

# INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

AND WEST SIDE.

10TH YEAR.

INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, JUNE 18, 1903.

NUMBER 29

## Commencement Week.

Twenty-First Annual Commencement Exercises Were Held at Monmouth This Week.

Abbi S. Wise, of Portland, Delivered the Address.

Exercises Were Exceedingly Interesting and of a High Order of Merit.

### A Successful Year.

The twenty-first annual commencement of the Oregon State Normal School has gone into his- tory. The "majority" year has been a successful one in many respects. The student body has been the best, industrious and loyal. There was little sickness, but one member of the faculty losing any time and an unusually small number of the students. No epidemic diseases, fever or contagious diseases has occurred, and the salubrious climate of Polk county remains an important asset of the institution.

With regard to the work and standard of the Normal School at Monmouth, it may be said to its credit that it does not cater to the lowest of students attracted by the

cluding Willowa, Union, Baker and Umatilla in the extreme north-eastern part of the state, and Harney, Lake and Klamath in the Southern part. Of the present graduation class, four are residents of Polk county, three of Lane, two of Washington, two of Yamhill and one each of Wasco, Gilliam, Union, Marion, Umatilla, Benton, Tillamook, Linn, Lincoln and Multnomah. Twelve of the 22 graduates are teachers of some experience and hold either state or first grade county certificates. The majority of the class have already accepted appointments for next year.

The prospect for next year is exceedingly bright. The mail has already brought notice of a number of new students for next year,

W. R. Rutherford, as the district attorney, made a decided hit. He acted and looked the part of the honest lawyer to perfection and shone particularly in his fierce conflict between love, friendship and the promptings of a kind heart on one side against stern duty on the other.

E. S. Evenden, as Mathew Brainerd, a prominent millionaire member of "the ring," was all that could be desired. The exposition of the passions of hate and avarice and of fear and exultation left little to be desired. He was a fine old villain.

J. B. V. Butler, as Gen. Ruggles, editor and reformer, sustained the high reputation which he has earned in former plays. The character seemed to have been cast especially for him and he delighted everybody.

Comparisons are odious, especially among such players as appeared in this play, but we may be indulged in saying that Wm. Metzger, as Wellington Gridley, would have done credit to the best professional troupe.

A. C. Hampton, as Pierson, the convict; H. H. Belt, as Daniel McGrath, the hoodler; G. N. Murdock, in the double cast of Holt, the athlete, and Corrigan, and in fact, all deserve much credit.

As to the ladies, Miss Boatman, as Grace Brainerd, was charming. She has an enviable reputation in matters of this kind which she fully sustained on this occasion. Miss Edith Owen, as Madge Brainerd, sister of Grace, was charming, and could not well have been improved upon. She and Gridley were the lovers and "all the world loves a lover." This audience was no exception.

Miss Vernon, as Helen Knight portrayed a high order of dramatic talent. It was impossible not to believe that she was terribly in earnest. Miss Paldanius, as Elise, made a charming maid.

### Baccalaureate Services.

The audience which greeted Rev. D. V. Poling, of The Dalles, Sunday morning taxed the capacity of the chapel. The sermon was eloquent, sane and practical. Self study, self realization and self communion were the key words. The music under the direction of Miss Higgins was especially good, including the voluntary and prelude by Mrs. Babbitt, who also played the accompaniments. Anthem and response by quartette composed of Mrs. A. F. Campbell and Mrs. J. M. Powell and Messrs. Ressler and Powell; a beautiful

solo by Miss Higgins, in which her voice was never heard to better advantage; and two familiar hymns in which the audience heartily joined. Prof. Buckham, Rev. Wigmore, Rev. Allen and Dr. Thompson assisted in the services. The decorations in cut flowers and ferns were simple and elegant. The stage was occupied by the members of the faculty, the senior class and visiting clergymen.

### Closing Chapel Exercises.

Monday morning at 9 o'clock the school assembled in the chapel for the last time this year as a body. The students assembled and marched in by classes, the seniors leading. It was very gratifying to see what a large number had remained to enjoy the commencement festivities, probably 125 being present on this occasion. A few visitors and townspeople were also present. The program was carried out as follows: Hymn by school, "Lead Kindly Light;" scripture and prayer, Professor Buckham; song by school, "Come, Come Away." President Ressler then introduced his friend, Mr. Nash, of Portland, who delighted the students with a talk on "Classic Music," which he illustrated by playing on the piano selections by Schubert, Schumann and Chopin. His artistic playing was deeply appreciated by faculty and students. Mr. Ressler and Miss Higgins then sang a duet entitled "At Parting." The president then gave a short resume of the year's work, commending many features and pointing out how improvements may be made another year in certain matters. He then announced plans for the future growth of the school and wished all a pleasant and profitable vacation. The students then marched out to music and the faculty went into executive session.

