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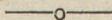


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River Falls, Wis.

THE NORMAL BADGER

Vol. VIII

River Falls, Wis., May, 1910

No. 6

Published Monthly by the Students of the River Falls State Normal School
at River Falls, Wisconsin.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION--75 cens per annum, Single copies, 10 cents.

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The Journal Job Print
Rivr Falls, Wis.

The Normal Badger

Vol. VIII (9)

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The Rebirth of The True American Spirit

In the old mythology of the north, an oft repeated story is told of an ancient hero, whose spirit revisits the earth in the time of his country's need. In Norway it is Olaf Tryggvasson, who is to return to be his country's deliverer. In Denmark Ogier will shake off his slumbers and come forth from the dream land of Avallon to avenge the right! The same legend is told elsewhere, in Portugal, in Switzerland, while in Germany it was said that Frederic Barbarossa slept in the heart of the old Thuringian forest, who one day would awake and rush forth to exalt his country to the first place among the nations of Europe.'

It may be it is the re-birth of nature in the springtime, which is symbolized in these oft told tales. But they illustrate a greater truth. In every nation that endures, there are periods of the re-birth of the spirit that made it. There are times when it seems as if the spirits of the fathers were returning to take up anew the strife for liberty and blessing. Something like this is the interpretation one might wish to place on the agitations of the hour. Is it not the spirit of past heroes returning to do battle for the needs of today?

Our fathers had great tasks to perform. Our country at first was far indeed from a republic. So accustomed are we to take democracy in America as a matter of course, that we fail to comprehend the stupendous

tasks that confronted the builders of our nation. We think we have great difficulties to overcome? So did they. Theirs was the problem of making a government of the people, when there was no such thing. So limited was the idea of popular rule at one time, that only one person in twenty-five had the right to vote. Republicans were confronted by the almost overwhelming idea that property had the right to rule, and for half a century this idea held sway, creating landed aristocracies.

Our fathers' task was that of emancipating government from the clutch of the church. There were years when citizenship spelled church membership, and only the man of a certain religious creed had a share in his country's affairs. To make a good republic out of these hereditary ideas was no mean task.

Theirs was also the problem of making a people believe in free thought. Think of a governor of Virginia publicly thanking God that there were no free schools nor printing presses in his colony! Conceive of a condition in which citizens meeting to discuss public affairs were liable to indictment for conspiracy, to fines and imprisonment! It was such ideas that had to be overcome. And more than this, they had the task of bringing together into one nation various colonies separated by difference in thought, distracted

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by petty jealousies, differing in religion, nationality, government and local interests.

But times were not lacking in men to undertake such tasks. There were those like Roger Williams, who was ready to go into exile for that freedom which he deemed most sacred; men like Washington, who forswore the enjoyments of wealth, and exchanged the comforts of a luxurious home for the hardships of Valley Forge; men like Lincoln, who put aside personal advancement to bring issues to the front, that must be met; and an army of others who sacrificed their personal ambitions to render their country service in her hour of need. What an illustrious catalogue of achievements rewarded the labors of men like these;—the right of manhood suffrage; of trial by jury; freedom from search; liberty of press; freedom of conscience, and the exercise of religious privilege! These and other victories, won at no small cost, are those which immortalize the names of past heroes and have made the name of America the symbol of liberty and opportunity.

But we have come upon times which call for the return of the spirit which inflamed the men of old. New problems have arisen. The old foes have returned in new guise. Today we are in a struggle to retain, not the form, but the reality of the suffrage. We are in danger of losing that most boasted paladium of American liberty, the right of representation. The ballot is in danger of becoming an empty shell. Men entrenched in power, through cunningly devised schemes, control legislation and elections before they come to pass. The people may be led through the forms of suffrage at the convention-hall and at the ballot-box, only to find that they have fallen into the toils of the manipulator. Does anyone suppose that representation represents? Does anyone imagine that the representatives of the people in state and nation are really concerned for the welfare of those who have chosen them? One has but

to look to our national capitol and the proceedings of the past year, to see how representatives are bowing down to a coterie of men who have become our political lords. We see sets of men arrogantly undertaking to say what shall and what shall not be done in this country.

