

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY



Published Monthly by the Northwest School of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Entered as second class matter December 2, 1916, at the Post Office at Crookston, Minnesota, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. IV

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, APRIL-MAY, 1920

No. 5-6

RED RIVER VALLEY EXTOLLED IN THREE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN ARTICLES.

During the last month, people all over the United States have been reading about the Red River Valley. In its issues of April 10, April 24, and May 1, the Country Gentleman has published feature articles dealing with this section of our country. John E. Pickett, the writer, has caught the spirit of the Valley and has given interesting and vivid word pictures of its resources and its people. The people who live in the valley are all enthusiasts naturally and what they say might for that reason be discounted by outsiders; but here is a man from the outside who came to see for himself and was impressed by what he saw. Everyone living in the Valley should read these stories and "see ourselves as others see us."

The first article is particularly interesting to students and graduates of the Northwest School. The school and its work is given much space, and a fine large picture of the Fossbakken farm is used to head the story. What the Fossbakkens as graduates of this school have accomplished is cited in a way to reflect great credit upon the institution.

In this story, Mr. Pickett deals with the wonderful fertility of the soil. He characterizes it as "a huge furrow" dug by a glacial plow and filled with layers of deep, rich, soil." He gives many interesting accounts of what different farmers have been able to do with it. These interviews with prominent people of the valley are all related in a style that is most interesting.

"For the Minnesota side of the Red River Valley," Mr. Pickett states in his article, "Mr. Selvig will speak. A mighty interesting and magnetic chap with an unusual following and an interesting school under his care.

It is really not an agricultural college, but a sort of high school farm. It takes the farm boys and girls from Red River Valley and adjoining counties when they have finished the eighth grade and gives them three years of agricultural or domestic science and academic training on a well-equipped, well-managed 640-acre farm which last year showed a gross income from sales of livestock, crops,

(Continued on Page 2.)

DEAN COFFMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

The Regents of the University of Minnesota unanimously elected Dean Lotus D. Coffman of the College of Education of the University of Minnesota as president of the university to succeed President Marion L. Burton when he leaves on July first. The selection of Dean Coffman meets with general approval all over the state. He came to Minnesota five years ago and has been a dominating factor in its educational movements ever since.



DEAN L. D. COFFMAN.

Dean Coffman's first message to the University alumni is significant because of the clearness with which he expresses the responsibility all must assume in the great work to be done. The statement follows:

"I am looking forward with great pleasure to close and intimate relations with members of the Alumni (Continued on Page 2.)

COMMENCEMENT WEEK CLASS OF TWENTY-EIGHT GRANTED DIPLOMAS.

Commencement exercises of the school this year were very successful. The roads as usual were in bad condition but the weather was favorable and a large number of parents and friends visited the school and joined in the celebration of the week. Twenty-eight students were granted diplomas having completed the regular agricultural course.

The formal graduation exercises took place on Thursday, March 25. Hon. Theodore Christianson of Dawson gave the address of the day. His subject was, "The Making of an Efficient Life," and on that theme he delivered a most inspiring address.

The making of an efficient life, he said, includes three essentials, knowledge, enthusiasm, and direction. The man who would be efficient must know how to do the thing, must have enthusiasm to carry it through, and must make all efforts function in the direction of the chosen goal.

Superintendent C. G. Selvig in presenting the diplomas spoke briefly of the history of the school and its development, having reached this year its highest enrollment of over 300, an increase of over 50 per cent of the highest enrollment up to this time. He urged upon the graduates to return to their home communities in the country in the spirit of service, putting into practice the fundamental principles learned at school to the advancement and uplift of rural community life. The following is a list of the graduates:

Einar G. Aakre, Goodridge; Ellen D. Ahlm, Argyle; Arthur P. Andresen, Crookston; Henry L. Bagge, Cummings, N. Dak.; Melvin Bengtson, Wannaska; Joseph Brunell, Crookston; Morril Campion, Angus; Louise I. Edman, Alvarado; James H. Felber, Crookston; Johan Flikke, Shelly; Wanda L. Gaass, Red Lake Falls; Agnes C. Grouner, Underwood; Laura J. Jensen, Drayton, N. Dak.; Herbert E. Johnston, Angus; Ruby R. Knudson, Goodridge; Olga T. Lovaas, Plummer; Vivian I. Lundberg, Kennedy; Carl R. Narveson, Twin Valley; Martin Rud, Viking; Walter V. Sprung, Ada; John H. Swiers, Befou; Joseph T. Thorkilson, Stephen; Ella (Continued on Page 4)

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY

Issued Monthly by
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF
AGRICULTURE
G. SELVIG, Superintendent

OFFICE
Northwest Experiment Station,
Crookston, Minnesota

A monthly publication in the interest of
agricultural education and home training for
Northwestern Minnesota.



PROFESSOR MARIA L. SANFORD.

Professor Maria L. Sanford died at the home of Senator Knute Nelson in Washington, Wednesday, April 21. On the day before she had spoken at a convention in that city. Tributes from every section of the country proclaimed that Minnesota's foremost woman had passed to the Great Beyond. She was universally loved by all that knew her. She counted former students by the thousands and friends by the tens of thousands. Her influence over the lives and ideals of those with whom she came in contact cannot be overestimated.

Miss Sanford gave several addresses at the Northwest School. It was always a great privilege to hear her. She gave the following "Apostrophe to the Flag" at Washington a day or two before her death.

"Hail, thou flag of our fathers, flag of the free! With pride and loyalty and love we greet thee, and promise to cherish thee forever. How wonderful has been the onward progress of conquest through the years; how marvelous the triumph of the followers over the vicissitudes of fortune that met thee on their way. Daring men have reverently placed thee on the highest crag of the frozen North, and have as reverently stationed thee on the cloud-swept wastes of the far-off South. They have followed thee in willing service over the wastes of every ocean and into the depths of the impenetrable blue.

"Stalwart, strong hearted men have willingly laid down their lives at thy command, to guard the outposts of freedom. Millions of men, women and children have stood at attention listening for the first sound of thy need, willing to give their all, if need be, for thy defense. Thousands upon thousands of our bravest and our best followed thee across the sea, for the glorious privilege of defending the weak and the helpless, or of reinforcing the hard pressed lives of brave men who would not yield.

"Our flag it has long been known as the emblem of strength and power.

The stricken nations of the earth have learned sweeter attributes, kindly sympathy, loving service, generous helpfulness. By these thou art welcome throughout the earth.

"Glorious and beautiful flag of our fathers, the Star-Spangled Banner, beautiful in thine own waving folds, glorious in the memory of the brave deeds of those who chose thee for their standard.

"More beautiful, more glorious is the great nation which has inherited their land and their flag, if we who claim, who boast our lineage from those heroes gone, if we inherit not alone their name, their blood, their banner, but inherit their nobler part, the spirit that actuated them; their love of liberty, their devotion to justice, their inflexible pursuance of righteousness and truth.

"Most beautiful and most glorious shalt thou be as the messenger of such a Nation, bearing to the ends of the earth the glad tidings of the joy and the glory and the happiness of a people where freedom is linked with justice, where liberty is restrained by law and where "peace on earth, good will to men" is the living creed.

"Press on, press on, glorious banner, bearing this message to all the peoples:

"Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee;

Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;

Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee; are all with thee."

DEAN COFFMAN TO BECOME PRESIDENT.

(Continued from Page 1)

association. We are allies not associates merely, in a great work. We have common interests and common problems in the University of Minnesota. The problem which surpasses all others in importance, is that of keeping Minnesota in the forefront among the great universities of this country. The solution of this problem during the critical period through which we are now passing depends among other things, first, upon a critical analysis and study of the needs of the university; second, upon a clear presentation of these needs to the citizens of the state; and third, upon loyal and enthusiastic support of the alumni and friends of the institution in finding ways of meeting the needs.

