

eral circulation of the atmosphere in Australia and around the south pole. D. T. Maring, "The New Jamaican Weather Service," refers to the reorganization of the Jamaica weather service under Maxwell Hall.

R. DeC. WARD

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

*CONFERENCE OF STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS IN THE MIDDLE WEST*

ONE of the greatest movements in education in the nineteenth century was the establishment of state universities. The development of these institutions promises to be most significant in the twentieth century. President Harper's sentiment, expressed shortly before his death, that no matter how liberally the private institution might be endowed, the heritage of the future, at least in the west, was to the state university, received confirmation from statistics made up in connection with the conference of the presidents of fifteen state universities in the middle west, held at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, October 31 to November 2.

The institutions in the group are the following: Ohio State, Indiana, Purdue, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma—the heads of public school systems having an aggregate school attendance of 4,573,631. All but Illinois and Missouri were represented by their presidents at the Iowa City conference, which was the fourth triennial meeting of this group of presidents. The total attendance at the fifteen state universities in 1906–7 was 34,770, or some 6,000 more than the number of students in attendance at fifteen representative eastern universities and colleges.¹

¹ The eastern institutions taken for comparison were Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Wesleyan, Brown, Dartmouth, Amherst, Williams, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley and Vassar. The institutions were selected not

Still more striking is the result of a comparison with the attendance of the same institutions ten years ago. The attendance at the fifteen state universities in 1896–7 was 16,414. The increase in a decade has been 112 per cent. The attendance at the fifteen eastern universities and colleges in 1896–7 was 18,331, while in 1906–7 it was 28,531, giving an increase of but 56 per cent., or just half the percentage of increase shown by the state universities. Looking at the figures in another way, in 1896–7 the representative eastern schools were 2,000 ahead of the group of state universities in attendance, while in 1906–7 they were 6,000 behind.

Thinking that the difference shown might be sectional—the Mississippi Valley against the east—instead of a difference in favor of the state institutions, a further comparison was made between the attendance at the state universities and that at the same number of representative private institutions in the states of the middle west² and it was found that these private institutions showed an increase of 58 per cent. in attendance during the past decade as against 56 per cent. in the eastern institutions, and 112 per cent. in the state universities.

The preceding conferences were held at the University of Wisconsin in 1897, at the University of Illinois in 1900, and at the University of Missouri in 1903. Upon

only as representative but as combining universities, colleges and women's colleges, because a few of the state universities are as yet substantially in the college state and because all are coeducational.

² The institutions taken for this comparison were Northwestern University, Drake University, Oberlin College, Washington University, Ripon College, Hillsdale College, De Pauw University, Hamline University, Colorado College, Washburn College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Western Reserve University, Fargo College, Dakota Wesleyan University and Yankton College.

invitation by President Angell, the next meeting will be held at Michigan.

The most prominent men at the conference were President Angell, of Michigan, with his long record of forty-eight years in educational work, including thirty-six years in the presidency of Michigan; and President Northrop, of Minnesota, for twenty-one years a Yale professor, and for twenty-three years president of the University of Minnesota. The average age of the men in the conference was 56 years; the average length of their service in educational work, 29 years; the average length of their service in college presidencies, 14 years, while their average length of service in their present positions has been 11 years. It is of some interest to note also that seven of these state university presidents of the middle west were natives of New England, and none of them were born west of the Mississippi.³ Though the majority were graduates of small colleges, it was remarked that with a single exception they also had been students in other institutions, and among the American and European universities represented Yale led with four men.

The conference was informal, taking up in free discussion various problems which are uppermost in university administration in this section of the country. It was noticeable that whereas the first conference

of this group of presidents was occasioned largely by athletic and football questions, these questions did not have to appear upon the program of this last conference.

One of the first questions considered was the securing of retiring allowances for state university professors by the inclusion of the state universities in the benefits of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The presidents were unanimous and emphatic in their expression of the belief that the state universities and their professors were as justly entitled to the benefits of the retiring allowances provided by the Carnegie Foundation as were the professors in any other institutions; and that any exclusion of the state universities from these benefits was an unjustifiable discrimination. In accordance with this view, they will recommend to the National Association of State Universities that that association renew its request that the state universities be admitted to the full benefits of the pension fund.