But back of this is a greater difficulty. Behind the political dictator is the power of great business. Too often it has become so swollen with the insolence of its own importance, that it looks upon the people as its legitimate prey; seeks to control affairs to its own advantage; and even dares to defy the government in the enforcement of its regulations. The founders of this country were especially afraid of the class distinctions of the old world. They saw their disastrous effect upon society, how they gathered wealth and power into the hands of the few, while the many suffered a consequent degradation. But human nature is the same the world over. That selfishness and enterprise which made lords in the old world are raising up, in the new, special classes founded on wealth and business enterprise. Great commercial magnates have arisen, who are becoming our feudal lords. Instead of kings in America we are substituting political and industrial despots; instead of lords we are substituting coal barons, merchant princes, and railway kings.

This condition gives rise to still another problem—that of industrial liberty. The cry goes up from the multitude that they are not having a fair chance. Sometimes this is but the voice of the malcontent, but too often it is a bitter fact. Conditions have changed and industry finds itself limited by a network of relations undreamed of in the past. Monopoly is destroying many a man's equal and just right in the business world. Men have been driven from the field of their chosen occupation. Citizens have been denied an equitable use of the great highways. Public

utilities have been made to serve the purpose of special interests to the ruin of the weaker man, while selfish individuals have gathered into their hands the very necessities of life, so that multitudes are compelled to pay tribute to their rapacity.

These things constitute our economic problem. It is a problem that must be met. America is committed to the realization of the democratic ideal. This ideal has been the expectation of the past and the American of today and tomorrow must remain true to that traditional vision. But this cannot be realized by cherishing a mere optimistic faith. "Like all sacred causes it must be propagated by stern and patriotic endeavor." A conviction of these things is the explanation of the increasing ferment in American political and economic thought. There is a sense of imperiled ideals. Public sentiment is arousing to make a new declaration of independence. It is coming to realize the need of higher ethical standards. It is looking with contempt on ill-gotten wealth. It will no longer tolerate commercial methods that have been practiced. It is repudiating certain political procedures. That same spirit which "glorified the beginnings of the republic and which in the teeth of kings and in the face of overwhelming armies flung its denial to the theory that might makes right" has come to a new birth in our American life.

But this spirit expresses itself in men. Mere sentiment, though essential, is not sufficient. It must crystalize itself in individual action. Would any thing have resulted from the discontent of the colonies had there not been men who dared to come forth as the leaders of the revolution? George Santayana declares, "If a noble and civilized democracy is to subsist, the common citizen must become something of a saint and something of a hero." No easy task awaits the man who shall discharge the duty of the hour. He will hear himself denounced as a traitor

to the institutions of his country. He will be stigmatized as a detriment to business. He will have abuse heaped upon him as a slanderer of men. He will be sneered at as sanctimonious because he sets up a higher standard of conduct. Yet we are not lacking in those who are braving all this. The soul of the republic has been born again in many a man who has come forth to have his name inscribed on the hero roll of the twentieth century. Here we have men like Judge Lindsey, flinging away his political future in obedience to the principles within him; and Bryan, who, in spite of his political idealism, has won the respect of men as the champion of the right; and Roosevelt who has been figured as a "Thor, wielding with power and effect a sledge-hammer in the cause of freedom and righteousness."

It is in the West that this spirit of America has had its re-birth. The West has always figured large in the history of this country; not so much in money as in men; in ideas; in movements that make for better things. The boundless plains and prairies have bred a spirit of independence. It is here that revolt has dared to oppose the iniquity of power. It is here that new movements in legislation have come into being. It is here that great exponents of democracy in the past, such as Jackson and Lincoln, have nursed their souls on the great verities of righteousness. It is here in the West most of all that men have appeared, whose courage and patriotism make us ask if the spirit of the fathers has not returned to earth again.

But these men are too few. There is but a handful where there should be a multitude. They stand in too lonely a prominence in the Capitol, in the market-place, in the school-room, and in the church. God give us more men with the spirit of the fathers.

"A time like this demands

Great hearts, strong minds, true faith and willing hands,

THE NORMAL BADGER

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor, men who will not lie."

