1898

Transition from Benefit Street Building to Downtown Building (Newspaper Clippings)

Providence Journal

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DEDICATORY EXERCISES.

New State Normal School to be Formally Opened Next Wednesday.

The building committee of the new State Normal School, of which Hon. John E. Kendrick is Chairman, will hand over the keys of the building to the Governor Wednesday of next week. This event will mark the finish of the handsome structure on Capitol Hill, the work of which was begun in the spring of 1894. The school will be open for the beginning of the regular fall term Monday, Sept. 12, and by that time it is expected that everything will be in readiness for the reception of the students.

Wednesday noon there will be formal dedicatory exercises, to which prominent State and city officials and leading educational lights from outside Rhode Island will be invited. The programme for the occasion is not yet complete, but it will include an interesting series of speaking and music pertinent to such an occasion. The chief speaker will be Hon. William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C. Others who will deliver addresses are Hon. Henry Barnard of Hartford, Gov. Dyer and Commissioner of Education Stockwell.

The exercises will take place in the large study hall, which is one of the finest apartments of the big Normal School. At the proper moment, Mr. Kendrick, on behalf of the committee, will hand over the keys of the building to Gov. Dyer, punctuating this ceremony with fitting remarks relative to the work now completed. Reeves's Band will render a musical programme incidental to the dedicatory exercises.

From 11 o'clock next Wednesday until Friday the building will be open for public inspection, this being the first occasion the citizens have had to view the interior of the structure in its almost complete form. Of late it has been found necessary to restrict admittance to only those who have business inside. At present a large force of contractors' men, janitors, engineers and other employees is at work putting the finishing touches to the interior fitting. This force has been engaged nights and Sundays, as well as during the hours of daylight.

Many of the departments are as yet unfurnished, but the furnishings have arrived and are now available to be placed in position.
increase in attendance in the Past Four Years and Percent of Pupils High School Graduates—Other Developments.

The following is an abstract of the report of Principal of the State Normal School William E. Wilson to the Board of Trustees of that institution:

Gardiner, July 30th, my sixth annual report, is the 57th annual report of the Principal of the Rhode Island Normal School since its reorganization in 1871.

With the close of this year the school reaches a transition point in its history. These 27 years will constitute a period well marked off at its end, as at its beginning and middle, by the development of the school and of its equipment. It is in the character of the school of today that the period of its development is seen. It is in the period of its development that the school is to be known.

The school numbered during the first years of its existence about 30 pupils, and its equipment, as indicated by the catalogue of 1854, was very meager. The school had no building, no library, no equipment, no funds, no honor roll. The school knew only its past and its present, for its future was in its hands. The school of 1871 is the school of today, the school of tomorrow. The school of 1871 is the present school, the school of the future. The school of 1854 is the past school, the school of the present. The school of 1854 is the school of yesterday, the school of today.

The school of today has been established under the authority of the State of Rhode Island, and has been endowed with the means necessary for the fulfillment of its purpose. It is a State school, and as such it has been endowed with the means necessary for the fulfillment of its purpose. It is a State school, and as such it has been endowed with the means necessary for the fulfillment of its purpose.

The school of today is a school of high grade, a school of high standing, a school of high character, a school of high influence.

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NEW PRINCIPAL.

Fred Gowing elected Principal of the Normal School.

In the early spring of 1897, in view of the prospective removal of the Normal School to the new building and the consequent large increase in administrative duties which would devolve upon the principal, and of his own preference for the work of instruction, William E. Wilson, who has filled the position of principal for the past five years, tendered to the Board of Trustees his resignation. It was soon seen, however, that the new building could not be made available for use by the first of September, and Mr. Wilson, therefore, was continued in charge of the school.

As the building is now fully completed and only awaits its equipment to be ready for occupation the trustees felt that provision for the organization and administration of the school in its new quarters should be made at once, and they appointed Mr. Wilson principal for the next term. Accordingly at a recent meeting of the board they elected as principal Fred Gowing.

Fred Gowing was born in Medford, Mass., Dec. 6, 1860. After passing through the schools of Haverhill, (city now), he entered Tufts College, graduating in 1881. The degree Ph. D. was conferred upon him by the college in June, 1897. While in college he taught some in evening schools.

After graduation he taught a district school in Barrington, N. H. In 1885-6 he was master of a High School in Haverhill, Mass., where he remained four years, leaving to accept the Principalship of the Mt. Pleasant School in Nashua, N. H. After one year's service he became Superintendent of the Normal School, and in February, 1893, was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction for New Hampshire by Gov. John H. Smith, which position he still holds. Ex-officio he is also president of the State Normal School, holding the Chairmanship of the committee on teachers and text books, and a member of the State Medical Board, examining and registering all physicians who intend to practice in the State.

