

Publications Committee

[13]

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REPORT

OF THE

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

TO THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS.

JUNE 14, 1884.

AUSTIN.
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REPORT OF THE REGENTS.



ROOM OF THE REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, }
AUSTIN, June 14, 1884. }

To the Honorable the Board of Education of the State of Texas :

GENTLEMEN—The act to establish the University of Texas, approved March 30, A. D. 1881, declares that the Board of Regents shall report to the Board of Education annually, and to each regular session of the Legislature, the condition of the University, setting forth the receipts and disbursements; the number and salary of the Faculty; the number of students, classified in grades and departments; the expenses of each year itemized, and the proceedings of the Board and Faculty fully stated.

The Regents established the closing of the present scholastic year—1883-4—on the 14th of June. They have established the 1st of June as the end of each financial and business year, and hereafter the third Wednesday in June as the closing of the scholastic year of the University. The convenience of these different dates is obvious as affording opportunity to the Regents to consider, at the meeting of the Board in commencement week at the close of the scholastic year, various matters necessarily embraced in the annual report.

In reporting the condition of the University as required to be done, the University building properly claims a place. The plan of the building adopted by the Regents consists of a main body and two wings, a right and left one—all forming a continuous front or facade. The right wing has been completed, and is believed to be of good material and solid workmanship. The contract price was \$59,000. This has been paid to the contractor and his assigns, except \$2030, which remains in the treasury subject to the order of the Regents. A few slight repairs of small cost remain to

be made. Some slight modifications also of the building contract have added an item of perhaps \$1000 to the original contract price of construction, unless covered by offsets for other slight changes. This wing is in full use for lecture rooms for the several professors; for cabinets for various instruments and appliances of the different departments of instruction; for working rooms for the chemical department; for halls for the Literary Societies of the University, and for the different offices indispensably subsidiary to a University. By close economy of space, this completed right wing subserves the purposes of ordinary instruction in the University, without necessitating the hiring of rooms or building outside. For larger meetings, such as must ever be of frequent occurrence, there is no room in this wing at all adequate. The main building, when built, will contain a hall or room, on its present plan, more nearly adequate to this need of the University now adverted to.

The Regents have to state that the wants of the University demand that the main body and left wing of the University building should be erected so soon as the funds of the institution will permit.

The importance of a separate Laboratory building justifies again calling attention to this subject. While laboratory work is done in the University building, as at the present time, the danger from fire is not inconsiderable. The noxious and disagreeable gases evolved in chemical work on a scale adequate to instruction, permeate unavoidably other rooms. Besides the space now allotted to this department is inadequate to present wants, and especially to that development of practical and analytical chemistry, which the people anticipate at an early period from this important chair. The removal of the Chemical department from the University building to a more convenient and ample laboratory, will release several rooms for uses much needed for other departments of instruction. The cost of a laboratory commensurate with the early prospective wants of the University has been estimated at from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Large as such sum appears, such use of it will be judicious so soon as available funds permit, in view of the material benefits to accrue to Texas, which may be anticipated from discoveries and developments of its physical wealth and resources.

In connection with buildings, the Regents think proper again to advert to a Library building separate from the main University. A good library is of pressing, indispensable need in instruction. Reposited in the fourth story, it cannot be considered secure from fire. The fate of the late State Library is a warning. A library in a separate hall, giving assurance of a secure depository for books, would, it is believed, largely promote the donation of valuable books and of other appliances of instruction.

In like manner, the Regents believe that ample and commodious separate halls as museums or cabinets for minerological and geological specimens, and for other interesting objects of various kind, would not only furnish safe depositories for specimens already collected and belonging to the State, but also promote the collection of large numbers of these indispensable auxiliaries of thorough instruction. When places are furnished for things, the things are forthcoming; and many objects of reasonable curiosity and useful for instruction will be preserved which would otherwise be lost for want of repositories for their keeping.

The Regents have also to add, in relation to the surroundings of the University, that by the coaptation of the diversified surfaces of the University grounds, the establishment of foot-paths and carriage-ways and the planting of trees, these grounds have been made fitting to bring into relief the showy grandeur of the University building, and to render the whole beautiful and attractive.

In compliance with the act, the Regents have to report as follows the financial condition of the University:

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

I.—PERMANENT FUNDS.

LANDS.

1,000,000 acres set apart in the Constitution.

1,000,000 acres appropriated by the Eighteenth Legislature.

