

Harrisonburg, Va., March 26, 1914.

Hon. George B. Keezell,
President of the Board of Trustees,
State Normal and Industrial School for Women,
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Sir:

It gives me pleasure to comply with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees and submit the following report for the year ending February 28, 1914, together with recommendations for the coming year:

STUDENTS

Total enrolment of different persons since the school opened in 1909	1874	2317
Enrolment for regular sessions: 1909-1910	209	
1910-1911	249	
1911-1912	308	
1912-1913	318	295
Enrolment in summer quarters: 1910 ¹³⁻¹⁴	207	
1911	360	
1912	502	
1913	642	592
Full graduates: 1910-1911	22	
1911-1912	50	
1912-1913	50	?
Present graduating class, 1913-1914	73	61+?
Certificates awarded for partial courses completed:		
1909-1910	25	
1910-1911	40	
1911-1912	68	
1912-1913	62	

The enrolment for the present session will be less than last session, as we made no attempt to increase numbers this year, preferring a smaller enrolment owing to the fact that our buildings and equipment are badly overtaxed. The summer enrolment has shown a most remarkable increase, having more than trebled in four years. We do not expect an increase the coming summer, as we were hard pressed last summer to accommodate the very large number we then had.

It is unfortunate that the first question usually asked by a visitor is "How many students have you?" rather than "What sort of students have you, and what work do they do?" We have made every effort to use the plant to the utmost by accommodating as many students as possible; but we have reached some time ago the point when to increase the enrolment without increased accommodations would be poor economy. The new building to be provided with appropriations made by the General Assembly at the session just closed will enable us to care for our present students to much better advantage, although it will not provide everything that we now need in the way of classrooms and general utilities, and it will certainly not

enable us to increase our enrolment during the regular session.

FACULTY

During the year a number of changes had to be made in the faculty. Miss Yetta Shoninger, one of the most respected and valuable members of the faculty, tendered her resignation as Supervisor of Training, to the great regret of every one connected with the school. I am happy to state that we were unusually fortunate in securing an eminently-qualified woman as her successor, Miss Rachel E. Gregg, formerly connected in the same capacity with one of the Missouri State Normal Schools.

Miss Evalina M. Harrington resigned as Instructor in Kindergarten Education and was succeeded by Miss Mary Louise Seeger. It was with regret that we lost Miss Harrington, who was well-liked and well-qualified for her work; but again we were fortunate in being able to secure an able successor.

Miss^{I.F.} Roger, Instructor in Primary Methods, and Miss Julia Starr Preston, Instructor in School Music, who were employed jointly with the Public School Board of the Town of Harrisonburg, resigned and were succeeded by Miss Kate Kelly and Mr. Paul Hardesty, respectively.

Miss Lida P. Cleveland, who had been in charge of the instruction in piano, decided to give up the work for the current year. Her compensation came entirely from tuition fees paid by the students taking private instruction. In her absence a similar arrangement was made with Miss Elizabeth Porter to do this work.

The work of the Household Arts Department having grown to such an extent as to make an additional instructor necessary, and it not being practical to continue the arrangement for a student-assistant to do the required work as in previous years, an extraordinary opportunity presented itself. Taking advantage of this we secured the services of Mr. R. B. Shriver for part-time in this department at a comparatively small salary. This, with the increased facilities in science, has enabled us to put the work of this department far ahead of any other institution in the State and few institutions in the South can offer better courses than we are now prepared to offer in this line.

Miss Octavia Goode, Registrar and Assistant in English, and Miss Idell Reid, who had as an advanced student been in charge of classes in Mathematics for two years, gave up their positions. Mr. W. R. Smithey, formerly Principal of the Petersburg High School, was secured to take both these places, with the exception of the work in English, for which other provision is being made. The further development of the Department of Natural Science has made it necessary for us to employ Mr. James C. Johnston for full time. Mr. Johnston had for four years been giving part time to the school. I am highly gratified in thus securing for our school the full time of two of the best school men in Virginia.