In 1894 he entered upon a six-year term on the Nashua Teachers' Club, a high grade college preparatory and secondary school, founded by Banker Brewer of Boston at Woburn, N. H. In 1890 he organized the Nashua Teachers' Club and is still its President. He was one of the founders of the Essex County (Massachusetts) Schoolmasters' Club. He has been a member of several educational societies, including the New England Superintendents' Association, of which he has been President, and the American Institute of Instruction, of which he is a director.

A DAY OF SURPRISES.

Other Presentations to State Normal School Teachers.

As already noted in the Bulletin, the principal of the State Normal School, Prof. W. S. Wilson, was presented with a gift by the students in behalf of the students of the school.

In addition to the presentation to the principal, Alexander H. Wilson, teacher of drawing for the past two years, who also withdraws at the end of this year, was very kindly remembered in the presentation of a handsome umbrella for himself and some beautiful cut flowers for his wife. Another grateful surprise was store for Principal Wilson at his home in the afternoon. About 5 o'clock the friends directly interested began to drop in with innocent and kindly greetings. It was a veritable party and they were kept in ignorance of their principal intentions until all was in readiness, when he was called from his garden to his parlour, where his centre table was covered with beautifully illuminated, the "Warner Library of the World's Best Literature," more than in behalf of the Normal and Training School teachers, Miss Sarah Marble presented the gift.

That Mr. Wilson was deeply moved was evident in fact, voice, and the warm and cordial and friendly feeling so long enjoyed might continue as a pleasant memory.

After a brief exchange of good-will the teachers separated with the common hope that while he goes from us he will come to others to bless them with the warmth of a generous nature and the light of a noble soul.

Mr. William Gross, the junior, was made the recipient of a purse of $5 by the faculty and friends in recognition of his obliging nature and faithful service through a long period of years.
Dedicated T-day with Appropriate Ceremonies.

NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS AND EDUCATORS PRESENT.


The dedicatory exercises of the new Normal School were held in the spacious hall this forenoon. The program was an elaborate one and the attendance was large.

The platform had been decorated with tropical plants, behind which were seated Gov. Dyer, Lieut. Gov. Gregory, Chairman of the building committee, Mr. Charles J. White and U. S. Senator John E. Kendrick, Frank S. Cimmissner of the Board of Education.

There were also seated on the platform William T. Harris, State Supt. of Public Schools, Rev. Dr. Henry S. Dyer, Horace Harris, State Treasurer, Mr. Charles J. White and Thomas B. Stockwell, the building committee. Among the interesting spectators were members of the Legislature, members of the Providence Teachers Society, and many teachers.

The exercises opened with a selection, "Hymn to the Sun," by Rev. Dr. Henry S. Dyer, followed by Reveille's Orchestra, followed by Invocation and Address by Gov. Dyer as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman over the exercises.

Mr. Stockwell, the new Commissioner of Education, received the keys, responded briefly. He said: "We have been overjoyed to know that you have said that it was the school mistress. This has been the battle of our country. The song of our school system was heard at Manilla, and it has become the basis of the wealth and strength of the land. With the assurance that he has been a monument of what has been wrought during these 50 years. It is a matter of the deepest regret to me personally that the Harvard is unable to be here to-day. It seldom comes to a commonwealth to be so laid under peculiar circumstances to consider its whole. The University is not a matter of public concern, but when a trial of great significance, it was proved the first half century the independence of Rhode Island owes him, and I am very sure that I am doing him tardy justice to consider his highest honor to ever be conferred upon him.

Mr. Stockwell reviewed the work of the Normal School in this State, he said, has not been over, and the Normal School was started in a half in the old State Normal School has just closed, and the organization of work of training in the commonwealth was accepted as the duty and privilege of the State. And now at the close of a century of progress the building seems to me, is a monument of what has been wrought during these 50 years. It is a matter of the deepest regret to me personally that the Harvard is unable to be here to-day. It seldom comes to a commonwealth to be so laid under peculiar circumstances to consider its whole. The University is not a matter of public concern, but when a trial of great significance, it was proved the first half century the independence of Rhode Island owes him, and I am very sure that I am doing him tardy justice to consider his highest honor to ever be conferred upon him.

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Hon. William T. Harris.
U. S. Commissioner of Education.

New State Normal School.
The building was dedicated to-day with appropriate ceremonies.