### Class Day.

The following program was well rendered by the senior class Monday afternoon:

#### NORMAL CHAPEL.

Overture, by orchestra; Address of welcome, Estella Robbins; Oration, "Heroes of Science," Squire Whitman; Vocal solo, Miss Higgins; Oration, "Col. John Laurens, Patriot," Orrin Byers; Oration, "Cecil Rhodes, the Man and His Work," Robena Smith; Vocal duet, Miss Higgins and Mr. Ressler; Oration, "The Homeric Age" Gregory Ziegler; Class song, Crystol Laughlin; Presentation of class gift, Mary Wetherbee; Music by orchestra.

#### NORMAL GROUNDS.

1, Daisy chain march; 2, planting of vine; 3, presentation of spade, by Mollie Petre; 4, flag song; 5, "Requiescat in Pace;" 6, farewell song.

The class gift is an engraved copy of the famed Sistine Madonna by Raphael, artistically framed and making a choice addition to the growing number of beautiful pictures presented by former classes.

### Old Students' Reunion.

Rain prevented the carrying out of the promenade concert in the grove on the campus. However, the energetic committees of the Freshman and Junior classes

quickly changed the plans and the exercises were held in the chapel. There was a short formal program as an introductory, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, an address of welcome by Prof. Ressler and responses by several former students. The remainder of the evening was spent in renewing old acquaintances and exchanging experiences since school days, interspersed with marches, games, etc. The Lucas orchestra furnished excellent music.

### The Class Breakfast.

Perhaps the June commencement will include no daintier feature than the breakfast given by President Ressler to the graduating class. In response to invitations received several days before the seniors repaired to the pleasant home of Mrs. Catron at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The dining room was charming in its decorations of roses and sweet peas—so charming that one almost forgot his physical wants in the gratification of his aesthetic. However, the strawberries were so delicious, the salad so appetizing, the chicken so tender, the ice cream so tempting and the laughter and jollity so contagious that for two hours the flowers were but an unconscious influence. At about 11 good mornings were said, happy hearts passed through the gate and the Senior breakfast was a delightful memory.

### The Regents' Meeting.

The president of the board of regents, Judge Schofield, of Cornelius, called the board to order at 2 P. M. Tuesday, the following additional members being present: A. Noltner, Portland; Secretary Dunbar, Justice Wolverton and Dr. Calbreath, Salem; S. B. Eakin, Eugene; Judge Flynn, Albany; and J. B. V. Butler, Monmouth. The absent members were Gov. Chamberlain and Supt. Ackerman, Salem; O. A. Paxton, Portland; Benjamin Young, Astoria.

Among other important business transacted was the election of faculty, all the present members being chosen except Mrs. French, teacher of biology and chemistry, and Miss Higgins, teacher of drawing and music, both of whom resigned. Mr. W. H. Mahoney, who has been a critic in the Training Department during the past year, was selected for the position vacated by Mrs. French. The successor of Miss Higgins is Miss Dorothea Nash, formerly teacher of drawing and music in the Agricultural College at Corvallis, and for the past three years a student in England and Germany. Before going abroad Miss Nash was recognized as one of the most gifted pianists among the younger musicians of Oregon, and with the study and prestige of foreign residence, she will at once take rank with the leading musicians in the state.

The salary of the secretary and librarian was raised \$200 and a number of appropriations allowed for library, apparatus and repairs and improvements. The old officers of the board were re-elected.

### Field Sports.

The rain interfered somewhat with the order of exercises for Tuesday afternoon, it being necessary to cut out the track and field

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of short courses and easy examinations. There is no effort to draw students except such intend to become teachers or a thorough scholastic training in the academic studies in a teacher's certificate. Monmouth school still remains only state normal that confines to the preparation of teachers the exclusion of business courses, instrumental music, college preparatory courses and the like. No doubt this is the reason for its high standing upon the state at large.

The total enrollment for the past year is 214, 69 boys and girls, none of whom were entered in the Training Department. The total would be nearly doubled if enrollment of the Training Department, about 200, were included, as is done in some other states. The catalogue for this week, which is to be distributed to the school is not a local institution but is representative of the best of other states and 25 of the counties being represented, in-

while an unusually large number of old students have signified their intention of returning. The new catalogues are being distributed this week and other preparations are well under way looking to an active summer's work for this school. The fall term begins September 22.

### "The District Attorney."

As a fitting prelude to commencement, the Normal Dramatic Club put on the boards at the chapel the intensely interesting drama, "The District Attorney." The play illustrates in a dramatic way the public and private working of the political ring in New York City, and its plot compels attention throughout. The stage setting, beautiful drop curtain and electric footlights were worthy of the play, and completely changed the chapel to a theatre. The sale of reserved seats had been unprecedented, so that almost every person present had secured one. The chapel was comfortably full and there were many in the gallery. Some idea of the audience can be had by the financial result which reached \$125.