

SUNSET

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EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA



W. H. ...

*A Good Many Years Ago,
Horace Greeley said:*

**“GO WEST, YOUNG MAN
AND GROW UP
WITH THE COUNTRY”**

THE COUNTRY IS CALIFORNIA

HIS REMARK FREELY TRANSLATED INTO
LATIN DERIVATIVES, IS: “COGITATE,
INVESTIGATE, AGITATE, EMIGRATE.”
THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN — AND YOUNG
WOMEN—AND OTHERS—ARE COMING WEST TO
ATTEND THE * * * * *

National Educational Association

Los Angeles
July 11th-14th

MEETING

THE TICKETS ARE GOOD RETURNING UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 4, 1899. WHAT THEN IS A YOUNG
MAN TO DO? GROW UP TO THE COUNTRY

Add One Word to the Advice

“COGITATE, INVESTIGATE, AGITATE, EMIGRATE,
RADIATE.” THAT’S IT, RADIATE.

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Kings River Canyon. (See page 17.)



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May, 1899.

EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA.

BY IRA G. HOITT,
Ex-State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

THE gold fever is not discriminating nor restricted in its epidemics. The lofty and the lowly, the educated and the ignorant, the rich who want more and the poor who want much, are alike affected by its penetrating germs.

It was the desire for gold, in part, that brought



Open-air Kindergarten, Santa Barbara.

so many intelligent and educated men to California in the days of '49, and it was by the intelligence, energy and influence of those men that the broad base of our present fine educational superstructure was laid a half a century ago.

No consideration of the great progress which California has made in the past fifty years can be complete without a review of her educational advancement. The material growth and industrial advancement, in almost every direction, have excited the wonder and challenged the admiration of the people all over our own country and in Europe as well. It is the purpose of this brief review to show that the educational development in California has kept abreast of all other departments, and is up to the times. It is not too much to say that those who took up the early educational work in California possessed much of the same spirit that animated our Pilgrim Fathers, and they "builded better than they knew." The discovery of gold was quickly followed by the establishment of the first American school, at San Francisco in 1849, which was supported entirely by subscription at

first. At the same time Revs. Dr. I. H. Willey, J. W. Douglas, T. D. Hunt and Joseph A. Benton began planning the establishment of the College of California. In 1853 they were joined by Rev. Henry Durant, and a school for boys was established in Oakland. At that time there was no accumulated wealth in California and they had to depend upon annual subscriptions for rent, etc., as boys who could pay tuition at that time were few. Out of this grew the College of California, which opened its doors in 1860 with four students, all freshmen, under the care of Rev. Dr. Willey as President and Martin Kellogg and Henry Durant as professors. At the first commencement in 1864 the Alumni of Eastern and European colleges were invited to a banquet in the chapel (the writer had just arrived in California and was fortunate enough to be present). Bright men trained in many different colleges "competed in wit and wisdom," and the occasion was something rare, indeed, and never to be forgotten by those who enjoyed it. The Pacific Coast Alumni Association was at once organized, and for several years its meetings and banquets at commencements lent new impetus to the cause of higher education in California, and engaged the influence of the strongest minds in the State in behalf of the establishment of a State University. Upon the proffer of its beautiful site at Berkeley to the State it was accepted and the University of California became the outgrowth of the College of California. It has now become one of the well-known and well-equipped universities



Long Beach High School.

