

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

HELD AT NORMAL, DECEMBER 21st, 1865;

TOGETHER WITH

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS.

PEORIA, ILL. :

PRINTED BY N. C. NASON, FULTON STREET.

1866.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

PROCEEDINGS OF REGULAR MEETING,

DECEMBER 20TH, 1865.

NORMAL UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, ILL., DECEMBER 20, 1865.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS convened at the Normal University, near the City of Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, December 20, 1865, at 11 o'clock A.M.

Present:—Messrs. Wells, Mayo, Roots, Fell, Foster, Wing, Taggart, Rex, Hatch, Green, Goudy, and Bateman.

Absent:—Messrs. Moulton, Turner, and Leal: Mr. Moulton being necessarily at his post of duty in Washington, as Member of Congress from the State at large.

In the absence of the President of the Board, Hon. S. W. Moulton, on motion of Mr. Bateman, W. H. Wells, Esq., of Chicago, was appointed President *pro tempore*.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of the last stated meeting was dispensed with.

Judge Green, from the Committee on Officers and Teachers, presented the following Report:

To the President of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois:

The Committee on Officers and Teachers, having had under consideration the subject of the Salaries of Teachers, respectfully report that they recommend that the salary of Richard Edwards, Principal of the University, be increased to \$3,000 per annum, and that the salaries of Messrs. Sewall, Metcalf, Hewett, and Stetson, be each increased to \$1,500 per annum, to begin with the next term.

Your Committee would further report that they have now advanced the salaries of the Principal and teachers as far as the present finances of the Board will allow, and they hope to be able to retain the services of the present able and efficient Principal and Faculty for many years to come, at the above designated salaries.

[Signed] W. H. WELLS, }
 H. WING, } Committee.
 W. H. GREEN, }

Mr. Hatch moved to refer the Report back to the Committee, for further consideration; but, after discussion, he withdrew his motion to refer: whereupon, on motion of Mr. Roots, the Report of the Committee was unanimously adopted.

Sundry Bills were presented, and referred to the Auditing Committee.

The Committee on Buildings and Grounds, through their Chairman, K. H. Fell, Esq., reported progress, and asked further time, which, on motion, was granted.

On motion of Judge Green, the subjoined letter of General I. N. Haynie, Adjutant General of Illinois, to Professor J. B. Turner, on the subject of Military Education, was read by the Secretary. The following is the letter:

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, ILLINOIS, }
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, SPRINGFIELD, DEC. 13, 1865. }

PROF. J. B. TURNER, *Jacksonville, Illinois*:

SIR:—I see by to-day's papers that the "State Teachers' Association" will meet at Joliet on the 26th inst.

For some time past I have been reflecting upon the propriety of certain modifications of our school system, of the *practicability* of which I am by no means satisfied.

To explain: The old Militia Laws of the State *are*, and have always (almost) been, a dead letter—*impracticable*, cumbersome, useless, and therefore can never be resuscitated. Any other system of a similar nature, to be effective and operative, will necessarily be expensive beyond any sum the State will probably at present be willing to appropriate to such a purpose.

Nevertheless, the Military interests of the State, as an educational question, should not be neglected. The vast amount of knowledge of the arts of war acquired in the late contest ought not to be allowed to cease with this generation, but should, in some way, be transmitted to the next.

I very well know that in 1861, when troops were organizing in Illinois, there was not one man out of each five hundred who even knew how to form a company, much less did they know aught of the manual of arms or of company movements; but now there are scores of men

in every neighborhood who are not only able to do this, but who are qualified to organize and even command regiments.

How best can this knowledge be preserved to those who shall come after us? Sundry plans have occurred to me, among others, this: That it should be made a part of the education of every male pupil at all our common schools, high schools, and colleges. If the system of Graded Schools, which I believe is considered an improvement on the old plan, shall come into general practice in the State, then each county could sustain (possibly) one high school in which regular instructions could be given, and at which the more advanced pupils, or all of them, might be organized into a military company, and provided with arms, and not only taught these minor arts of war, but trained up under a semi-military subordination and discipline.

