

for the dormitories, thus saving present expense for schoolrooms, which are placed in the lower story.

At the time of the last report to the association, April 30 of the present year, the school was in operation with eighteen pupils, with a prospect of having the full quota of fifty as soon as its equipment is complete.

Mr. Bond reports the Crow children at the school as docile, affectionate, intelligent, and happy under their new surroundings. They are quick to learn, and interested in their studies and in their occupations. They are to be taught, under the contract with the Indian Bureau, the various industries which will fit them for the duties of civilized life. One of three boys who had run away, and who, as the ringleader, was refused permission to return, offered to submit to punishment if only allowed to come back.

An interesting feature of the work at this school is, that, of the six teachers and officers in charge, three are Indians who have been students at Carlisle and Hampton.

It is intended to add a kitchen, blacksmith-shop, carpenter-shop, and slaughter-house. The slaughter-house is a necessary adjunct of an Indian school, in order that the Indian boys may be taught how to kill animals for food mercifully, and also how to cut them up scientifically instead of hewing and hacking them as they now do.

The curriculum is not yet completely systematized, but probably half the time will be given to industries, and half to the schoolroom exercises. The industrial training will include blacksmithing, carpentry, farming, and butchering for the boys, and house-work, sewing, and cooking for the girls. The outlook for the school seems excellent, and, if the hands of the teachers are upheld by sufficient funds, an excellent work will be accomplished.

THE NEW JERSEY TEACHERS' READING-CIRCLE.

THE results of the first year's work of the New Jersey teachers in the reading-circles call for the highest commendation, and indicate a thorough organization and faithfulness on the part of the members.

The plan of organization, and methods of work, should be known in every State: in fact, the Board of Control in New Jersey is glad to inform other reading-circles of its successes and methods in reciprocity for information kindly sent when their organization was in its incipency.

The committee on constitution sent to all the States in the Union having reading-circles, then numbering thirteen, and received much information which greatly aided them in formulating their report. The result was an organization differing materially in some essential points, and yet containing good ideas from many States. The features that have contributed to its success are the following:—

I. *The Board of Control.*—The election of this board was peculiarly fortunate. It consists of four officers, the State superintendent being president, and one director from each congressional district, thus affording complete representation. The work of the board is intrusted to the following committees: 1. Finance, 2. Course of Reading and Books, 3. Circulars and Printing, 4. Certificates and Diplomas, 5. Local Management. A great part of the success of the circle is due to the last-named committee. Its duties are to supervise the work throughout the State, appoint local managers, instruct them in the work, encourage the formation of local circles and the enrolment of members, hold meetings of managers and members, send speakers to county associations and institutes, and keep up the interest and enthusiasm in the State. Another very important part of the work of this committee, which has contributed very much to the success, is the intimate communication with the local managers in cities and counties, which is carried on by the secretary, Mr. B. C. Gregory of Newark, who has done more work than all the other members of the Board of Control put together. He is an indefatigable worker, an accurate statistician, a skilful organizer and administrator, and an enthusiast on reading-circles, being a Chautauquan, and the secretary also of the Chautauqua Teachers' Reading-Union. This tribute is due to Mr. Gregory, because the New Jersey circle could not have attained such success without him.

The committee on local management divided the State into dis-

tricts, to be supervised by the members of the board. By this means the work was easily pushed and encouraged. Where the best results have been attained, much credit is due to the county superintendents who have co-operated with the committee in spreading information and encouraging the local circles. Where work has been done, it was well done. Unfortunately there are a very few counties where the county superintendents are dead educationally, and the committee have not had time yet to push their work.

Another very important work of this committee has been the district meetings. Soon after the circle was organized, meetings of city and county managers were held in four central places for the purpose of giving instruction and for conference. During the last spring another series of meetings was held in six central places, when all members and friends of education were invited. At each meeting an address was given by some distinguished educator, in addition to the addresses of the chairman and secretary and the reports of local managers. These meetings resulted in much good in unifying the work and cementing the bond of common interest.

The duties of the other committees are essential, but do not come into relation with the organization.

II. *The County and City Boards of Managers.*—The duties and responsibilities of the local managers, city and county, are very important, and the success of the work depends very much upon them; in fact, no success can be looked for except through them. They must enrol members, encourage meetings, and keep the work moving. They must arrange programmes, direct the method of reading, and keep up the enthusiasm.

III. *The Local Circles.*—Experience shows that the work cannot be successfully carried on without meetings and local circles. It is impossible for the majority of teachers to pursue a course of reading alone. They need the inspiration of numbers, a proper comprehension of the matter; and the fullest appreciation of it depends upon discussion, analysis, and amplification. The cities and counties that show the best results have maintained regular meetings.

IV. *The Course of Reading.*—In making the courses of reading, the Board of Control, appreciating the needs of the teachers, provided professional works, embracing the history, principles, and methods of teaching, and reading of a general character, including history and literature. The books are arranged in groups, which enables members to select a purely professional course or one partly professional; but no selection can be made by the omission of a single educational work.

The object of the reading-circle is to induce teachers to continue systematic study in these lines, and it has put into their hands some of the best educational literature available. The course is attractive, entertaining, and inspiring.

The second year's course is now being read, and the third year's course has been arranged. Both provide for professional and general reading. The popularity of the course, and the success of the work, may be seen by the fact, that, out of about 3,250 teachers in the public schools of the State, the secretary reports 1,980 members of the reading-circle. The State superintendent says that its influence is being felt in the remotest districts, and that it has created a greater interest in education than has ever before been known in the State.

C. E. MELENEY.

EXPLORATION AND TRAVEL.

Prejevalsky's Journeys in Central Asia.

UP to the last few years, our knowledge of Central Asia was extremely deficient. Though in the middle ages many travellers crossed the arid highlands of Mongolia and Tibet, among them the famous Marco Polo, though numerous reports on the routes followed by the Chinese silk-caravans exist, the geography of that region was actually unknown. It is only of late years that scientific travellers succeeded in entering Central Asia; and among them Prejevalsky, the Russian general, is most prominent from the extent of his journeys and the valuable results of his expeditions. His most important discovery is that of the mountain-range connecting the Nan Shan system with the western Kwen Luen, which feeds the Khotan and Yarkand Rivers. He proved that the Kwen Luen