SUNSET



Hanford Union High School



Chico State Normal School

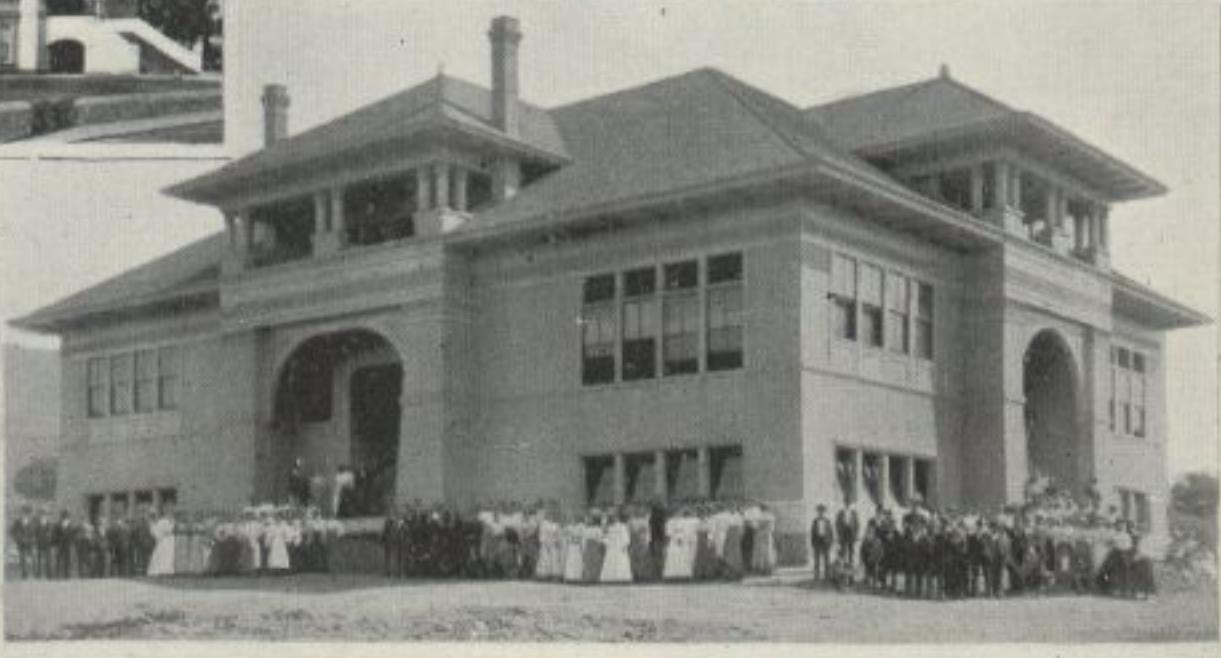
PASO ROBLES HIGH SCHOOL



San Bernardino High School



SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL



VENTURA UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Harvard University - Collection Development Department, Widener Library, HCL / Sunset. [San Francisco, Calif. : Passenger Dept., Southern Pacific Co., 1898?-.]

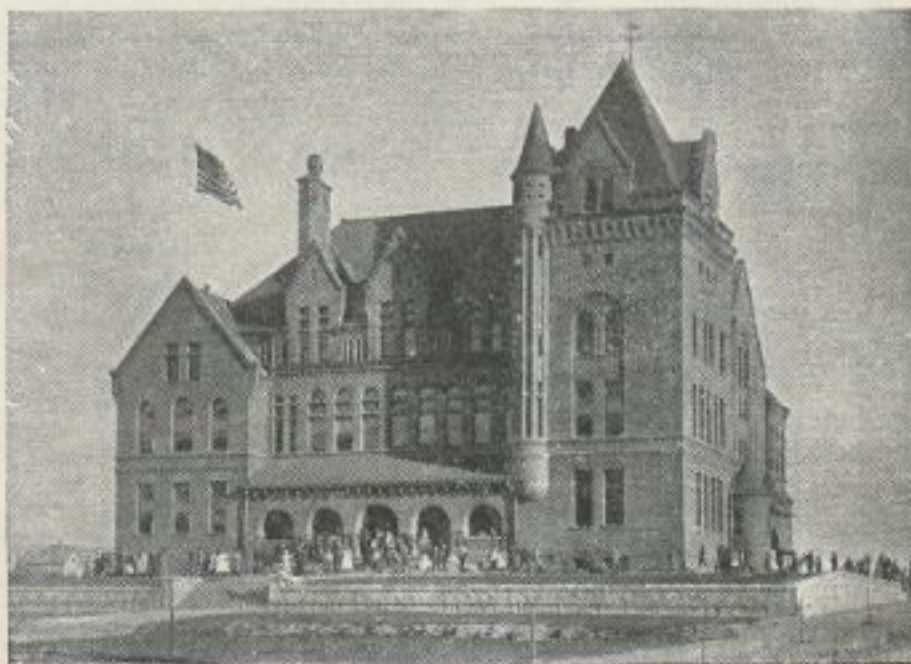


Mission (San Francisco) High School.

in the United States, having an annual income from United States endowment, State endowment and private donations of about \$625,000, and an enrollment of 1,520 students who are trained and taught by 130 professors and instructors, one of whom, Dr. Martin Kellogg, the President, was one of the first professors in the College of California, and still witnesses daily the harvest of his early sowing.