30,000 acres, approximately, remaining unsold from the fifty leagues set apart by act of Congress of the Republic of Texas, approved January 26, 1839.

BONDS.

As appears by report of Hon. Wm. J. Swain, Comptroller:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 5 per cent bonds, \$80,591.65, mature A. D. 1909; annual interest..... | \$4,058 25 |
| 6 per cent bonds, \$176,000.00, mature A. D. 1908; annual interest..... | 10,560 00 |
| 7 per cent bonds, \$114,000.00, mature A. D. 1892, 1910, 1904; annual interest .. | 7,983 00 |

NOTES.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Unpaid balance of notes given for purchase of University lands, bearing 8 per cent interest, aggregate..... | \$15,528 19 |
| Unpaid balance of notes, etc., bearing 10 per cent interest..... | 97,162 20 |
| Making an aggregate of..... | \$112,691 39 |
| And making an annual interest of..... | \$10,958 47 |

There are of these notes now overdue \$10,000 or thereabouts — all which appears from report of Treasurer to Regents concerning these land notes.

CASH.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Constituting a part of the Permanent Fund uninvested in the Treasury..... | \$86,364 53 |
|---|-------------|

LEASED LANDS.

The books of the Land Board show that there have been leased of University lands:

63 sections at 4 cents per acre for ten years; 2 sections at 8 cents per acre for 6 years—producing a gross income of \$1,715.20.

In connection with University lands, the Regents have to report from the Land Board as follows:

The following applications to purchase lands in Callahan county were received by the State Land Board at the June session, and applications accepted by the Board, but the payments have not been made: Hinson Wagly, 160 acres at \$2 per acre. Same, 160 acres at \$10.05 per acre. John A. Hayward, 479 acres at \$2 per acre. L. H. Huffstelled, 320 acres at \$2 per acre. Newton Stacy, 640 acres at \$2 per acre. J. I. Hendrix, 640 acres at \$4 per acres.

AVAILABLE FUNDS.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Interest on invested portions of permanent fund— | |
| Interest on notes for sale of lands in Treasurer's office..... | \$10,998 47 |
| Rental of lands by Land Board..... | 1,715 20 |
| Matriculation fees..... | 2,690 00 |

DISBURSEMENTS.

On account of—

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Apparatus | \$16,000 00 |
| Library | 1,000 00 |
| Insurance..... | 1,000 00 |
| Department of Physics..... | 2,500 00 |
| Department of Chemistry..... | 1,500 00 |
| Catalogue..... | 240 00 |
| Furniture..... | 2,500 00 |
| Improvement of grounds..... | 2,960 28 |
| Contingent expenses..... | 1,100 96 |
| Janitor and porter..... | 640 84 |
| Board of Regents..... | 750 00 |
| Fuel, light and stoves..... | 1,088 87 |
| Salaries of Professors..... | 31,099 95 |
| Equipment of chairs..... | 1,900 00 |
| Assistant instructors..... | 2,066 39 |
| Freight on apparatus..... | 1,448 61 |
| Salary of Proctor..... | 1,704 23 |

There are also the following claims not yet liquidated against the University :

| | |
|--|------------|
| Water Company for service mains | \$1,871 00 |
| Water Company for fire protection from January 17 to June 1 st , 1884.....(?) | — |
| Furniture for Board of Regents' room..... | 500 00 |
| Appropriation for A. and M..... | — |

THE FACULTY AND THEIR SALARY.

The Faculty, up to the close of the present scholastic year, June 15, A. D. 1884, has consisted of eight professors, to-wit: two in the Law Department and six in the Academical Department. Their salaries have been respectively \$3500 per annum and a commutation of \$500 per annum for house rent, making their compensation severally \$4000 per annum. In addition to the compensation just stated, the Chairman of the Faculty receives \$600 per annum. The salary of the Professor of Modern Languages was first fixed at \$2500. The Regents subsequently raised the salary, equalizing it in pay and with commutation for house rent to the pay of other members of the Faculty.

In addition to the corps of Professors constituting the Faculty, there were employed four assistant instructors, at an aggregate salary at the rate of \$2250.

In compliance with the requirement of the act of the Legislature concerning the number of students classified in grades and departments, the Regents have to submit the following statement from the report of the Faculty :

1. The total number of students matriculated has been 219.

Of these, 163 were young men; 56 were young women; 93 were from Austin; 126 were from other places in Texas; 169 were academic students; 50 were professional law students.