But the West shall not remain alone in this new awakening. Her deeds shall inflame others. Her voice shall quicken the sleeping spirit of patriotism everywhere, until it shall encompass all our beloved land. The South, already awakening to new things, will keep step with the West in this new movement. The North, which led in the freedom of the slave, shall join in this new crusade for man. The 'Old Dominion' states, historic

ground of the past, will again be the birthplace of men who shall keep fit company with her illustrious dead. And even New England, who kindled the fires of the Republic at Lexington and Concord, and gave us Hancock and Otis and Warren, shall find her soul born anew in men who shall bring back the glory of the olden days. And when strong men have thus united then shall there be neither North nor South, East nor West, but one land. And the spirit of America returned to lift above all selfish strife, shall carry us on to a future more glorious than anything we have yet achieved.

The Trip to Oshkosh

In the beginning the River Falls delegation to the State contest was rather a small one. It has been the custom here for some years to send all the contestants in the preliminary to the state contest. This year there seemed at first to be some doubt whether or not this could be managed, but the Junior and Senior classes came to the rescue and enough money was secured to send the six unsuccessful local contestants with the orator of the school. Mr. Gunning, as secretary of the Association, would of course be in attendance and Pres. Wilson wrote the Oshkosh authorities to prepare for a delegation of seven young men besides the orator and Miss Hilton.

Credit for the rest of the delegation must really be given to the Lincolnian Society, who, at their meeting just a week before the contest, decided to send Charles Thompson and Wallace Gustafson to represent them. This stirred the Aurelia to emulation and Helen Carr and Florence Ahlstrom were selected as

representatives of the society. Then the Freshmen, with customary spirit, determined to have a part in the affair and chose Violet Uhlman and Ruth Demulling as their class representatives. The Sophomores, our smallest class in point of numbers, on the day before the contest elected Edmund Ward to be their official delegate. Besides the official delegate the Sophomores had an unofficial one in Tom Bergh, who worked his "pull" with the Omaha Railway Company, and thus saved the class treasury the price of his ticket.

That completed the delegation which left River Falls on the afternoon of March 24th. There were in that company nine grave and worthy Seniors, three insouciant and egotistic Juniors, two boisterous and impulsive Sophomores and two curious and enthusiastic Freshmen. Even the Alumni were represented, "Heinie" Rudow, '08, being at hand to join us at Oshkosh. And not the least of our delegation were our faculty mem-

bers, Miss Hilton, Pres. Wilson and Mr. Packard, the last of whom, though not now connected with the school, yelled as loudly as anyone for the River Falls Normal. So there were an even score of loyal Normalites who wore the Red and White at the State Contest.

Our journey to Oshkosh was marked by nothing unusual. At Hudson we noted, standing on a flat car in the yards, a large threshing machine. This machine was all painted red and white and we took this as a good omen of the "thrashing" our orator should give the other schools. The most memorable feature of the down trip was the number of times we changed cars and the almost interminable waits between trains. At about the 'steenth change Gunning and Barker went into the sleeping car and hired a berth. Their legs were getting so wearied with climbing in and out of trains that they were afraid they would not be able to kick if anything prejudicial to River Falls' interests should arise in the business meeting next day. After they had departed we ate our lunch. When the various boxes and suitcases began to disgorge their edibles we doubted very much our ability to get away with even a respectable share of the good things, especially as two of our heavy eaters were absent. However, by impressing Mr. Johnson, of Whitewater, who is a man of great capacity, into our service, we managed to do away with material enough for fifty-seven varieties of night-mare, had we been able to sleep after eating it.

Now there were a few delegates who were rash enough to try to sleep, but they never got further than the attempt, thanks chiefly to Miss Uhlman. Never was Puritan tithing-man more merciless to nodding parishioner than she to a delegate who allowed his unpatriotic lids to droop. At every stop we were hauled forth to announce to the shivering station agent and one or two chilly looking citizens in wait for our train that

River Falls is the first stop this side of the Pearly Gates and that Spencer intended to wipe the earth with the other speakers tomorrow.

As a consequence of our all night vigil we arrived at Oshkosh rather the worse for the wear and with voices somewhat inclined to run to falsetto tones. Several Oshkosh students met us at the train and escorted us to the places where we were to be entertained during our stay. Six of the boys, Chas. Thompson, Tom Hennessey, Tom Bergh, Guy Owen, Leverett Farley and Howard Barker, were taken immediately to the home of Mrs. Morris, under the guidance of Mr. Huebner, a student who boarded there. This house became official headquarters for the River Falls delegation and later Wallace Gustafson, Fred Short, and Ed Ward also found lodging there. Mrs. Morris placed her house at our disposal and when we returned to our rooms, after breakfast at the French Club, a students' co-operative eating house, we found all the windows of the house bright with our pennants which our hostess had hung up in our absence.