"These are important matters. They will soon require the attention of every friend of the university. That they will be considered and disposed of in a manner befitting a great state and a great university I have not the slightest doubt. I have no fears as to the future of the University of Minnesota; it is secure. The leaders of the university in the past have maintained high standards and sound ideals; it remains for us to preserve these traditions unimpaired and in addition to present those constructive policies that the present situation requires. When standards, ideals and policies are right, we have the basis for a program and a philosophy upon which we can all unite.

"The co-operation, frank criticism

and judgment of the Alumni association upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of the university will always be welcomed."

RED RIVER VALLEY EXTOLLED IN THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

(Continued from Page 1.)

seeds and a few school fees of more than \$19,000.

And the school term is only six months. Then the students go home to put in practice for the remainder of the year what they have learned at school. Their professors follow them up to inspect and grade them. Most of the pupils are able to make their own way. The average expense last year for board, room and tuition, for more than 300 students, was given by Mr. Selvig as \$155. Eighty-five per cent of the boys farm after graduation.

Mr. Selvig has found many ways of getting in close touch with adult farmers of his district. A summer fair was being held at Crookston and some excellent animals were being displayed. Mr. Selvig observed that only five farmers were watching the judging.

"We must have a winter animal show when the farmers have time to attend," he said.

So the Red River Valley Live Stock association was organized, \$25,000 was raised for a pavilion, and a live stock show and sale is now held in connection with Farmers' Week and the Products show.

The first show was held last year and at it 360 animals were shown and \$23,000 worth were sold, most of them staying in the valley. The sales have been a big success. An additional \$20,000 is being raised to enlarge the quarters, which will then cover most of a block. Fourteen hundred farmers, owners of livestock, are the stockholders in this enterprise."

In the second article, which deals especially with the live stock industry, the Valley farmers are characterized as plungers who do things on a big scale. An interesting account is given of the development of the live stock industry in the valley and many very fine individual herd records are noted. The third article deals especially with the potato industry in the valley.

DEAN THATCHER GIVEN HONOR.

The University of Nebraska conferred the degree of Doctor of Agriculture upon Dean R. W. Thatcher on April 14. Dean Thatcher is a graduate of this University and is one of only three who have been thus honored. The Northwest Monthly joins in extending congratulations.

LYCEUM COURSE AT N. W. S. A.

Students of the school will be interested in knowing that a contract has just been completed with the General Extension division of the University of Minnesota for a lyceum course of six numbers for 1920. The course includes Ned Woodman, cartoonist and humorist; Hazel Bartlett, dramatic reader; The Temple Trio, singers and entertainers; Charles A. Payne, traveler and lecturer; Bertrand Lyon, au-

thor and lecturer, and Burgderfer entertainers. The talent comes most highly recommended and some very interesting programs are assured. The contract provides for a distribution of the course throughout the year so as to provide one entertainment each month.

MANY FACULTY CHANGES GOUSSEFF, CHRISTENSON AND LARSON ACCEPT COMMERCIAL POSITIONS.

An unusual situation confronts the University of Minnesota, all its colleges and schools, the Northwest school included. The legislature of 1919 appropriated the largest sum ever granted to the University and in this increase the Northwest School shared. The budget for 1919-1921 was made up in 1918. Before 1919 had passed new conditions unprecedented in the history of the school came up which immediately shriveled up the annual maintenance fund on account of the decreased purchasing power of the dollar.

It was possible to retain the faculty of the school during the year that just closed because of their interest in their work and their loyalty to the school. Soon however, offers from the business world began to come. Professor W. V. Gousseff was the first one to sever his connections here when he accepted the secretaryship of the Illinois Duroc Jersey association at a salary of \$4000 a year. Prof. A. H. Larson left recently to become chemist-manager of a powder company at a very fine salary. Prof. A. M. Christensen, pure seed specialist, was the next to go when he accepted the position as secretary-manager of the Minot Seed Company. Miss Hazel Rockwood resigned shortly after school closed to accept a position in some other school, as she desired the experience that she would gain in some other institution.