The average age of the whole body of students was 19.1 years.

For the young men, 19.6 years.

For the young women, 17.7 years.

For the academic students, 18.0 years.

For the law students, 22.9 years.

No serious cases of illness have occurred among the students in the University. This fact is most satisfactory, as evidencing the exceptional healthfulness of Austin as a residence for students.

As formerly stated, the resignation of Dr. Mallet left the two

chairs of Physics and Chemistry vacant, which chairs Dr. Mallet had held. In pursuance of a resolution adopted at a former meeting of the Board, the Regents appointed to the chairs of Chemistry and Physics, respectively, Associate Professors, these appointments to be for a period of five years, and with a salary of \$2500; also an Associate Professor in Mathematics and Graphics, with a salary of \$2000. There were accordingly appointed:

Dr. Edward Everhart, of Stevens Institute, Hoboken, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

Dr. J. P. Harrison, of Virginia University, Associate Professor of Physics.

Prof. A. V. Lane, of Austin, Texas, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Graphics.

The Regents also appointed as assistant instructors, to hold their offices severally for a year, and with an annual salary of \$1200:

Prof. Geo. P. Garrison, Henderson, Texas, Assistant Instructor in English and History.

Prof. C. E. Bramlette, of Austin, Texas, Assistant Instructor in Latin and Greek.

Prof. C. F. Gomperts, University of California, Assistant Instructor in Modern Languages.

The selection of the gentlemen who at this time constitute the Faculty of the University, is proof that it is the settled policy of the Regents to present in their Faculty a corps of instructors eminent for their capacity, and already recognized as such by their having achieved a universally acknowledged reputation of highest distinction in their several departments. The policy of the University in this respect is established and will not be departed from.

It is, however, the confident expectation of the Regents that at a comparatively early period the University will educate the gentlemen who shall be called to fill the Professors' chairs, and competent to discharge the duties of the same with ability equal to the best that can anywhere be found.

In the meantime, the Regents beg to invite attention to some advantages to flow from the appointment of associate professors elected for a term and with a prospect of permanent appointment thereafter on proof of distinguished fitness. They have not contem-

plated the selection as associate professors of untried men, but of men thoroughly capable, by their scholastic acquirements and by some practice in teaching, but who have their spurs to win in achieving widespread acknowledged eminence. Younger men will be naturally looked for to fill the chairs of associates, as more keenly inspired with ambition and enthusiasm. The financial advantages of smaller salary deserve some consideration.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

In reference to the Medical Department of the University, a proper regard for the ultimate success and permanent prosperity of that important school, as well as of the whole institution, constrains the Regents to decide that its immediate inauguration is impracticable. Our financial situation and the exigences of the several departments already in operation are at present such that an attempt to establish the Medical Department now would result only in crippling the resources and growth of the entire University, and in starting a feeble and unsatisfactory system of medical instruction.

It is our fixed and earnest desire to inaugurate at Galveston, at the very earliest practicable moment, a Medical Department whose standard shall be as high, and whose advantages shall be as great, as those of any other in the whole country. This they are determined to do; but they must do so in proper prudence and with enlightened foresight. They invoke the patience and confidence of the people. They pledge themselves that no pains will be spared to carry out the letter and the spirit of their trust in this matter, as they seek to do in all things else pertaining to the University.

In pursuance of a resolution adopted by the Regents, at their meeting in May, the Executive Committee have appointed as a superintendent in the female department of the University Mrs. Kirby, a lady of much experience in her intercourse with young ladies pursuing higher instruction, and eminently distinguished for all the qualities fitting her for the place—of high breeding and graceful manners, and of finished intellectual and social culture. Co-education of the young men and young women will be pursued as heretofore, and scholastic instruction will be exclusively, as hitherto, by the Faculty of the University.

Among the inconveniences necessarily incident to the first or-

ganization of the University has been the want of proper scholastic preparation on the part of a large proportion of the students. It is not necessary to dilate on its causes. It has not been greater than was looked for. It is a deficiency that will rapidly decrease with time and the establishment of the University in the confidence of the people. And the Regents are pleased to add that it has come to their knowledge that in numerous high schools throughout the State the instruction has been elevated and adapted in kind to a subsequent course in the University.