After breakfast Mr. Huebner guided us over to the Normal building. From the outside this building has a rather more imposing look than our own, but when we entered we soon decided that ours was not so bad a building after all. The new wing is good, but in getting about in the old part a guide is almost as much a necessity as in the Catacombs of Rome. We will say, however, for the benefit of those who bewail the fact that River Falls is not in the front rank in point of attendance that every River Falls delegate came back more content with our own school than he went away.

After attending general exercises, which are, in Oshkosh, held the second period in the morning, we started out to do the town. Of course the first thing we looked up was the match factory. We found the building easily

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enough but evidently the officials of the Diamond Match Company were not participating in our welcome, for we were not allowed to go through the factory. Being somewhat put out—by the door-keeper—we spent the rest of the morning mostly in resting up at our boarding places for the mass meeting that was to take place in the afternoon.

We had a very good position at the mass meeting, not too far forward and yet close enough so Miss Uhlman could lead the singing with the piano. Our voices had somewhat recovered and River Falls songs and yells were well recieved. Miss Hilton and Mr. Packard spoke on behalf of our school.

After the mass meeting we got our pictures taken in company with the other delegations, at the foot of the Hick's Memorial to the veterans of the Civil War. This Memorial is a beautiful bronze group representing the three branches of the army and is one of the sights of Oshkosh. The other two are the bridge over Fox River and the streets between downtown and the Normal. There is nothing particularly notable about the bridge but those streets are worth going miles to see. Many theories have been advanced as to the reason for their abnormal crookedness. It is held by some archaeologists that they were laid out on the trails made through the woods by deer. This theory, however, is opposed on the ground that a deer trail is the direct line between two points, while an Oshkosh street makes all sorts of aimless detours in its course. The latest theory is that the trails on which the streets were fashioned are not older than the first white occupancy of the region and were made by an army mule with the blind staggers, abandoned by the garrison of a frontier post.

After seeing all the sights, we returned to our rooms. Four of the delegates were rash enough to believe they had a sufficient command of Oshkosh geography to find our

Freshmen's lodgings without a native guide but after a five mile walk decided that their knowledge did not extend so far and had to get a small boy to take them to the house. The pathetic part of it was that they were never more than three blocks from the place they were seeking.

No River Falls delegate will ever, from personal knowledge, be able to describe the actual contest. Why? Because every River Falls delegate, excepting Miss Hilton, afterwards confessed to having slept through the first six numbers, and Miss Hilton was so excited by the succeeding events that she couldn't remember things anyway. We did not sleep during the seventh number. From the time that Paul Spencer began to speak until he had made his final bow to the audience he held his hearers spellbound. His voice and gestures were under perfect control. Not once did we doubt that he deserved to win the laurels. He finished and the usual wait succeeded while the decision of the judges was being rendered. Mr. Gunning, as secretary, was the first to know the results. When he came back and took his place with the River Falls delegation there was noticed a peculiar look on his face, a strange moisture in his eyes. Of course he was urged to tell the result at once, but all he would say was, "Get ready a yell for Spencer anyway, whatever place he got." Had justice miscarried? We waited breathless as the president of the association stepped to the front of the platform. "I have to announce that the winner of this contest is"—What! we rose up in our seats straining to catch his next word—"to represent our state at"—The rest of it was drowned in a burst of laughter as the tension relaxed. Who cared then for the Inter-state?

But now he was speaking again. "The decision of the judges awards third place to the oration—" A feeble cheer from Milwaukee. "The second place to the oration—"

A somewhat louder cheer from Whitewater. "And the first place to the oration The Re-birth——" A gasp, almost a sob, and a half articulate, "We're first!" and River Falls was on its feet with one wordless, many-throated shout which drowned the rest of the announcement. "Yell something!" Gunning was prepared. "Give 'em Julius Caesar." We gave the yell—at least we tried to do so—but the "lake in the stream of mental life" had overflowed and sadly jumbled up the words until a stranger might think our orator's name was Julius and we were celebrating the resurrection of Caesar.