If this should be deemed impracticable, and I should trust it might not be, why could not a "Military Chair" be added to our colleges every where in the country?

We regard, justly too, intelligence as the great safeguard of the people and of the nation,—not intelligence upon *one* branch of knowledge, but upon *all* branches. Yet it is a startling fact that anterior to 1861, while every other knowledge might be obtained at our institutions of learning, the knowledge of how best to preserve the Government in time of war had been so utterly neglected that not one man in a thousand knew how to "shoulder arms"! And it was, I believe, taught as a part of the system of education at no schools except *Government Schools*. So that when our armies were organizing in 1861 and 1862, the first eighteen months were spent in learning what could have been taught *the boy at school much cheaper*, but which had before been to him a *sealed book*.

I therefore propose for your consideration this question:

"Can a plan of Military Education be engrafted upon our present system of common schools, or adopted by our high schools and colleges, so as to be practically successful in preserving the military knowledge now possessed by the country?"

I address this to you because of your long connection with the educational interests of the State and your known zeal for their advancement, and with the hope that the subject involved may attract the attention and elicit the opinions of the various gentlemen of the "Teachers' Association."

A copy of this letter may be given to the press in order that the attention of all the members of the Association may be earlier called to it. In the mean time, or whenever you have leisure, (and it is your pleasure,) I shall feel gratified to be furnished with your views upon the matters I have taken the liberty to suggest.

With assurances of high regard and respect, I hope you will believe me

Truly your friend,

[Signed]

I. N. HAYNIE, Adjutant General.

Since the last meeting of the Board, the house has been thoroughly painted on the outside, including the roof. The tin on the latter has also been securely fastened in various places where the winds had shaken it loose. Bills for the same have been presented and paid, and the vouchers are herewith submitted. All this was under the supervision of Messrs. Hatch and Fell of your Board; the latter gentleman chiefly giving it his personal attention.

Repairs have also been made on the boiler in accordance with a vote of the Board, at an expense somewhat within the limit set by that vote. Vouchers for the same are herewith presented.

There will be need of additional labor on the ground in the Spring. Many more trees need to be set out, and the general aspect of the grounds improved.

By a comparison of the numbers for last year and for the present, it will be seen that there has been a falling off in the Normal, and a large gain in the Model Department. The first of these facts is partly accounted for by the great increase in the expense of attending the school. Those who are purposing to be teachers are usually not in the best circumstances as to money. Many earnest, able young men and women, who would do noble service in the schools of Illinois, are compelled, through want of funds, to forego the necessary preparation, even when the attaining of such a preparation may be the dearest object of their hearts. And, in the busy times through which we have been passing, young men, in particular, have been solicited in so many directions with the promise of profit and influence, that few are left to engage in teaching or in preparation for it. There has been an unprecedented scarcity of good teachers, and of recruits for the ranks. Until quite lately, the pay of teachers has not risen in proportion to the rise in the prices of other things. The profession has not been made attractive, as other occupations have been. And so, young men have not been anxious to enter it.

Now the State of Illinois is entitled in her schools to the very best possible service. And the best service always commands the best compensation. The capacity that can secure high pay in the counting-room or the office will not, as a general thing, consent to undergo the vexations of school-keeping for a meagre pittance that barely keeps body and soul together. Of late, however, there has been a perceptible improvement in the pay of teachers, so that the difference between it and other pursuits is not so glaring as heretofore. And there seems to be reason for hoping that a still greater increase will take place in the emoluments of this important office.