At the earnest solicitation of Mr. T. O. Sandy, the Agent of

the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the Farm Demonstration Work in Virginia, a joint arrangement was made to employ a Farm Demonstrator for Rockingham County, who would give one-half of his time to instruction in Agriculture and related branches ~~at~~ the normal school. Mr. R. Hay Ferguson, a full graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and a man unusually well-prepared both by training and experience, was secured for the position. He began work in September, and in December was offered a very much better position as Professor of Agricultural Economics in the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at a salary nearly double the salary paid him here. Under the circumstances it was felt that we should release him. Since he gave up his work, on December 31, no one has been employed. As the work has many possibilities which would justify the expense of maintenance I trust that in the near future a way may be opened for the employment of another man in this capacity.

BUILDINGS

The buildings have been subjected to very hard usage from the outset, and it is remarkable that they have stood it as well as they have. Considerable expenditure is necessary each year in order to keep them in repair. During the past summer all three of the main buildings and the servants' house were repainted on the outside, and considerable interior painting was done on the walls of the halls and some classrooms in the Science Hall and a number of bedrooms in Dormitory No. 1. Considerable improvements were made at the Cottage. The most serious problem in our buildings is the plastering, which has caused us great trouble each year. On account of the continual outlay for repairing the plastering I have come to the conclusion that it would be better to gradually substitute metal ceilings in the Science Hall.

An excellent, although limited, equipment has been provided for a chemical laboratory, as well as some apparatus for the teaching of Physics. One new and one second-hand piano have been added to the equipment of the Music Department.

Mr. W. E. D. Stokes, of New York City, has recently presented the school with a handsome new incubator, with a capacity of 2400 eggs, completely equipped, and costing about \$300. Lack of building space at present prevents us from using it to any advantage, although it is set up for exhibit purposes. The poultry industry being one of great significance to this section of the State, and poultry-raising being one of the occupations that is receiving much attention in connection with the education of girls, it is hoped that some way will soon be found to put this incubator into use, together with the small incubator and other poultry equipment now possessed by the school. This should prove a valuable addition to our Household Arts Department.

The President's Residence now under construction is nearly ready for occupancy. This will give three more rooms for dormitory

purposes. I would recommend that one of these rooms be assigned to the Matron, and that a door be cut between it and her present room.

The Legislature having appropriated \$50,000 to erect a building to contain offices, library, chapel, dining-hall, kitchen, etc., I have asked the School Architect, Mr. Robinson, to present sketches for your consideration. I trust that it will be the pleasure of the Board to arrange to have bids secured as soon as possible to the end that the building may be ready for occupancy in the spring of 1915.

FINANCES

Appended to this report is a statement of the expenditures and receipts of the school for the twelve months ending February 28, 1914.

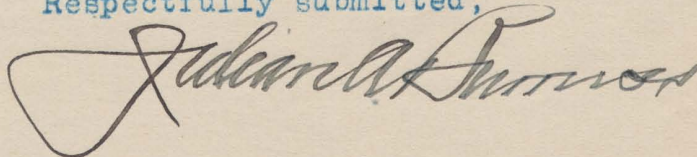
An inspection of the statement of State funds shows that the deficit which existed for several years has been entirely removed, and the school is now out of debt. The expenditures have been kept within the limits of the budget for the year.

The statement of school funds shows that the boarding department and supply room have been maintained on a self-supporting basis. The apparent credit balance is due to the fact that the bills for February had not been paid at the close of the year; but these amounts can readily be cared for with this credit balance. The aim has been to conduct the boarding department and the supply department in such a way as to charge as nearly actual cost to the students as possible.

The budget for the year ending February 28, 1915 is submitted for the approval of the Board. The budget has been carefully prepared to take care of the balances now remaining on the several accounts on the ledger, to provide as far as possible for the needs of the year, and to keep within the total amount of the annuity available.

In closing this sixth annual report I wish again to express my warm appreciation of the interest of the Trustees in all that pertains to the school, and of the kind consideration which has always characterized their every relation to myself and to the other employees of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,



President