

COLLEGE ARCHIVES

NORTH-WESTERN NORMAL SCHOOL.

Twelfth District

Annual report of the north-western State Normal School (The twelfth District)
for the year ending September 1, 1861.

To the Superintendent of Common Schools for the State of Pennsylvania:

SIR: -- In compliance with the provisions of the fifth section of the Normal school act, passed May 20, 1857, the first annual report of the condition and operations of this institution, up to the first of September, 1861, is respectfully submitted.

COST.--Grounds, with grading and fencing, to beginning of year,	\$ 2,000.00
Buildings	20,000.00
Furniture	2,000.00
	<u>\$24,000.00</u>

OTHER ASSETS.-- Amount received from State appropriation, by act of 1861	\$ 5,000.00
Amount due on subscription	1,500.00
	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>

INCOME: -- Amount received from students for tuition	\$ 750.00
" " " steward for rent	100.00
" " " miscellaneous sources	50.00
" due institution for tuition	100.00
" received from directors of district on account of model school	600.00
	<u>\$ 1600.00</u>

SALARIES.--To faculty of instruction. The amount received from tuition and miscellaneous sources, is distributed among the faculty.

OTHER EXPENSES.-- Addition to buildings.	
Repairs	\$ 200.00
Apparatus	1,000.00
New furniture	000.00
Debt paid	4,000.00
	<u>\$ 5,200.00</u>

DEBT.-- Temporary	\$ 500.00
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STOCK AND DIVIDEND.-- No shares of stock are held by anyone, consequently no dividends to be declared. The funds of the institution, together with its income, are wholly devoted, after deducting repairs and necessary expenses, to the payment of the salaries of the faculty.

FACULTY,--	Number of male teachers employed	6
	" " female " "	2
TERMS,--	Two sessions of twenty-two weeks each	44 weeks
STUDENTS,--	In the Normal Department--males	60
	" " " " females	77
AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS,--	Males years	19
	Females "	18
STUDENTS' PLACES OF RESIDENCE,--	In this Normal district	131
	In other parts of the State	00
	Out of the state	6
STUDENTS NOW ENROLLED,--	In Elementary course--males	25
	" " " --females	20
	Scientific Teachers' course--males	2
	" " " females	3
	Classical Teachers' course--males	1
	" " " females	1
	Preparatory course	none
	Attending on District account	1
STUDENTS GRADUATED		none

BRANCHES OF STUDY.--All the branches are included in the course of study which are required by law to be taught in common schools; especial attention being given to drill in elementary branches. In the scientific and classical course, natural science, mathematics, literature and language, are pursued as fully as at any of the colleges of the Commonwealth.

Lectures on the theory and practice of teaching to the graduating class, throught the year. This class also have practice in teaching in the model school at least half an hour each day, during the sessions of the Senior year.

COST OF TUITION,--	Average--per session	\$ 9.00
	Boarding, lodging, washing, fuel, light and use of books -- Average-- per session (in the Hall,)	40.00
	To self boarders	20.00

MODEL SCHOOL,--	Pupils in model school--admitted from outside of the school district,--males 6 -- females 4	10
	Pupils, children of inhabitants of the district--admitted free,--males 52--females 48	100
	Average age--males	10
	" " females	8
	Number of classes	9

GROUNDS.--These have been graded, and the roadways and footpaths laid out and partially graveled, and the parterre made ready for the reception of the shrubbery and flowers. We only await the means to complete the adorning of the

same. The erection of a Gymnasium for the young men, and the completion of the room set apart for that purpose for the young ladies, are in contemplation, but, as with the adornment of the grounds, means are wanting to place everything in that order which the interests of the school and the welfare of the pupils demand. With our debt now removed, as will be seen by the statement above, we hope soon to be able, by the aid of faithful friends, to have the grounds and buildings in complete order for the comfort, convenience and physical welfare of the pupils; and with the faculty of instruction now engaged, we hope confidently to fulfil every reasonable expectation of the department, as well as of the friends of the common school system of the State.

Of the workings of the institution in the departments of instruction, its wants and necessities, its present success and promises for the future, you are respectfully referred to the report of the Principal, which accompanies and is presented as part of this report.

WM. CAMPBELL
Pres't, Board of Trustees

EDINBORO', Nov. 11, 1861

Sworn and subscribed the 11th day of November, A.D. 1861, before
JOHN W. CAMPBELL, J. P.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees of the North-Western State Normal School of the Twelfth District:

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith respectfully submit my first annual report of the state and operations, together with the deficiencies and necessities, of the institution under your care.

The official recognition of this, as the North-Western Normal school for the Twelfth Normal district of the Commonwealth, took place on the 30th day of January, 1861, and from that date, it has entered upon its career as one of the institutions connected with the State system of common school education, the design of which, primarily, is the due training of teachers for the common schools of the State.

