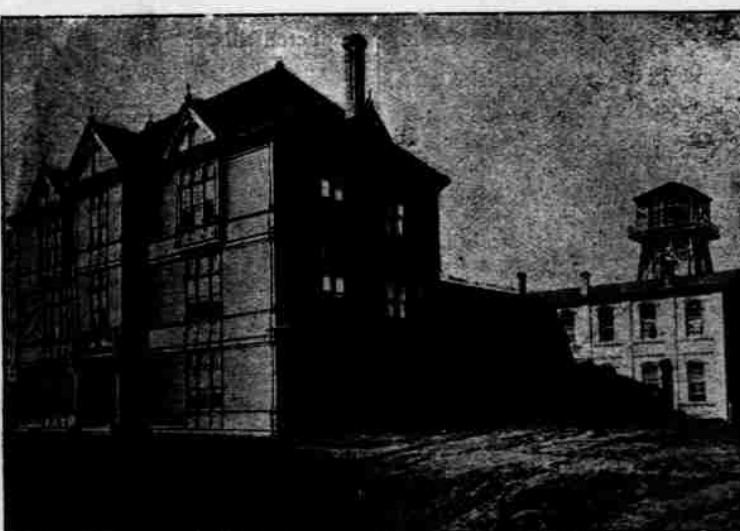
MAIN COLLEGE BUILDING.

acres, in Oregon, to the establishment of an institution wherein agriculture and the arts and sciences should be taught, it found the State of Oregon without equipment for conducting such a school.

On October 27th, 1868, the Legislature of Oregon, through the influence of the members from Benton county, passed an act accepting the gift of the general government, and provided that the Corvallis College should be temporary the Agricultural College of the State. Corvallis College was an incorporated institution conducted under the auspices of the Methodist E. Church South. It at once accepted the duty imposed upon it, and thereafter, on October 21st, 1870, the Legislature passed another act, permanently locating the Agricultural College at Corvallis, and designating and adopting Corvallis College as the Agricultural College of the State of Oregon.

In 1871, a small farm, consisting of sixty acres, on which the college buildings are now situated, was purchased by popular subscription and donated to the College for the purpose of an Agricultural College Farm, to be used in connection with the College for experimental purposes. Thereafter the College had a useful career, and, under the presidency of Mr. Arnold, became one of the leading institutions of learning in this state. Among its Alumni are men prominent in the professions and public life.

For many years, however, the fund from the sale of the public land was small, and the agricultural and mechanical functions of the College were nominal rather than real. As time went on there grew up a feeling of antagonism in the State to the College, because of the fact that the public money donated for the benefit of the whole State was expended to support a denominational school. The controversy continued between the opponents and the friends of the College for some years.



MECHANICAL HALL.

Quite a number of the influential members of the Southern Methodist Church realized that the usefulness of the College under that management was greatly impaired by this feeling, and from time to time made propositions in their own conferences for surrendering the control of the school to the State of Oregon, but these propositions were not carried. In 1884, however, the conference of the church, at Dayton, Wash., passed a resolution, the substance of which was that a Committee should be appointed, with authority to collect a subscription of \$25,000.00 to build a brick building for the use of the College, and in case the money could not be raised, a Committee was authorized

that the appellants were members of the Methodist Church, and as such were entitled to bring the suit in their own behalf, and in behalf of all of the members, and that the farm was held by the Corvallis College in trust for the said Methodist Church.

The opinion written upon rehearing of the case by Judge Lord intimated that the church had no interest in the farm, because the deed limited the uses of the farm to the purposes of the Agricultural College of the State of Oregon. Thereafter the defendants answered in said cause, and it being then at issue, and the then Judge of the Circuit Court of Benton county having been of counsel in the case, it was, by consent