Suddenly some one in the back row gave an Indian war whoop, and as the aisles were crowded, led the way over the backs of the seats to the foyer where he had caught sight of Paul. The rest followed by the same path and soon Spencer was hoisted, kicking and protesting, to the shoulders of as many of the delegates as could get to him. Round the theatre we bore him and out into the street where we yielded to his entreaties and set him down.

Cars were in waiting to take the crowd back to the Normal for the reception, but most of the River Falls delegates preferred to walk. Walk? No, rather run, dance, turn hand-springs—anything to relieve our feelings.

Some of the delegation had rushed off to telegraph the word home and others had gone to the depot to see about our train, but there were enough left to give Paul another ride about the Normal gymnasium and to see that River Falls' share of the refreshments did not go to alien hands. Then the rest of the dele-

gation arrived and informed us that we would have to leave Oshkosh at 5:00 that morning, so if we were to get any sleep we would have to leave the dance and get to bed. And the delegates who knew the way to their lodgings as well as those who knew that they didn't know and were wise enough to engage a guide got to bed by two o'clock. Some of the delegates fell in neither of these classes and as a consequence didn't get to bed till just about time to get up again.

"Hey, fellows, wake up! We've only got fifteen minutes to get to the station!" Fifteen minutes! and the station two miles away! Of course we can't make it. But then we must! No time now to say even the "servant's prayer." We fell into our clothes and did the Marathon to the Soo line depot. Luckily the train was a few minutes late and we arrived just in time to board it. The Stevens Point and Superior delegations were on the same train and naturally we felt very proud as we gave our farewell yell for Spencer and for Oshkosh as the train pulled out of the depot.

The home trip will be remembered for many a day. What harm if voices were cracked and eyes would close in spite of heroic efforts to keep them open. We were glad glad, glad and we let the fact be known in the usual American fashion. One misguided individual tried to put a damper on our noise, but with the aid of the Superior delegation we soon convinced him of his error.

Of the reception on our return another writer will tell. And so here ends the account of "The Trip to Oshkosh."

The Oratorical Contest

The Inter-state Oratorical Contest held at Oshkosh May 6 was attended by a delegation of fourteen people from this Normal school. Most of these were sent by classes and school organizations, but some were loyal enough to go at their own expense. Those composing the delegation were Paul Spencer, President Wilson, Professor Reed, Miss Campbell, Ray Junkman, Gladys Wilson, Margaret Spencer, Marie Righter, Coie Winter, Lottie Nelson, Elaine Williams, Dona Taylor, Lena Sharp and Emma Kinney.

During the day at Oshkosh the River Falls delegation visited the Normal school and attended general exercises. When President Wilson appeared in the assembly room his entrance was noted by Pres. Kieth, who at once called him to the platform and asked him to speak. The exceedingly graceful manner in which Pres. Wilson responded and the bright, appropriate remarks he made, sent a thrill of pride through his constituents. In the afternoon a reception for the visiting teachers and speakers was given at the Normal, after which the group from River Falls secured an open rig and drove about town, rousing the streets with their songs and gay banners. In the evening a dance was given for our entertainment in the Normal gymnasium.

The contest, which was held at the Opera House, was an exceptionally strong one. Five speakers from as many states were present with orations and delivery which were of such excellence as to win out in contests similar to those through which our speaker had passed.

The speakers, their orations, and the states they represented were as follows:

First place—F. E. Brown, Emporia, Kansas, "America's Desert Dwellings."

Second place—Paul Spencer, River Falls,

Wis., "The Rebirth of the True American spirit."

Third place—Clyde Harbison, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, "The Industrial Conflict."

Fourth place—Hayes Fuhr, Macomb, Ill., "America and the Spirit of Conquest."

Fifth place—Miss Ethel Dryden, Iowa State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls, Iowa, "A Soldier of Circumstance."

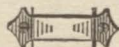
The judges who gave the decision at the contest were Prof. H. D. Densmore, Beloit, Wis.; Fletcher Dobyns, Chicago; H. B. Fisher, Geneseo, Ill.; Prof. Garnes, Appleton, Wis.; Prof. J. B. Cleveland, Muskegon, Mich.

