

88-NMI-RAM

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TIME IN SCHOOL OF PUPILS DISCHARGED TO JUNE 7, 1888.

	PUPILS.
In attendance one year.....	41
In attendance two years.....	20
In attendance three years.....	22
In attendance four years.....	18
In attendance five years.....	23
In attendance six years.....	20
In attendance seven years.....	61
In attendance eight years.....	46
In attendance nine years.....	18
In attendance eleven years.....	2
Average attendance	5.28 years.

The following address of Hon. Secretary Mott is so largely historical that it appropriately finds a place in this quarter-centennial report.

J. L. NOYES.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, 1888.

ADDRESS OF HON. R. A. MOTT AT THE CLOSING EXERCISES OF THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

I am to speak to-day of the Minnesota institute for defectives, and the growth of the departments for the deaf, the blind and the feeble-minded.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

This school, which to-day closes its first twenty-five years of active work, still in its youth, has already come to be known in Europe and America, and wherever its reports have gone, as in many respects a model institution. I was introduced not long since by an eminent man to a national convention as one of the fathers of an institution which had built the finest home for the deaf on the continent, and I think that the splendid record of our graduates is unsurpassed in the history of deaf-mute work.

Our first state legislature located in Faribault a state school for the deaf and dumb on condition that we would donate forty acres of land. We met the condition, and the location was secured. This act was approved by our honored first governor, Gen. H. H. Sibley. In the winter of 1863 the legislature provided for the opening of a school for the indigent deaf and dumb, and appointed Geo. F. Batchelder, David H. Frost and myself commissioners to carry out the provisions of the act. This measure received the approval of Gov. Ramsey, March 4 1863. No one of these gentlemen had any experience in or knowledge of this work. Judge Frost wrote me that he was altogether ignorant of it, but whatever we did was all right. He never even met us in consultation. Mr. Batchelder was a man of enthusiasm and great public spirit, but at that time a very busy merchant and had no time to post up on the requirements of the new enterprise. He said if I would do what was necessary, he for his part would cash the state warrants, which

were then at 15 per cent discount, at par. I notice that soon after he began to redeem this promise state orders were worth their face, and have ever since remained at par, a fact which I have always credited to the generosity of Mr. Batchelder.

I wrote for information to all like institutions in the country, and received prompt and full letters in reply and stacks of reports, and began to cram like a senior before final examinations. Before June 1st we had received nine applications for the place of principal. In June I visited Ohio and engaged the services of Prof. R. H. Kinney, for two years a teacher in the Columbus school for the deaf, who was highly recommended to us, and in whose behalf Gov. Ramsey had written a warm letter.

Our school opened in the old store and dwelling house of Maj. Fowler, on Front street, Sept. 9, 1863, and in a few days numbered eight desolate, homesick pupils, who had no idea whether they were consigned to a perpetual prison or were brought here to be fattened for the market. Several refused to eat at the common table, and messes were placed on the floor of their sitting room which were readily devoured when the officers retired. Several I took to my home to be patted on the head and convinced that they were with friends.

Gov. Ramsey had given us the executive advice in one word "economize," and we reported to the next legislature that we had furnished the building throughout for family and school with stoves, fuel, bedding, crockery, etc., school room furniture and supplies, paid the superintendent, officers, teachers, and servants six months' salary; paid all current expenses, one half year's rent, and owned nothing and had of the \$1,500 appropriated an unexpended balance in the treasury of \$92.20, and from that day to this, year by year, we have repeated the record. In no single year has our current expense fund been exhausted.

For the first three years I served as secretary, treasurer and steward, and often officiated as nurse. One day I received a note from the matron requiring my presence at the institution. I hurried from my office, four blocks away, to be gravely informed on my arrival that she was out of mop rags and that in all state institutions it was the business of the steward to furnish them. I told her that was a very important and doubtful question; that I would go back and consult Howard's practice reports which were good authority on both sides of most every question, and act accordingly. Please excuse these personal references. I shall never tell them in public again, and I think

that in those three years I earned the right to allude to them just once.

