

## THE COURTENAY GAZETTE

the previous year. The 1905 census shows 126,330 children of school age in the state, 96,000 of whom were enrolled in the schools. There are 3,250 school houses in the commonwealth, 5,500 teachers were employed in the schools during the year ending June 30, 1905. In 1903 and 1904 our men teachers were salaried at an average of \$47.87 a month and the woman teachers at \$40.90, with a tendency upward. The state expended \$2,682,107 for the support of the public schools in 1904. The same year the public school property was valued at \$3,752,252.

These facts and figures afford a magnificent outlook. The state's common school system is successfully launched on a prosperous career toward perfection with no possible hint in imagination to retard its development. But this is not all that may be said. The splendidly equipped university at Grand Forks is growing in favor and efficiency and is aspiring to occupy ere long a position on a level with the famed universities of the land. The agricultural college at Fargo is alert, enterprising, ambitious and in every way worthy of its eminent faculty and their distinguished achievements. Two Normal schools, one at Valley City and one at Mayville, are successfully and intently busy in fashioning teachers of the most approved type and finish. The school for the deaf and dumb on the shores of Devils Lake and the industrial school at Ellendale are modern and well abreast the times, and doing yeoman service along their special avenues of educational work. The Methodists at Grand Forks and the Congregationalists at Fargo have denominational colleges of reputation and merit. It is worthy of note that in 1890 North Dakota's illiteracy of native white children between the ages of ten and fourteen years, was illustrated by 28.2 who could not read or write, out of every thousand. In 1900 the number was reduced to 7.6 out of every thousand, showing that about three-fourths of its illiteracy was obliterated in ten years. At the same time the number ran up to 13.6 in Maine, Texas 61, Georgia 164, South Carolina 148, North Carolina 166 and New Mexico 175. These figures refer to the whites and do not take in the blacks. It is worth while sometimes to see ourselves in our comparative relations to others and in these statistics North Dakota has no reason for shame.

The North Dakota twine and cordage plant in the penitentiary at Bismark is performing a quiet but important work. Established in 1899 to afford occupation to the convicts, it has grown to an in-

stitution of sufficient profit to pay, and more, all the expenses of the prison—its 1904 net gain reaching nearly \$40,000. It manufactures over two and a third million pounds of twine and has a large annual capacity; it sells directly to the farmers at a price lower than other factories sell for, thus saving money to the farmers and at the same time adding to the revenue of the state.

The financial status of the state furnishes ample grounds for satisfaction. On August 25th last there were 429 banks in the commonwealth—97 national and 332 state—108 of the latter having incorporated since January 1, 1905. We must concede that banks have been coming in this year at a high stepping pace—a flowing tide without an ebb. The 269 state banks reporting August 25, 1905, disclosed a total capital stock investment of \$3,246,350—91 being capitalized at \$10,000 each, two at \$25,000 each, one at \$30,000 and one at \$35,000. The 97 national banks had a capitalization of \$3,498,250. The individual deposits in the national banks were \$14,518,755.75; in the state banks \$13,060,795.65, totaling \$27,579,551.40 at that date—an average of \$63.10 for every man, woman and child in the state. The loans and discounts of all the banks were a few thousand dollars in excess of their deposits. The state banks had on hand in cash \$1,225,120.20. Banking houses, furniture and fixtures of the state banks were valued at \$936,485.82 and other real estate at \$353,875.12, aggregating \$1,290,360.94.

Keeping in mind always their greater age and our greater possibilities, a comparison of the national banks of North Dakota with those of groups of other states reveals to our notice some very attractive factual items worthy of remembrance. Of the six New England states only one (Massachusetts) has more national banks than North Dakota. Of the half dozen eastern states half of them (New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) lead this state in the number of national banks. Of the thirteen southern states, two (Texas and Kentucky) exceed her in number. Of the ten western states and territories with which North Dakota is classed, three (Kansas, Nebraska and Indian Territory) surpass her. None of the Pacific states, not even California, is abreast with her in number of national banks. We may be excused if out of pride we place a crown of laurels on the guileless brow of this blushing young maid of the west, just sixteen, so alert and persistent, so strenuous in efforts, so strong in resources, so rich in wealth, so peopled with brawn and brain, so potent in potentialities, so wedded to and courted by her