

CANYON COUNTY SCHOOLS HOLD HIGH EDUCATIONAL POSITION

Rapid Strides In Developing and Modernizing Institutions Being Made a Nominal Costs

Canyon County schools have not fallen behind other institutions of the county in growth and improvement and the problem of providing school houses fast enough and large enough to take care of the rapidly increasing school population is almost as difficult as is that of providing residences for families. But the people of the county are determined that buildings and teachers shall be provided, and during the last two years they have built and remodeled twelve school houses, ranging in cost for building and equipment from \$3500 to \$40,000. These buildings are all constructed in compliance with the state laws in regard to lighting, heating, and general sanitary conditions. Six of them are of brick, the others, frame, the largest being the Parma high school and the Wilder school building used for both grades and high school, and the smallest a one-room frame building south of Bowmont, the only one-room building among the twelve.

Two buildings are now being constructed, one being the Sunny Slope school, a splendid four-room brick, of the same architectural style as the Huston school, and the other the South Side Boulevard, a two-room building also of brick. Both are to have full basements, finished and furnished for community use.

Built Cottages.

Two districts, after providing new buildings for their boys and girls, went still farther and built neat and convenient cottages for their teachers. These are two adjoining districts in Upper Deer Flat, south of Nampa, the Sunny Slope and Seism Schools. These cottages have proved to be very popular with the teachers

who have occupied them and have, in those districts, solved the problem, always a hard one in country schools, of a boarding place for the teachers. Given a school not too remote from other houses, two teachers, who are congenial, not afraid of being alone and who enjoy having their own home, even though it does mean extra work and the much dreaded business of finding a boarding place is settled. May we have many more of these cottages in our county in a few years!

Canyon county has 44 school districts with an enrollment this year of 3201. This does not include the towns of Caldwell and Nampa, both Class A districts, whose total enrollment is as great as all the rest of the county. Of these forty-four districts six are independent, that is they control their own finances while the common school districts must submit all of their expenditures to the county superintendent to be indorsed and recorded. An independent district becomes a Class A district when it employs not less than twenty teachers, and these are not only independent financially, but may also choose their texts and prescribe their own courses of study. Their eighth grade pupils are not required to take the examination that is required of eighth grade pupils in other schools.

Employ Many Teachers.

One hundred fifteen teachers are employed in our schools, the number of pupils in a school varying from ten each in two of the one-room schools to one hundred fourteen in the Lone Tree schools which employ four teachers. The Midway school is a close second with one hundred thirteen pupils and three teachers. The town schools are, of course, larger, Wilder leading with two hundred sixty-four pupils and eight teachers and Parma being next with two hundred one pupils and ten teachers.

Although there has not been a surplus of teachers here, there was not a school in the county without a

teacher when the time came to open school in September and several schools were obliged to add to their teaching force after the beginning of the term, because of the increase in enrollment have been able to find qualified teachers. That we have not suffered from a shortage of teachers as have some counties is without doubt, due to the favorable location of the county and the fact that there are no schools that are far from the railroad and hard to reach. Probably, also the reputation of the county for having an unusually progressive and broad minded rural class. And, too, there are only ten one-room schools in the county and it is the one-room schools that have the greatest difficulty in finding teachers.

Cost Increases.

The schools have felt the increased cost of living as has everything else,



Huston School House, four Room Brick Structure with full Basement.

but the expense of operating them for the past year has not been excessive, the majority of the districts not finding it necessary to make the ten mill levy allowed by the law. The total amount spent for instruction and operation last year as shown by the annual report of July 1, 1919, was \$26,072.85, not including the Class A districts. As there were three thousand five hundred seventy-six pupils enrolled last year this made the cost per pupil \$35.25.

There are some districts that must spend more money than they have yet spent if their children are to have the educational advantages and the sanitary surroundings to which they are entitled. There are still districts that do not have a supply of pure water, a few of the older school houses are not properly lighted, and far too many have unsightly school yards, with little or no playground apparatus.

Work Still Ahead.

The country schools find it hard to furnish proper drinking facilities and means for washing hands and faces, the Apple Valley school being the only strictly rural school having a water system and plumbing. Furnishing these conveniences is the next step toward sanitary improve-



The Splendid School Building at Wilder.

ment that our schools must take and they will not be living up to their past records if the next few years do not find all our school houses with modern water systems. It surely isn't too much to hope for.

The people of Canyon county have a just pride in their schools and they also have a broad field for their activities in improving those schools. A little more time, a little more interest and a little more money will put the schools of Canyon county in the position which the schools of the best county in the state should occupy—at the front both in educational attainments and physical equipment.

ADVENT SCHOOL GROWS RAPIDLY

Gem State Academy Promises To Become Real Educational Factor

The Gem State academy, located

at Indiana and Linden streets is one of the system of nearly one hundred colleges and academies owned and operated by the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination, about thirty-five of which are in countries outside of the United States.

The local conference, in looking over the southern part of the state for the most suitable location, selected Caldwell because of its convenient location and other reasons, among which the enterprising business spirit of the citizens figured conspicuously.

The plant at present consists of the main building and a normal building where the first eight grades are taught, and four accessory buildings, including barn for the dairy, a garage and storage house.

Three Units in Building.

The main building, shown in the accompanying cut is composed of three units or sections. In the center section on the first floor is located the culinary department. On the second floor the chapel and class

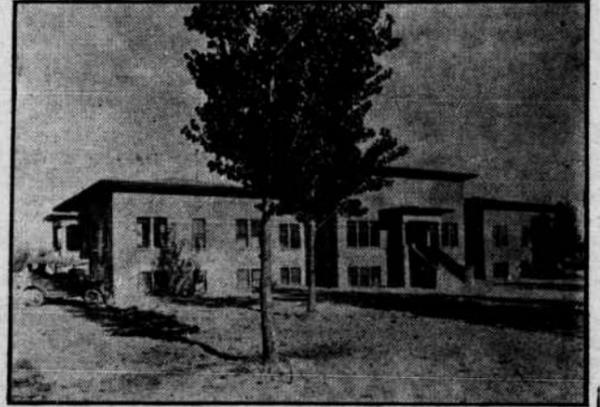
The Bible is made a part of the regular instruction, in all grades, and beside giving instruction in various practical lines of monumental work, the students who reside in the school homes do the necessary manual work of the school under the supervision of the teachers.

Building Recently Completed.

The main building was erected last year and sufficiently completed to be used for school the last half of the year. During the present summer, considerable work has been done on the buildings and grounds and they now present a pleasing appearance, though the board of managers plan further improvements and additions, till every department is well equipped for its work.

While the purpose of this system of schools is to prepare the young people for good citizenship and to train them for general usefulness it includes more than this.

The denomination carries on mission work in about 125 of the lead-



rooms for grades nine to twelve. At either end are the dormitories, one for the young men, the other for the young women who do not reside in the vicinity.

The normal building is a two story structure having four rooms for the first eight grades, and in the basement is found a well equipped sloyd and wood working department. These people believe that mental, manual, and moral training should be correlated throughout the school life of the child.

ing countries of the world and issues religious literature in more than 100 languages.

Big Demand for Workers.

To train for evangelistic work in these mission fields of the world is one purpose of these schools. Every year scores of young people who have had a suitable training and experience are sent out for this work. At a recent council a definite call was made for one hundred and twenty young men and women, of proper qualifications to go to the Orient alone. A. N. Atteberry, Prin.

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