The Northwest School loses four exceptionally able and inspirational leaders from its faculty. Financial conditions in school work should be such as to retain persons of their ability and sympathy with educational ideals and aims. This is the great problem that the state is facing. There is none weightier nor more difficult. That it will be solved is merely a way of saying that we have faith in Minnesota and in her people.

New Instructors Secured.

Up to the present writing Superintendent Selvig has succeeded in securing several new members of the teaching staff for next year. Miss Blanche Lee, Grand Rapids, succeeds Miss Hazel Rockwood and Miss Bernice Nolan, Grand Meadow becomes her assistant. Mr. Elmer R. Clarke, Le Sueur, takes Mr. Christensen's former position in becoming assistant agronomist and pure seed specialist. Professor R. H. Mueller, New Richmond, Wisconsin, will assume the position of registrar and assistant preceptor on July first following Mr. Larson in this place. His wife will be-

come librarian when the school term opens in October.

Several men are under consideration for the livestock position but no decision has as yet been reached.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS BEING MADE CONCRETE ROAD ASSURED.

A number of long cherished hopes and plans are about to be realized at the Northwest School this year. First of all is the paved road, which will insure to the school connection with the outside world through all seasons and all conditions of weather. The contract for a hard surfaced road 18 feet wide has been definitely let and work will begin at once. Its completion will be celebrated with a grand opening day some time in the early fall. A great home coming is planned for the event. Former students and friends who have trudged knee deep in mud to make the journey under former conditions will form in grand procession and make the first trip over the new road on foot. Plans have not been worked out in detail, but there is every assurance that the appreciation of the patrons of the school will overflow in an hilarity which will rival the merriest mardi gras.

The federal, state, county of Polk, and City of Crookston all co-operate in providing this improvement. In addition the Great Northern Railway Company widened the bridge that spans Sixth street at a cost of about \$10,000. The total costs will exceed \$95,000.

Campus Entrance to be Improved.

The entrance to the campus will be greatly improved. The old bridge will be removed and the ditch covered. A double roadway will pass the soldiers and sailors memorial as a part of the regular ground plan. A number of ornamental flower beds will be added to the campus and the plantings of shrubbery extended. The campus driveways will be improved by curbing.

Dining Hall Being Built.

Building operations are well under way. A large crew is working on the new dining hall, which will be completed in time for the opening of school. The first floor of Stephens Hall is being remodeled. What used to be the dining room on the first floor and the parlor on the second floor will be converted into dormitory rooms. The parlor will be located on the ground floor where the kitchen formerly was. With the addition of a fireplace, this will be a beautiful room. A preceptor's office and apartments are being fitted up on the first floor to the left of the entrance.

The west end of the first floor will be fitted up for hospital quarters. These will include a nurse's office and consultation room, a dietary kitchen and two wards. There will be a movable partition in the hall to arrange for additional room that may be used for hospital purposes when isolation is necessary. A recurrence of such epidemics as schools experienced the past two years is not looked for, but in case such a one should ever come

the school will be better equipped to handle the situation than it ever has been before. Besides these general hospital quarters, there will be at least one room on each floor of the dormitory fitted with private bath for the care of minor cases.

It is planned to dedicate the new buildings and to soldiers and sailors memorial at the same time as the new road is formally opened.

HOME PROJECT WORK

1920 PLANS MADE.

1920 HOME PROJECTS

Potato is "king," if one is to judge by the interest shown in the selection of home projects. Forty-five of the eighty-six projects selected by boys, are the raising of potatoes. The predominance of interest in choice of this particular crop for home project work reflects an increased interest on the part of Red River Valley farmers in the growing of potatoes. Another reason that so many boys chose this particular project is that it lends itself so well to the working out of a summer practicum along lines of intensive farming. The student gets all the practice of soil tillage methods besides the selection and treatment of seed and the combating of disease and insect pests. The project also makes possible a good profit return for the student on a small acreage.