By reference to the annual catalogue of the University, published since the report of the Regents on January 1 of this year to his Excellency, Governor Ireland, it will be seen that the standard of scholastic requirements for admission has been considerably elevated above what was required when the present classes were admitted. It should be borne in mind that it is not so much the object of the University to make a parade of numbers receiving instruction, as to equip men capable, by their attainments and trained intellects, to develop the resources of Texas and to promote the high educational and industrial interests of our people.

In connection with this subject, the Faculty present the gratifying report that despite the want of proper preparation on the part of a large proportion of the students, the real improvement of some of those but poorly prepared at entrance, and the zeal and success in study of a majority of those who started under better auspices, has been encouraging to their teachers.

The Regents look forward confidently to the establishment at a comparatively early period of post-graduate courses of study in several of the departments of University instruction, in which courses knowledge and applied science shall be taught more advanced, more thoroughly, and more adapted by its extent to the practical uses of life, than can be done in the colleges and universities now existing within reach of the ambitious young men of Texas. The newness of the University of Texas at once indicates that post-graduate courses now would be premature in the academical and scientific departments; but in providing philosophical instruments and other appliances, regard is already being had to means for instruction hereafter the most advanced and practical.

In this connection the Regents have to state that in the opinion of the professors in charge of the Department of Law, their department needs the aid of another professor, to enable it to furnish proper facilities to students desiring to pursue their studies beyond the two years' course which it has been deemed expedient to prescribe for graduation. The Regents regret that the financial condition of the University, in view of other wants, obliges them to defer at the present time the appointment of an additional law professor. In reference to this important department of the University, the Regents deem it proper to recommend to the students of law to avail themselves, so far as not inconsistent with their special duties, of the exceedingly valuable instruction offered in the Literary and Scientific Departments of the University.

It is alleged that the high cost of board in Austin is a serious impediment to the amplest success of the University, as it tends to counterbalance the advantages of free tuition and to exclude from its advantages students of moderate means. The evil may in some measure be remedied by the establishment of boarding clubs, as is successfully done in other universities. It is a serious evil, and demands consideration by the people of Austin.

The following is a list of the appropriations made by the Regents for the next scholastic year, and of the several objects specified for which the same have been made:

APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCHOLASTIC YEARS A. D. 1884-85.

Commencing on the third Wednesday of September next:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Salaries of Professors and Associate Professors..... | \$33,000 |
| Salary of Chairman of the Faculty..... | 600 |
| Salary of Assistant Instructors..... | 5,600 |
| Salary of Proctor..... | 2,300 |
| Salary of Assistant Librarian..... | 180 |
| Salary of Lady Assistant..... | 1,000 |
| Improvement of grounds..... | 1,250 |
| Fuel..... | 250 |
| Repairs on building..... | 100 |
| Gas..... | 300 |
| Expenses Board of Regents..... | 1,350 |
| Maintenance of equipment of chairs..... | 500 |
| Diplomas and certificates..... | 100 |
| Printing catalogue..... | 225 |
| Publication of addresses..... | 50 |
| Forward..... | <u>\$46,305</u> |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Forward..... | \$46,805 |
| Printing and advertising..... | 250 |
| Stationery and postage..... | 150 |
| Telephone subscription..... | 60 |
| Contingent expenses..... | 500 |
| Purchase of iron roller..... | 75 |
| Purchase of lightning rods..... | 409 |
| Diploma plates..... | 300 |
| Electric Bells and clock..... | 125 |
| Removing shelving, etc., in Chemical Department..... | 25 |
| Equipment of Drawing Room..... | 250 |
| Building cistern..... | 300 |
| Water rent... .. | 150 |
| Wages of Janitor..... | 600 |
| Wages of Porter..... | 360 |
| Wages of Laboratory Servant..... | 270 |
| Purchase of hose and hydrants..... | 500 |
| Library..... | 4,500 |
| Chairs for Library Room..... | 72 |
| Expenses of Commencement Exercises for 1884..... | 250 |
| Publication of addresses at Commencement, 1884..... | 200 |
| Total..... | \$56,142 |

In order to comply with the University act, which requires in this report the proceedings of the Board and Faculty to be fully stated, the regents submit a sort of balance sheet to accompany this report, in which is set forth a detailed list of all the expenditures of the University as appears by the vouchers of the same and their several amounts, on file in the Comptroller's office.

At the close of the first scholastic year of the University, there were, of course, no graduates in the Academical Department. In the Law Department on commencement day, the last of the term, the degree of Bachelor of Laws was conferred on thirteen of the students of the Law Department.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas.

ASHBEL SMITH,
President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas.