During the portion of the year that has elapsed since our official recognition, the total number of pupils in attendance in the Normal Department, has been about 100. Of this number, a large majority was composed of young gentlemen and ladies who had already been engaged as teachers of common schools; but feeling the necessity of higher qualifications, they set apart a portion of their slender incomes to defray the expense of one or two quarters' tuition in the Normal school, and then with new impulse and increased vigor,

have they betaken themselves to their calling, only regretting that they had not the means to avail themselves of the full course of instruction in our institution. Although we may thus be the instrumentality of accomplishing much good, yet it is a matter of sincere regret that owing to the limited means of the most worthy and talented of such students, they are not enabled to attend continuously upon a full course of study and receive the professional diploma.

It may not be concealed, that with all the efforts of the friends of popular education to elevate our common schools, and to make the profession of the teacher eminent for its dignity and standing among the professions and vocations of life, there is yet wanting the proper stimulus to induce young men and women of ample means to prepare themselves thoroughly for the responsibilities of so high a calling. But few, and they of comparatively humble station, seem inclined to put a proper estimate upon the dignity and importance of the profession, and these would gladly, if they could; avail themselves of the advantages of tuition in the State Normal schools, that they might take rank as professional teachers. Until the directors of the various common school districts throughout the Commonwealth show their appreciation of the teacher, by demanding higher standards of attainment, and by manifesting a willingness to remunerate the accomplished educator, we may not hope to see the halls of our Normal schools crowded with voluntary applicants for their educational appliances and honors.

In the meantime, while the necessary revolution is slowly but surely going on in the minds of the people, and, by the workings of our most excellent and popular school system the standard of attainment in the existing class of teachers is being gradually elevated, we should be enabled, by means of the very low rate of tuition, or by offering it gratuitously, to hold out inducements to such worthy candidates, in each school district of the several Normal districts, as might be designated by the board of directors of the same, to attend upon a full course of instruction and receive a professional diploma. It may be said that this is already contemplated in the Normal School act, and that directors are now empowered by the ninth paragraph of section 6, "to select, after public examination, from amongst those, if males, of the age of sixteen and upwards, and if females, of not less than fourteen years, who manifest a desire and a capacity to exercise the profession of teaching," and to retain such student during the whole term of study in the proper Normal school of the district. This is very true. But while only one board of directors in the whole Normal district may deem it worth while to avail itself of the privilege, scores of most worthy pupils in each school district would gladly be the recipients of such favor. It is not their's to choose; and they wait in vain upon their less appreciative boards to act in the matter. Meanwhile do not the interests of education suffer? In view of this state of the case, would it not be wise to petition our Legislature for such modification of the Normal act, as would effectually carry out the intention of that clause?

But to return to the topics proposed first to be laid before you, to wit: The condition and operations of the institution.-- We are as yet in a feeble state, being only in the incipency of our enterprise. The school

and its designs are not yet fully known throughout our Normal district, and consequently our pupils are principally resident in that portion of the State immediately adjacent to the locality of the school; whereas, being the only State Normal school west of the mountains, we should have representatives from all counties of the western part of the State. So desirable a result will only be accomplished by effort on our part to make the school and its advantages known. Time and due diligence in disseminating the requisite information must eventually effect this. I have been enabled, by attending this fall upon teachers' institutes in the several counties of the district, to meet large bodies of intelligent teachers, to whom the peculiar advantages of our State Normal school have for the first time commended themselves; and it is to be hoped that during another year we shall receive large accessions from these sources.

By your liberty in setting apart one thousand dollars of the sum appropriated by the Legislature at their last session, we have purchased, at a very considerable discount from manufacturers' prices, quite a complete Electrical, Pneumatic and Chemical apparatus, also a fine transit instrument for surveying purposes, and a superior telescope for astronomical use; also a complete set of meteorological instruments. With these appliances we are enabled now to illustrate the sciences, and to impart much more thorough and practical knowledge of the same to our pupils.

Our model school, constituted, as you are aware, of the public schools of the district, has been in successful operation during the year. Under the direction of the permanent principal of the same, the pupils of the Normal school have conducted most of the class exercises—thus being enabled to reduce to practice the instructions received in their own classes. The time occupied in the Model school by the pupils of the Normal school, in no case exceeds one hour, and thus they lose no time allotted to their own studies and recitations, while they are acquiring practical experience in the art of teaching.

Although we may sincerely congratulate ourselves upon the numerous appliances we have, at so small a cost, for the happy inauguration of the State Normal school, we would by no means leave it to be inferred that nothing is wanting to the successful issue of the same. There are many things which seem absolutely essential to our complete success: 1st. The grounds so admirably adapted by nature, need the handiwork of art to finish the adornment for which they have been partially prepared. 2nd. A Gymnasium, with the gallery designed for similar use for the young ladies needs to be finished and properly furnished. 3rd. Libraries of books, for reference on scientific and other subjects are much needed; and Mineralogical and other cabinets cannot well be dispensed with. 4th. A barn and woodhouse are much needed for the convenience and comfort of the steward and students occupying the boarding halls. 5th. More furniture is necessary for the maintenance of good order in the ladies' hall; especially should the reception room be carpeted and properly furnished.

We look forward with a good degree of confidence that at no distant period these and all other minor deficiencies will be supplied, and our institution be amply prepared to fulfil the expectations of all the friends of our common school system.

JAMES THOMPSON, Principal

EDINBORO', Nov. 11, 1861