An increasing number of boys also selected farm accounts as a major project this year. The income tax has been a great incentive to keeping of farm records and there is a noticeable increase in interest in this subject on the part of the farmers.

A large enrollment and thorough preparation for the project work this coming season give promise of very excellent results for the year.

The selection of projects were made early in the spring term and special study was made of various projects by the group enrollment for each.

The following summary of the enrollment indicates the variety of these subjects that will be studied at home as well as the extent to which the school is making an effort to train students through "science with practice." Practically every student who will be at home during the vacation will take up some subject. Where the students are working away from home, this is impossible, but in lieu of this home practice work, these students will be given some practical work in some of the departments of the experiment station on this return to Dairy Records, 3; Pork Production, 5; Sheep, 1; Poultry, 5; Potatoes, 45; Wheat, 7; Flax, 2; Corn, 4; Alfalfa, 4; Sweet Clover, 5; Oats, 1; Farm Accounts, 7; Bees, 2; Canning 7; Drying Vegetables, 1; Clothing Account, 3; Sewing, 20; Clothing Repair, 7; Kitchen Plans, 2. Total 131.

Stallion For Sale.

For Sale: Black Percheron stallion, foaled March 24, 1916, weighing 1900 pounds in good flesh. Well bred, well built, with plenty of bone. Beautiful black in color. Come and see him and his colts. N. W. Experiment Station, Crookston.

SCHOOL MEMORIAL WILL BE BUILT IF FUNDS ARE SECURED.

Miss Esther Kroog, treasurer of the Northwest School Memorial Fund, reports excellent progress in the raising of funds for the school memorial. A total of nearly \$1200 has been subscribed at the present time and more is coming in daily. The various county chairmen of the alumni association are sending out requests to all former students and graduates in their districts and an early response is urged so that the actual extent of the fund may be known at an early date. The contract must be let soon in order to insure the completion of this memorial in time for dedication in October.

On account of high cost of material, it has been necessary to change the original plans somewhat. The same general idea is to be retained in the monument but the approaches will be somewhat reduced. It is the judgment of those who have seen the new plans that they are an improvement on the old.

It will be necessary to have all subscriptions sent in before May 15. Do not neglect to send in yours at once. At least \$3000 is needed.

BOARD OF REGENTS.

At a recent meeting of the Agricultural Committee of the Board of Regents the idea of having a Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial at Crookston was approved. A sketch of the proposed memorial and an indication of where it is to be located upon the campus of the Northwest School will be submitted to the board as soon as the necessary funds are secured. President Burton's letter to Supt. Selvig notifying him of their action closes with these words: "I think that this is an eminently wise and desirable step which you have taken and I congratulate the school upon the result already attained."

RED RIVER AGGIE READY JUNE FIRST.

The 1920 Red River Aggies will be ready for distribution during the course of the next month. The book this year is well filled with pictures, containing over seventy-five photographs of the different classes, organizations, societies and athletic teams. The art work and drawings are by Harold Grandy '15 and A. M. Foker of the school faculty. The features articles this year deal with Home Coming Day, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, and Greetings by President Burton and Dean Thatcher. In addition there will be a good spicy survey of student life during the past year. Those desiring copies of this souvenir booklet of the Northwest School can procure the same by sending \$1.50 to Mr. A. M. Foker, Northwest School.

1920 COMMENCEMENT

(Continued from Page 1.)

C. Tollefson, Hatton, N. Dak.; Clarence K. Tucker, Euclid; Willard T. Tunheim, Newfolden; Milton O. Warner, Warren; Leonard Wiberg, Lancaster; Lucile Morris, Middle River.

The climax of enthusiasm was reached with the awarding of school scholarships for the year. The presentation was made by L. D. Foskett, representing the scholarships committee of the business men of Crookston. In well chosen remarks he emphasized the practical work of the worth of the school and the confidence of the people of this section of the state in the institution and its great service to the Valley.

The Scandia American Bank of Crookston scholarship of \$125 was awarded to the students who had shown the best general diligence and made the greatest progress in school work during 1919-1920. They were:

Martin Anderson, junior class, St. Vincent, \$75.00.