But this improvement, present and prospective, is not sufficient of itself to keep the ranks full of good, earnest workers. The avenues into the profession must be made as easy as possible,—not by lowering the standard of qualification, but by facilitating the acquisition of the requisite qualifications. And this not by easing the work, but by lightening the expense necessary to be incurred. The United States pays its cadets at West Point a sufficient sum to secure for them a

comfortable subsistence during their period of preparation for the army. And is it too much to say that the school-master's labor is, if any thing, more important than the soldier's in the preservation of our national greatness and prosperity? If it is a good policy to secure good officers for our army by relieving them while studying of all anxiety as to how their bills are to be paid, may it not be well to consider whether the recruiting for our educational army may not be rendered more effectual by a similar stimulus? Teaching does not promise the high prizes that are offered in other pursuits. It has its own rewards, which by some are highly valued. But to the majority of men its attractions are very meagre compared with those of business, the law, or the medical profession. To atone in part for this deficiency, it has been the custom, in some places, to render assistance to young people of the right character in qualifying themselves for the work, and thus to commit them, at the outset of their career, to the work of teaching. It is for this reason that Illinois has endowed her Normal University, so as to secure to all who are preparing for this work the requisite books and instruction without expense. But some States do more than this. Massachusetts devotes several thousands of dollars every year,—eight years ago it was four thousand, now it is probably more,—to the partial payment of the board-bills of deserving students in narrow circumstances.

Now, most of those who attend this institution and pay regular prices for board find their total expenses greater than they would be at some institutions where board is furnished in commons, and where a charge is made for tuition. Against the balance of competition offered by such institutions, we have to oppose only the plain attractions of our thorough training; and there are many persons to whom that will seem scarcely an equivalent.

Now, in order to secure to the institution the highest efficiency and widest influence, it will be necessary to do something toward smoothing the way, pecuniarily, to such as find the expense of board burdensome. This may be done either as in Massachusetts, by direct money assistance, or by the erection of a house for boarding purposes, as recommended in the last report of the Principal.

By such assistance, worthily bestowed, much good may be done. Young men who have been wounded in the service of their country, but who have active brains and earnest hearts, may thus be enabled to live lives of usefulness, from which their misfortunes might otherwise debar them.

It seems to me, gentlemen, that just now this is a highly important question. A very small expenditure, judiciously applied, will be an immense power for good. And it further seems to me that the great State of Illinois owes it to herself to be liberal in her educational appropriations. A niggardly economy, that sacrifices great good for the sake of saving a paltry sum of money, is of all things the most unwise in the councils of an opulent commonwealth. And no money put to any other use yields so sure and so noble a return as that which is

transmuted into intelligence and virtue, through the instrumentality of thoroughly-taught and well-governed schools.

Our Model School is crowded to excess, because Illinois is full of young people who desire an education, and who mean to use it as an instrument in attaining success in life. Our Normal School is not thus crowded, because school-keeping is not regarded as an occupation so eligible as others all about it. A small sum of money, it is thought, will, to a great extent, equalize the attractions. Shall it not be used?

As to the means of supplying the requisite sums, a great State like Illinois ought not to find the least difficulty. The burden it would impose upon the citizen is so small, in comparison to the benefits it would bestow, that it is not worth the mention. But, aside from this, the Board of Education have in their possession the means of accomplishing great results in this way.

I regard the question of how to lighten the burdens of those persons of worthy character but limited means, who, with a few dollars more than they actually possess, would fit themselves for high usefulness as teachers,—I regard this question as *the* one which bears most emphatically upon the success of our institution.

Respectfully submitted.

[Signed]

RICHARD EDWARDS, Principal.

On motion of Mr. Bateman, the report of Mr. Edwards was received and adopted.

It appearing that there was an iron safe belonging to the Board, which was not in use or needed by the Board, and that said safe was desired by Mr. Hatch, a member of the Board, for the safe keeping of sundry papers and documents in his hands as Attorney of the Board, said safe was, on motion of Dr. Foster, turned over to the custody of Mr. Hatch, for the above-named purpose, and until the same shall be required for the uses of the Board.

On motion of Dr. Wing, it was

Ordered, That the matter of constructing sidewalks on certain lots in the Town of Normal be referred to the Building Committee, with power to act.

On motion of Mr. Fell, it was

Ordered, That the supervision of the lands belonging to the Board in Jackson County, including the payment of taxes, guarding the titles, etc., be intrusted to Judge Green.