A paragraph printed in the local Journal which reflects the sense of an article in one of the papers from one of the larger cities of the state is interesting and to the point. It is as follows:

"It was an exceptionally strong contest and Mr. Spencer deserves great credit for winning one of the prizes. Mr. Brown's oration was well developed and contained many strong points, but his delivery was far excelled by Mr. Spencer and as the latter's oration was fully as strong as any presented, there was general surprise manifested throughout the audience when the decision of the judges was announced. A vote of the audience would have undoubtedly given Mr. Spencer first and Hayes Fuhr, of Illinois, second."

The prizes given at the Inter-state contest are two: one of a gold medal and fifty dollars to the speaker given first place; and one of a silver medal and thirty dollars to the speaker given second place. Mr. Paul Spencer took the second of these prizes, which marked for him the close of one of the finest experiences that can come to a young man during a Normal school or college course.

Alumni News



The following graduates and undergraduates attended the joint meeting of the Pierce and St. Croix County Teachers' Association held at River Falls, Wis., April 30. 1910: Alice Clark, of Ellsworth; R. J. C. Chinnock, of Roberts; Lettie Bonnes, of Roberts; Jeane Murry, of Roberts; Mr. Victor McCardle, Marjorie Christ, Sara Morrow, Esther Peterson, Nancy Seeger, Laura Sturtevant, Blanche Flesher, Helen Turnquist and Nancy Nelson.

At the joint meeting of the Pierce and St. Croix County Teachers' Association, Supt. Aune spoke on "Preparation of Rural School Teachers." He said, "More teachers fail because of lack of academic training than from lack of professional training." His plea was for more academic work as a preparation for teaching.

Mr. Mattson gave a discussion on "Diploma Papers." These are some of the questions and answers:

What is the Monroe Doctrine?

The Monroe Doctrine is that all men are created equal and free and rich.

What was the Dred Scott decision?

Dred Scott went to another country, left his wife, got caught and hung.

Compare the settlements of the Colonies.

Massachusetts was settled by the French, Pennsylvania by the Dutch for freedom of religion and to worship God which did not last long.

What was the result of the Spanish-American War?

America came out ahead in the war. Spain promised not to do it again.

Name the county officers.

Chairman, door-keeper and sergeant at arms.



Lloyd Merrihew spent his Easter vacation at home in River Falls.

Miss Eva White recently spent a few days at home. She is a student at the University of Wisconsin.

Mrs. Nilson and children are visiting with Mrs. Nilson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon, at River Falls.

Wm. Hodge visited his mother during

the Easter holidays.

Helen Truesdell who is a student in Wisconsin University, attended the grand opera at Milwaukee. She was a guest of Mrs. Constance Thorson.

Announcement has been received of the marriage of Miss Nellie De Young and Mr. McGray Wilkinson on March 22, 1910.

Locals

SOPHOMORE NOTES

Jessie Michelson and Dora Greeley have resumed their duties again.

Victor McCardle, desiring a change in school work, accepted a position as teacher in a rural school near Ellsworth.

Laura Kopp and Margaret Deiss withdrew at the end of the third quarter and intend to stay at home this spring.

Lu Gardiner is teaching at Hager City.

Edson Condit remained at home the first part of the term. He is taking (senses) census.

A few of our people are trying their skill at practice.

After a rest of two weeks the sophomore rhetorical are resumed. Many are lamenting over the fact that, although the length of time in which to prepare them has shortened, the number of rhetorical remains the same.

A new line of work has been established in the school management class:—Cooling the "soles."

Does the air in the class room always need oxygen when Bessie is sleepy?

FRESHMEN NOTES

Mr. M.—What is the difference between Halley's comet and Mr. G.?

Mr. V.—Couldn't say. What is it?

Mr. M.—Halley's comet comes only once in seventy-five years and Mr. G. comes every night.

SENIOR NOTES

A great many of the Seniors have secured positions for next year.

Those chosen from our class to go to Oshkosh were Margaret Spencer and Lotta Nelson.

The Seniors had a little surprise party on May 2nd, when they were handed examination questions in arithmetic, made out by the regents. They wrote on geography and grammar also. The regents will be here the 26th of May and personally conduct further examinations, as is their custom.