Hope Jensen, junior class, Clearbrook, \$50.00.

Carl Narveson, senior class, Twin Valley, Honorable Mention.

The Crookston State Bank scholarship of \$125 was open to freshmen students only. It was awarded to freshmen students who showed the best general diligence and made greatest progress in school work during 1919-1920. The freshmen were:

1. Rosalind Friday, Hawley, \$75.00.

2. Lloyd Ness, Ada, \$50.00.

3. Johanna Nabben, Thief River Falls, Honorable Mention.

4. Ava Gerstner, Fertile, Honorable Mention.

The popular support that school enjoys from its constituency was further exemplified by the announcements that the Andover-Social Circle had given another fifty dollars as a loan to be used for the assistance of needy worthy students of the school. This donation is in addition to the similar one given last year by the same organization. It is a worthy suggestion for useful service and doubtless other organizations in the Valley will take up the plan of assisting in extending the benefits of the school to the people who need it.

Get-To-Gether Dinner

In accordance with long established custom students, alumni, visiting friends and faculty gathered in the dining hall for a banquet in the evening after the formal graduation exercises. The dining hall had been tastily decorated by the junior class and presented a gala appearance. More than three hundred guests sat down to the meal.

Supt. C. G. Selvig presided as toastmaster and an interesting program was presented. Miss Hazel Rockwood, head of the domestic science department, in a clever original program extended welcome greetings to the visitors. Her talk was followed by representatives from each of the three classes. Gust Tammy, representing the freshmen class, spoke on "Opportunities at the Northwest School"; John

Kappes, for the juniors, spoke on "Our School Life"; and Carl Narveson, for the senior class, discussed "Northwest School Ideals." Dr. Harry Hedin, '14, of Twin Valley, responded for the alumni, speaking on the theme "Out in the World."

JUNIOR SHORT COURSE

The Junior Short Course this year was a great success both in respect to enrollment and interest in the work. The emphasis placed on boys and girls club work in the planning of the course of study was attractive to the boys and girls. A number of schools sent large delegations accompanied by their teachers. Great earnestness marked both class work and laboratory work. The special conferences held for the groups planning various state contests indicated that most of the boys and girls had made up their minds before the close of the week definitely to take up club work. Ten counties of this section of the state were represented. The following is a brief summary of the enrollment by counties: Becker, 11; Clay, 3; Clearwater, 3; Kittson, 26; Marshall, 15; Norman, 8; Pennington, 3; Polk, 101; Red Lake, 3 and Roseau, 9.—Total 182.

Thursday April 1, was club leaders day and the presence of state and district leaders added much inspiration to the work. Two special features of interest that day were the canning demonstration by the Shevlin canning team, which won the bread championship last year and the bread making demonstration by the Crookston team which won the Ninth district championship. Inspirational addresses were given by George F. Howard, assistant state club leader, and T. A. Erickson, state leader. Among the county leaders present were Supt. Hans Hanson and county Agents W. V. Longley, of Kittson county, Supt. Agnes Brohaugh and County Agent H. P. Brandt of Norman County; Supt. and Mrs. N. A. Thorson and county agent L. M. Bond of Polk county; Paul Derby county leader in Becker county; county agent McCann of Pennington county; J. H. Hembre, Warroad high school agriculture department, and Miss Esther Ferris, county demonstration agent, Clay county.

Baccalaureate Services

In order to accommodate the larger number of people that would attend the baccalaureate services of the graduating class, a plan was begun this year of holding these exercises in the armory at Crookston. The churches were closed and a large crowd was in attendance. Rev. F. J. Hibbard of the First Presbyterian Church preached the sermon. "Ready for Service" was the subject, and on that theme he spoke most inspiringly. He took the life of Paul as an illustrious example and used his words "Lord, what wilt thou have me do" and "I am now ready" as his text. He emphasized the fact that the real aim of education should not be for selfish enjoyment or advancement but for helpful service of fellowman.