The presidents were of the further opinion that if the trustees of the foundation could not see their way clear at this time to admit the state universities to the full benefits of the foundation permanently, they be urged to admit them for a period of at least fifteen years, and to enlarge their present gratifying policy of dealing with individual meritorious cases in these institutions.

The function of the university in religious education was another question that elicited a great deal of interest and discussion, which resulted in practical concurrence in the following statement of President Baker, of Colorado:

I believe that the churches should not have the exclusive right to discuss religious questions; that the state universities should have the privilege of teaching the Bible as literature, philosophy, psychology and ethics; of teaching the history of religion and kindred subjects; that on historical and scientific and psychological grounds

³ Those in attendance at the conference at Iowa City were Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews of Nebraska, President James B. Angell of Michigan, President James H. Baker of Colorado, President David R. Boyd of Oklahoma, President William L. Bryan of Indiana, President F. B. Gault of South Dakota, President George E. MacLean of Iowa, President Webster Merrifield of North Dakota, President Cyrus Northrop of Minnesota, President W. E. Stone of Purdue, Chancellor Frank Strong of Kansas, President W. O. Thompson of Ohio State, and President Charles R. Van Hise of Wisconsin. President E. J. James of Illinois and President R. H. Jesse of Missouri were detained at the last moment.

the question of belief in God and of the efficacy of prayer should be freely discussed before students; that there should be a deepening of the philosophical, ethical and art thought and feeling of the country; and that the foundation work along these lines should be laid at the state universities.

The example of the establishment of a college of education in the University of Minnesota by the legislature, upon the request of the teachers and normal schools of the state, for the purpose of training teachers for the high schools and the colleges, and complementing in advanced research work the normal schools, was unanimously approved as a solution of the question of the relation of the state universities to state normals.

The other questions before the conference were of local interest chiefly, and would not concern the country at large.

The national note, inherent in the very constitution of a state university, was struck in the following remarks made by President Northrop at the convocation of the University of Iowa held in honor of the visiting presidents:

Nothing else in the work of education has so interested me as the magnificent advance which the south is making in education. Under adverse circumstances, in the face of great difficulties, the educators of the south are showing a zeal and enthusiasm in their work, which can hardly be equaled elsewhere, and the fruits of which are most apparent and satisfactory. If there is any one thing that I especially long for, it is to see the national spirit revived everywhere, and north and south, alike, responding to the national sentiment, symbolized by our flag, and we can not have this unless we have ideals and purposes and plans somewhat in common.

And in no other department in life is it possible for us to have such ideals and purposes in common to so large a degree as in the work of education. In this, north and south are seeking the same results by like methods and it is possible for us all to have hearty sympathy in our work.

I appeal to you all, my brethren, representing, as you do, the educational forces in the great valley of the Mississippi, from Ohio to Colorado

—I appeal to you to assist and cheer and encourage our brethren of the South in every way you possibly can, in the interest of a truer union, a nobler patriotism, and a larger and more helpful education.

GEORGE E. MACLEAN

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA,

IOWA CITY,

November 10, 1907

*THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND
SECTION C*

THE winter meeting of the society will be held at Chicago, Ill., December 31 to January 3, inclusive. The meeting will be a joint meeting with Section C of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Society of Biological Chemists will hold joint sessions with our Biological Section, and President Chittenden will preside over both.

The following persons have consented to preside over the sections and to aid in the preparations for the meeting:

W. D. Bigelow: Agricultural and Sanitary Chemistry.

R. H. Chittenden: Biological Chemistry.

William H. Ellis: Industrial Chemistry.

A. W. Browne: Inorganic Chemistry.

Julius Stieglitz: Organic Chemistry.

Herbert N. McCoy: Physical Chemistry.

Members desiring to present papers are requested to send titles and brief abstracts to one of these persons, or to the secretary of the society.

Titles of all papers received before November 25 will appear on the preliminary program, which, with announcements, will be sent to all members on November 30. The final program will be sent only to those members signifying their intention of being present at the meeting. No title can be placed on the final program that is received later than December 15. In the preparation of papers for presentation, a clear and concise statement of results which have been obtained, and of conclusions reached, should alone be given. All essential and technical detail should be reserved for the published paper, as the time that can be allotted is lim-