The play that our class has decided to give is "She Stoops to Conquer," and now that Miss Schlosser is here to take charge, we hope to make rapid progress in getting the parts and practicing it.

The Seniors entertained the Juniors on Friday evening, April 29, at a dancing party in the gymnasium. Music was furnished by Violet Uhlman, pianist, Mr. Owen, violinist, and Mr. Seigert, cello player, which was enjoyed and appreciated by all present. Refreshments were served consisting of ice-cream and wafers. Everyone had a very enjoyable time.

The Misses Alice Richards, Ethel Sanderson and Hazel Dickeson have resumed their school work and are at present active members of the Senior class.

The following Seniors have had the honor and privilege of doing substitute work in the grades of the local public school: John Gunning, Leveret Farley, Guy Owen and Elmer B. Young. Miss Jessie Wedin was granted the same privilege in Grantsburg.

A party of young ladies from the Senoir and Junior classes, consisting of the Misses Josephine Cripps, Jennie Rowcliff, Violette Sanderson, Florence Meath, Patricia Hawkins and Lorena Steiner, drove to Hammond to the Senior Class play April 22. Notwithstanding the fact that a light snow was falling and that two of the girls wore toe slippers, they arrived in Hammond in high spirits at 8:10 p. m. After the entertainment one of the girls was heard to say, "If our class play is as good as this one we shall be touring the state next year." The remainder of the evening was spent at the home of Miss Patricia Hawkins, where they were royally entertained. At ten o'clock the next morning the girls started on their homeward drive, each trying to out-voice the other in the exclamation, "I had the time of my life."

Have you noticed how the Seniors delight in the joys of their many examinations? One reason for this is that they never make a failure.

RHETORICALS

An interesting Junior program was given March 16.

William O'Connell appropriately gave an account of Saint Patrick.

Miss Anna Murphy told of the life and work of Judge Ben B. Linsey in which she gave an account of the Petty Larson case.

In her account of the life and works of Alice and Phoebe Cary, Margaret Spencer recited "An Order for a Picture," by Alice and "An Old Man's Darling," by Phoebe Cary.

Miss Sara Morrow described the New Boston museum of fine arts.

On March 23 another Junior program was given. Edmund Ward told of "The opening of the great Northwest." Grace Mower described "The Tainter Memorial

building at Menomonie," which was erected in memory of Mabel Tainter. Mary Peterson enumerated some of the Winners of the Nobel prize. Alice Poulter told of the work of Mrs. Crane in civic improvement. Ada Tabor gave an interesting history of the River Falls Normal school. The value of Manual Training in the public school was set forth by Karl Rudow.

March 30 the seniors gave an alphabetical program.

Winnona Taylor gave the evolution of the alphabet.

Margaret Spencer told some stories of the A B C's, which she illustrated on the blackboard.

Marie Righter explained the Visible Speech or Sign Language of the deaf and dumb.

Jessie Smith set forth some of the Recent Advances in Reform Spelling.

Marjorie O'Hearn gave an interesting story from Kipling entitled "How the Alphabet was made," which she illustrated with blackboard drawings.

On April 6 a Junior program was given. The first number, "Long distance Alphabets," by Charles Thompson, was a continuation of the program for March 30.

William Sanford gave an interesting account of life in a Wisconsin Lumber Camp.

Florence Meath explained the value of humor in the school room.

The life of Eugene Field was given by Miss Merle Shepard.

Miss Francis Ryan described the Wisconsin Military Encampment.

THE NORMAL BADGER

April 27 a program was given by the Juniors. The first number was Gerard College, by Miss Rachael Taggart. She gave a good description of the work of Stephen Gerard in Philadelphia and described the Gerard College, which is a memorial to Stephen Gerard.

Katherine Splan told us "How to Cele-

brate a sane Fourth of July." She set forth the irrational way of celebrating the Fourth of July.

The life of the famous lecturer, Charles Farrar Brown or Artemus Ward, was related by Flossie Strait. Miss Strait told one of his Norman stories which were intensely interesting.