After three years service Mr. Kinney retired from the superintendency. He lately died at his post in the school for the deaf, in Texas. Prof. J. L. Noyes, of Hartford, Conn., an experienced teacher of the deaf in several states, was elected his successor. Mr. Noyes arrived at this place and began his work Sept. 3, 1866. For a long time he was the superintendent of this institute with its several departments, and has ever since been the executive head of this school, and to you who know him, and in his presence, I need only say that the record of his faithfulness and ability is engraven upon every page of its history.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

There is no spot in the wide world where human gratitude for our christian civilization is so spontaneous and all absorbing as in a well regulated school for the blind. There is a field for the exercise of that patience and tender love, which was so divinely illustrated toward Bartimeus upon the plains of Jericho 1,900 years ago. It will make us all better men and women to make frequent visits to this department. In 1866 a class of blind children was organized and committed to Miss H. N. Tucker. For two years they occupied a separate hired house until the first wing of this building was ready for use, when they were transferred hither with the deaf. In 1874 they moved to their beautiful home which you have seen to-day on the old homestead of Alex. Faribault.

The first class which graduated at Northfield College consisted of two persons, James J. Dow, who had served in the Union army during the war, and Miss Myra Brown. Of course they soon became one, and in 1875 Mr. Dow was chosen to take charge of the department for the blind, and for thirteen years has that first class of Carleton college presided faithfully and effectively over that home of music.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

The question of public care for the imbecile youth of the state was early considered and discussed at the meetings of our board. In 1868 Supt. Noyes reported that he had been obliged to send home several pupils because they were too weak intel-

lectually to be benefited in this school. They could hear, but could not talk, and didn't know enough to learn. In 1873 I visited an experimental school for imbeciles in Illinois, and was impressed with the importance and necessity of such a work in this state. In our report of 1877 Mr. Noyes called public attention to the matter and the state board of health emphasized the call. Public action was more immediately and powerfully stimulated in 1879 by the report that many feeble-minded youth had drifted into the state hospitals for the insane and had been abandoned. The legislative committees of that winter on the hospitals for the insane began earnest inquiries on the subject which resulted in the appointment of a lunacy commission consisting of Dr. Geo. W. Wood of Faribault, Dr. H. A. Boardman, St. Paul, and Dr. Leonard, Minneapolis, and assigning such subjects as the commission should select to this institute for experimental work.

In the execution of this new trust we received valuable assistance from the counsel and presence of Dr. H. M. Knight, the founder of the school for feeble-minded youth in Connecticut. His son, Dr. Geo. H. Knight was chosen to take charge of our work. Twenty-two boys and girls were selected from St. Peter and Rochester, the first allotment reaching us July 28, 1879. The success of the experiment was so notable that at the regular session of the legislature in 1881 the school was made a permanent department of this institution and we were directed to provide for not only the feeble-minded but for the custody of the idiotic and epileptic children and youth of the state. In this respect our act of 1881 was in advance of all previous legislative provision in this country. Theretofore the work had been confined to teachable imbeciles, who were dismissed at a prescribed age; and such of the custodial classes as had not been turned over to the tender mercies of ignorant and untrained keepers of almshouses, still blighted many a home in our land, where you might find a helpless, hopeless, shameless idiot or a confirmed epileptic, enslaving the mother and demoralizing the family and neighborhood. Our sister states are rapidly following our lead and many a gifted mother is already enfranchised to be a crown of glory to her household and an ornament to society, conscious that her unfortunate child has much better care than ever before under the constant presence of attendants trained to their task.

One step further we propose which by our new act of 1887 is contemplated: *To keep those whom we can not cure and equip for life*

in custody until they are past the reproducing age and stamp out hereditary imbecility and epilepsy, right here and now. But to render this practical I think two conditions must conjoin: First, in the constant movement of our population all the states must act together, and, second—this republic must not remain the dumping ground of all nations. We shall ever welcome the vitality and nobility of the best Celtic, Saxon, Germanic, and Scandinavian blood of Europe, but if the sewage of vice and crime and physical weakness is to pour in upon us from the east, and more nameless abominations to come in a like flood from the west, we are helpless. We can not build prisons, reformatories, insane retreats and idiotic asylums fast enough and large enough for our needs. Why not stop this our folly? I would protect the future of this republic from outside mental, moral and physical rotteness by a tariff on impure blood higher than Horace Greeley or Whitelaw Reid ever dreamed of.

In 1885 Dr. Knight resigned his successful superintendency to take up the work of his father in Lakeville, Conn., and was succeeded by Dr. A. C. Rogers, our present superintendent, who is wedded head and heart and hand to this wonderful work, with no prospect of divorce.

The duty of providing instruction in the manual arts was early recognized by the superintendent and board. The first shop was built and equipped nineteen years ago, and ever since the pupils have been required to select and learn some trade. A portion of each day is devoted to systematic work. This has not only insured their future comfort and physical development which has attracted attention, but has contributed surprisingly to their intellectual power, as can be attested by the records of the National Deaf-Mute College where our Minnesota boys have a habit of taking the valedictory. Each school is also now equipped with a modest gymnasium.

