

Editors of Grinnell Herald:

In response to your courteous request for a statement of the affairs of the Board of Education of the Independent School District of Grinnell, I am pleased to submit the following statement. In February, 1903, the Board of Education was authorized to commence the erection of a new high school building which cost \$60,000.00.

On August 17 the bids were opened and the building commenced. In November, 1904, the building was occupied. At the time of its erection, the Board of Education was of the opinion that it would cover the needs of the district for a long period of years.

The treasurer's report for 1905 shows a bonded indebtedness of \$44,000.00, with unpaid warrants of \$22,958.12, unpaid for want of funds, making a total of \$66,958.12.

February, 1906, shows a bonded indebtedness of \$44,000.00 and unpaid warrants to the amount of \$13,138.08.

The treasurer's report of 1907 shows a bonded indebtedness of \$44,000.00 and unpaid warrants of \$6,200.58.

In 1908 the warrants were all taken up and the bonded indebtedness was \$38,000.00.

In 1909 the bonded indebtedness was \$30,000.00.

In 1910 the bonded indebtedness was \$18,000.00.

In 1911 the bonded indebtedness was \$11,000.00.

In 1912, \$8,000.00.

In 1913, \$4,000.00, which has already been arranged for and will be paid off this spring.

Since February of 1905 we have therefore paid off \$66,958.12, including interest on the same to date, together with paying of \$3,949.16 and payment in full of the Pettit property, purchased by the Board for school purposes, of \$6,260.00.

Soon after the occupation of the high school building, it became apparent that the building was not large enough for the needs of the district, and it has become necessary to fit up rooms in the old building to such an extent that all but one of the rooms are now occupied, and it will be necessary to occupy the remaining room the next year. This building is old, unsanitary, unsightly and not suitable for the purposes of the district. Moreover it will be necessary to expend at least \$1,500.00 on the old building this summer to put on a new roof and make necessary repairs, which in the minds of the members of the board is exceedingly inexpedient and unbusinesslike. The assembly room in the high school building, crowded to its utmost capacity, will seat two hundred and ninety-nine pupils. We already have forty-two more than this number, and they are distributed about in the principal's office and other rooms in the building.

For the last five years the Board of Education has been planning for increased use of the public school property in Grinnell. With an investment of not less than \$200,000.00 in buildings and equipment, the use of these buildings five days in the week and nine months in the year, is not enough for the best good of the community. The buildings are here, heated, lighted, well equipped and well cared for for the use of the community, free of all indebtedness. In the judgment of the

Board this plant should be of greater use. It is the policy of the Board to permit meetings of various sorts, not conflicting with school hours, including short course meetings, mothers' clubs, Civic Association and meetings of that kind, and we are glad to have the buildings used for these purposes. The use of these buildings for seven days of the week and for evening gatherings is at your disposal and in the judgment of the board should be made of use to a greater extent.

Realizing the need of increased facilities for school purposes, the board has purchased and paid for the Pettit residence property adjoining the high school grounds, with a view to future use for school purposes. In our judgment the physical welfare of the boys and girls of Grinnell should receive the attention, which has not been given up to this time, on account of lack of facilities. We are unable to use the services of a competent physical director, such as all up-to-date schools should have, on account of the fact that we have no suitable gymnasium. We are unable to accommodate the pupils and the patrons for meetings of any description, because we have no suitable assembly room.

It is the best judgment of the Board that it should be authorized to erect on the grounds already owned by the district, a suitable building, which shall embody a suitable gymnasium, including swimming pool, showers and baths, an assembly room sufficiently large to accommodate the pupils and patrons of the district, a suitable manual training department and one for domestic science as well, sufficient grade rooms, so that the use of the old building may not be necessary, to the end that the greater interests of the district be provided for.

It is well known that 95 per cent of the children do not receive further education after leaving our high schools, and in the judgment of the board, we are not providing as we ought for the boys and girls of this generation. With such increased equipment a variety of entertainments for the pupils and patrons might be easily provided at a minimum of cost, these buildings being already lighted, heated and cared for. In the list of entertainments, might be mentioned lectures, concerts, choruses, spelling schools, moving picture demonstrations of an educational character, a polling place for elections, in short a central meeting place for all the citizens of Grinnell, young and old.

Within the last two years Manual Training has been installed and it is the wish of the directors that every patron of the schools might see the interest taken by the boys in this work so much so that the classes do not meet often enough and the hours are not long enough to accommodate all who wish to come. The boys are anxious for an opportunity to do work along this line, evenings, Saturdays and during vacation times, and there is no good reason why this department should not be open to them at all times of the year, vacations included.

What has been said of Manual Training applies as well to the Domestic Science department, opened so auspiciously last September. The girls are ready and anxious for work along this line and would appreciate more hours

## PLANS AND HOPES OF THE GRINNELL SCHOOL BOARD