Now that the oratorical contests are over, we are called upon briefly to review the work of the present year and to look toward the future. We have done much that is worth while. We went into this contest business with downright seriousness, held what was doubtless the strongest local contest this school has yet had, battled our way to first place in the state contest, and in the face of adverse circumstances took second honors in the inter-state contest. Something worth achieving has been done. Our orator has put the name of his school high in ora-

torical honors. But if this year's success is to be of the utmost value we must make it stimulate us to sustained efforts in oratory. Those who took part in the local contest so creditably may well emulate the example of the successful orator, and with firm purpose and diligence, prepare winning orations for next year. Indeed, it seems to us, that the outlook for future success in oratory has never been so promising as at the present time. Let us begin *now* to win the next state contest.

Exchanges

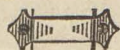
"All the orators seemed very evenly matched. The winner was the last number on the program and, considering his place, he held the audience spell-bound. His oration was one of the strongest ever delivered at any contest." This is what our sister normal at Platteville says.

"Yes, she became insane through excessive dancing."
Sort "of hopping mad, I suppose."

"The Normal Advance" is a welcome paper. Your cover is very suggestive.

Teacher in Physiology—"Willie, what is the name of the teeth we get last?"
Willie—"False ones I suppose."
Some things we are waiting for are:
A fountain pen that will not leak;
A pair of patent leather shoes that will not pinch;
Barkless dogs;
A laundry that will not put saw edges on the collars;
Scratchless chickens;
Thawless ice in summer and freezeless water in winter.

County School News



ST. CROIX COUNTY

By Supt. H. A. AUNE

A fairly good representation of St. Croix County teachers attended the joint association held at River Falls Normal School building Saturday, April 30th.

The common school diploma examinations are held on two successive Saturdays,—May 14 and 21. Between two hundred and three hundred pupils are expected to appear at these examinations.

The common school graduating exercises will be held at Hammond, Saturday, June 18.

Eight hundred sixty-eight boys have enrolled in the St. Croix County Boys' Corn Club, and will compete in the cornrowing contest during the summer.

State Graded School Inspector, W. H. Hunt, of Madison, spent the first week of May in company with the County Supt., inspecting the state graded schools of the county.

A new school district has been organized in the town of Forest, and a modern school building will be erected during the summer.

PIERCE COUNTY

OSCAR F. MATTSON, County Supt. of Schools

The spring diploma examinations will be conducted on the afternoon of May 28th and on June 4th. This is a little earlier than usual but I believe it will be more satisfactory. Over 200 diploma applicants showed up at the February examination.

Twenty-two teachers' certificates were

granted at the spring examinations. A large number of applicants wrote for standings only.

There were ten changes among the teachers in the country school this spring. Grace Peabody, Victor McCardle, Lu Gardiner and Mattie Laughnan came from the Normal.

Humor



Two in a hammock
Tried to kiss,
Quickly landed
'sht æk! tsnf

"Some time ago several people six stories high lost their lives in the city because nobody could get up to reach them."

Such was the information imparted to a group of students by one of the faculty.

Grammar Teacher—Change the verb in this sentence to the past tense, "The glacier

flows."

Student—"The glacier flew."

Grammar Teacher—Give the principal parts of "bring."

Student—"Bring, brang, brung."

Grammar Teacher: Give the principal parts of (h)old""

Pupil—"Old, older, oldest."

Well, I'll have to take my heart (Hart) to school tomorrow. I haven't had it for two or three days.

THE NORMAL BADGER

15

BEING SHREWD

In a practice class one day a teacher had been telling the pupils that Robin Hood was a shrewd fellow. The teacher looked at a boy who was holding a rubber under his book apparently, he thought, hidden.

Teacher—"Put the rubber away, Willie."

Willie—"Say, was that a time when you were shrewd? I thought you didn't see it."

Student—(Kommt um 9:30 in die deutsche Stunde hinein tritt gleich ans Lehrepult und Spricht—:) Gestern war es für mich ganz unmöglich, in die Schule zu

kommen.

Lehrerin—Nun, das war doch schade—
'tut mir leid. Was ist dem los gewesen?
Wieder et was mit dem Hals?

Student—(Fällt ihr in die Rede) Nein—
ah—a—nein—mit dem Herz."

Twinkle, twinkle little comet,
For all past sins I sing a sonnet,

Won't I wish I hadn't done it?
When upon the eighteenth day

Of this pleasant month of May,
I am knocked off into space,

I just wonder who'll inhabit this old place?



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