Our buildings are well adapted to their use, have mostly been built of our own stone and at moderate figures. We have suffered from no blunder, accident or failure of architect, contractor or builder. The cost of land and buildings, for all departments, is not far from \$350,000. In only one item of expenditure are we conscious of extravagance. When we built this edifice for the deaf we imagined it necessary to follow the example of other states and expend largely for the public eye, and so we crowned it with the dome which you see. We want you to forgive and admire and we will remember hereafter that the

hard earned contributions of our generous people should be expended for use rather than ornament.

The buildings are well heated with steam generated outside, thoroughly ventilated, supplied with fire-escapes, gas, and water; stand-pipes and hose on every story with outside hydrants connected with the city water works. We carry \$190,000 fire insurance generally at one per cent for three years. No insurance company has been called upon to pay a cent of loss.

The board of control for the twenty-five years has consisted of our several governors and state superintendents of public instruction, "ex officio," and the following named appointees:

Geo. F. Batchelder, R. A. Mott, D. H. Frost, Geo. W. Tower, Rev. Geo. B. Whipple, Rev. E. S. Thomas, H. E. Barron, Hudson Wilson, Luther Dearborn, Geo. N. Archibald, Geo. M. Gilmore, Horace Thompson, Thos. B. Clement, and Geo. E. Skinner.

Our old president, H. E. Barron, has rendered most efficient service to the institution for several years as its fiscal agent and superintendent of construction.

There have been received since its commencement into the school for the deaf 446 pupils. Granted either diplomas or certificates, 150; now present, 175.

Admitted to school for the blind, 112. Granted either diplomas or certificates, 29.

Received in department for the feeble-minded, 263. Dismissed as capable of self-support, 12.

Whole number of years work in the deaf.....	2,892
Whole number of years work in blind.....	470
Whole number of years work in feeble-minded.....	925
Total by the institute.....	4,287

Thus I have given a bird's-eye picture of our work in building up the Minnesota institute for defectives. Let me read a brief extract from a report made at the world's exposition three years ago at New Orleans: "Minnesota has in Faribault to-day a trinity of humane institutions under one board of control, one steward, and three superintendents, all working together not only harmoniously and zealously, but efficiently and successfully and are illustrating by practice what no other state has done, that these three institutions can be managed more economically and more satisfactorily to the state in one place and by one board than in three different places with three separate boards of trustees. The investments have all been made, the

buildings erected and the current expenses met by the appropriations made and as a rule a balance left in the treasury.''

Fellow citizens, this work is before you. No man, no one set of men, can claim all the credit. If we have been reasonably successful, it is due, I should say, first, to the fact that there has been unanimity and constant care on the part of the directors, and that a quorum has always been accessible. Second, the superintendents and officers of the several schools have been men of large view and untiring zeal, which has rendered co-operation easy and effective. Third, the royal support and strength which has been given without stint, by our government in all its departments, which to-day we most gratefully acknowledge. And lastly, the material support and sympathy which has flowed in like a river from the people of all portions of the state.

Let no man ever distrust the great heart of the American people charged with the duty of bringing light and joy to American homes. We shall soon pass away, but these monuments of the beneficence of the North Star State shall endure.

TO THE GRADUATES.

We are proud of this class to-day. During your whole course not one of you has ever been reported to us for demerit, insubordination, or unfaithfulness. You came to us destitute of language. In acquiring the art of writing, and of reading the printed page the intellectual wealth of the ages has been opened to you. The wisdom of the past and present is yours. You have all acquired a practical trade which, with good health and wise living, will insure your independence. Go home to your offices, your workshops and your farms, and begin life in earnest. Don't give up and rove around the world, "but stick!" Never make merchandize of your misfortunes, nor take a dollar in charity. Be the very best workman in your calling. Help build roads and bridges, school houses and churches and elect the best men to office. Pay your taxes like men, and avoid debt as you would pestilence and famine. Be loyal to this school and the grand commonwealth which supports it. Be at peace with all men. Love God and keep his commandments. And, each year as June comes on, drive up from your homes in your own carriages drawn by your fat horses to the closing day of this school. And as your heads begin to silver with age, take your children out under these classic oaks and elms, tell them of the old happy school life which ends to-day, and tell them that we sent down to them and you our prayerful benediction.