And on motion of the same, it was likewise

Ordered, That the discharge of similar duties in respect to the lands of the Board in Woodford County be intrusted to Mr. C. P. Taggart.

On motion of Mr. Taggart, it was

Ordered, That the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be instructed to secure an adequate policy of insurance upon the University Building, in some good and reliable Company or Companies, on the best practicable terms, and with the least possible delay.

Mr. W. M. Hatch, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, to whom was referred the Report of C. W. Holder, Treasurer of the Board, reported that they had examined the same, and the vouchers accompanying, and found it correct.

The following is an epitome of the Report:

STATE FUND.

To amount on hand from last report.....	\$5,166.28
“ “ received from tuition in Model School.....	345.00
“ “ overdrawn (due C. W. Holder).....	545.11
	<u>\$6,095.24</u>

Contra.

By amount disbursements, on 58 orders.....	<u>\$6,095.24</u>
--	-------------------

BUILDING FUND.

To amount on hand from last report.....	\$4,275.11
---	------------

Contra.

By amount disbursements, on 5 orders.....	\$1,672.61
“ “ balance on hand.....	2,602.50
	<u>\$4,275.11</u>

Dr. Goudy moved that the salary of the Engineer in charge of the heating apparatus of the University Building be increased (for the winter months) from \$50 to \$75 per month; and it was so ordered.

Dr. Wing offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the plan of Examinations for State Certificates, set forth in the recent Circular of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has the hearty concurrence of this Board. That we believe it embodies the true intent and spirit of the law, and is what is needed to organize a powerful body of superior teachers, whose influence shall be felt in the direction of the great educational enterprises of the State. That its success must depend upon the able and benevolent teachers whose views and labors are confined to the promotion of their individual interests.

Therefore, that the Principal of the University be requested to present the subject to the State Teachers' Association at its next meeting, and solicit the practical coöperation of that body in this important movement, which originated in that Association.

The resolution, after approving remarks by several members of the Board, was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. C. P. Taggart, it was

Ordered, That the sum of \$200 be placed at the disposal of the Principal for contingent expenses.

Mr. W. M. Hatch, of the Auditing Committee, reported that the committee had examined the following claims, and recommended them to be paid.

FROM STATE FUND.

To J. W. Maxwell & Co.....	\$36.90
To Frank Nolle....	20.00

Mr. Hatch further reported that the Committee found, by examining the vouchers of the Treasurer, that \$93 had been drawn from the State Fund which should have been drawn from the Building Fund, and recommended that the Treasurer be requested to correct the error by transferring \$93 from the Building Fund to the State Fund; and it was so ordered.

Dr. Goudy, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, reported that they have examined the account and vouchers rendered of the disbursement of the "Contingent Fund," by President Edwards, and found the same correct. The following is a synopsis of said account:

STATEMENT.

To amount appropriated by the Board June 21, 1865.....\$250.00

Contra.

By amount of disbursements, as per 29 vouchers.....	\$211.79
“ “ on hand to balance.....	38.21
	—————\$250.00

The Report, on motion of Mr. Mayo, was adopted.

The vaults in the basement of the University Building having been reported to be in an unsatisfactory condition, Dr. J. A. Sewall, of the Faculty of Instruction, appeared by request, and explained the cause of the difficulty and the proper remedy for the same; whereupon, on motion of Mr. Bateman, it was

Ordered, That the Committee on Buildings and Grounds be authorized and instructed to make the necessary changes and improvements in the vaults, as suggested and recommended by Dr. Sewall.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Edwards, Principal of the University, it was

Ordered, That the vacation now commencing shall be one week in length, the second term of the present year thirteen weeks, the vacation succeeding one week, and the last term of the year twelve weeks.

Dr. Wing, of the Committee on Officers and Teachers, recommended, in addition to their former report, that the salary of Mr. Pillsbury, Principal of the Model School, be increased to \$1,400 per annum, which, on motion of Mr. Bateman, was unanimously adopted.

Mr. K. H. Fell, of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, made the following Report.

The Committee on Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the repair of the Buildings, beg leave to report that they have had the wood-work of the Building thoroughly painted on the outside, with one heavy coat of paint, and with two coats wherever it seemed necessary. They have also had the chimneys repaired, and one of them taken down and rebuilt. The roof has also been carefully repaired and painted. The following are the amounts paid, and for what:

“ EXHIBIT A.”

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF STATE OF ILLINOIS,

To K. H. FELL, Dr.

August, 1865.

To Bill White Lead purchased in St. Louis, (2225 lbs. at 13c. per lb.)	\$290.00
“ Bill for Brushes.	57.33
“ Bill at Thompson’s for Oil, etc.	286.55
“ Labor (as per bill) by Murphy and Trotter.	474.50
“ 27 days’ labor at \$3.00 per day.	81.00
“ Hauling Paints, Oils, etc.	5.00
“ Labor in repairing roof of Normal University (16 days, \$4 pr day)	64.00
“ Help by one boy (3 days at \$1 per day).	3.00
“ Help by another (8 days at 75c. per day).	6.00
“ Materials furnished by Connor, as per bill rendered.	56.37½
“ Freight on Paints from St. Louis.	9.05
“ Error in Statement of Holder’s account.	3.51
	<u>\$1336.31</u>

Contra.

By 3 kegs Lead (not used) weighing 220, 223, 220, at 13c. \$86.19	
“ Umber returned to Thompson.	6.15
“ Four Brushes left over.	8.00
	<u>\$100.34</u>
	<u>\$1235.97</u>

C. W. HOLDER, Esq.: There is due K. H. Fell, Esq., on the above account, \$735.97, which, by vote of the Board, you are authorized to pay from the Building Fund.

RICHARD EDWARDS, Principal.

NORMAL, Nov. 3, 1865.

“ EXHIBIT B.”

NORMAL, ILL., Oct. 16, 1865.

C. W. HOLDER, Esq., *Treasurer Ill. State Board of Education*:

Mr. William Wilson is entitled to ninety-three (93) dollars, from the Board of Education, for mason-work done at the University, and you are authorized by vote of the Board to pay the same on this certificate.

[Signed]

RICHARD EDWARDS, Principal.

On motion of Mr. W. M. Hatch, it was

Ordered, That the Treasurer, C. W. Holder, be authorized and requested to receive and receipt for the annual installment of the College and Seminary Fund, due January 1st, 1866.

Dr. Goudy moved, and the motion was adopted, that Jesse W. Fell, Esq., be requested to act with the committee appointed June 21st, 1865, for superintending the setting out of trees and shrubbery, in Normal University Grounds.

Mr. Edwards, Principal of the University, having stated that diplomas were issued by the President of the Board to the Graduates of the Model School at the last Annual Commencement, and that, through inadvertence, the Board had taken no action in the premises, and the names of said Graduates were not published in the last printed proceedings of the Board, on motion of Mr. Taggart, it was

Ordered, That the action of the President of the Board in bestowing diplomas upon the Graduates of the Model School be approved, and that the Secretary be instructed to insert the names of said Graduates in the printed proceedings of this meeting.

[The names of the Model School Graduates, above referred to, were not received in time to be printed with these proceedings. SECRETARY.]

Bills for necessary traveling expenses of members attending the present meeting of the Board were presented and paid, as follows:

C. Goudy	\$30.00
W. H. Green.....	34.00
C. P. Taggart.....	21.00
George P. Rex.....	28.00
B. G. Roots.....	21.00
W. L. Mayo.....	35.00
W. H. Wells.....	17.50
Henry Wing.....	30.00
J. H. Foster.....	20.00
N. Bateman.....	16.50
W. M. Hatch.....	5.00
K. H. Fell.....	5.00

On motion, the Board adjourned.

[Signed]
NEWTON BATEMAN, Secretary.

W. H. WELLS, President, *pro tem*.