The best evidence of progress is shown in results. No interests of the people in California take a firmer hold of their hearts than the educational interests of the rising generation. In behalf of the school system of the State the people demand the best privileges that can be afforded, and through their lawmakers they have imposed upon themselves the obligations necessary to command the best to be had. Nowhere are there more liberal school appropriations—both State and local—than in California; nowhere are there better schools; especially is this true in the rural districts. The poor give of their mite, the rich and even the wealthy and close-calculating corporations pay their school taxes ungrudgingly, believing that in a thorough universal mental and moral training of the youth of the State lies not only the protection to life and property, but also the prosperity and happiness of a great commonwealth. The State has a permanent school fund of \$4,000,000, invested in United States, State, county and city bonds, the interest of which goes into its *annual* school fund. Every male citizen between the ages of 21 and 60 years is required to pay a poll tax of \$2 for the support of the schools. Five per cent of all collateral inheritances is also added to the State school fund, and an *ad valorem* State school tax, amounting to \$7 for each child in the State over 5 and under 17 years of age, is annually

levied. Altogether the State apportionment in 1898 was \$9.43 to each school child between the ages above mentioned. This is supplemented by a county tax of at least \$6 for each child of the school age. City charters provide for the levying of school taxes in their respective limits, in addition to the State and county taxes. School districts are authorized by a vote of the people to levy additional taxes for school purposes; this, however, is limited to a maximum of 30 cents on each \$100 of taxable property. The State school fund can be used for no other purpose than the payment of the salaries of teachers of the primary and grammar schools. The smallest school district that can exist in the State receives a State apportionment of \$400, but in order to receive such apportionment it must have main-



Riverside High School.

tained school for at least six months during the previous year.

There are in California 112 city, county and union district high schools, supported by local taxation, attended by 10,000 students, and taught by 572 high school teachers, a large majority of whom are college graduates. Thus it will be seen that parents who are able to clothe and feed their children may enter them at the primary school and graduate them at the University free of personal expenses for tuition. It is characteristic of the people of California to want the best of everything and they willingly pay for it. This spirit applies to the educational department.

The excellent climate and high wages paid to teachers in California brought from the Eastern States in earlier years bright women and strong men, who joined our educational ranks. But these were altogether too few to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing population. To have good schools the teachers must be trained for their work. To this end a State Normal School was established; but that was not enough, and others were provided, till now the State has four well equipped, well-conducted State normal schools; one at San Jose, one at Los Angeles, one at Chico, one at San Diego, and a fifth one is just being organized in San Francisco. The State University and Stanford University each maintains an educational department for the training of teachers.

What is sometimes called the utilitarian side of education is by no means neglected. Science teaching, clay modeling, kindergarten methods and manual training, to some extent, can all be discovered, even in some of the rural districts, showing everywhere a spirit of progress. The establishment of the California School of Mechanical Arts at San Francisco, by the munificence of James Lick, gave an impetus to manual training which has produced good results, and many schools in the State now have well-equipped mechanical departments, in



Cooking Department, Throop Polytechnic School.

which the various trades are taught. Among the most noted of these schools are the Throop Institute of Pasadena, the Polytechnic High and Cogswell Polytechnic of San Francisco, and the Central High School of Oakland.

Probably no State in the Union of its age can boast of a larger proportion of fine school buildings than California. In one year there were erected 218 new school buildings, costing from \$1,000 to \$50,000 each, and some of them are models of architectural beauty.

A number of excellent private schools and colleges have been established to meet the demands of those, who, for various reasons, prefer to patronize such institutions. Some of these schools are largely patronized, and rank with the very best schools in this country. Among the schools for boys which have gained an enviable reputation are Hoitt's School at Menlo Park, St. Matthew's School at San Mateo, and Belmont School at Belmont. The most noted schools for girls are Mills' Seminary and College at Seminary Park, Van Ness Seminary, San Francisco, Miss Head's School of Berkeley, and Curtner Seminary at Irvington.

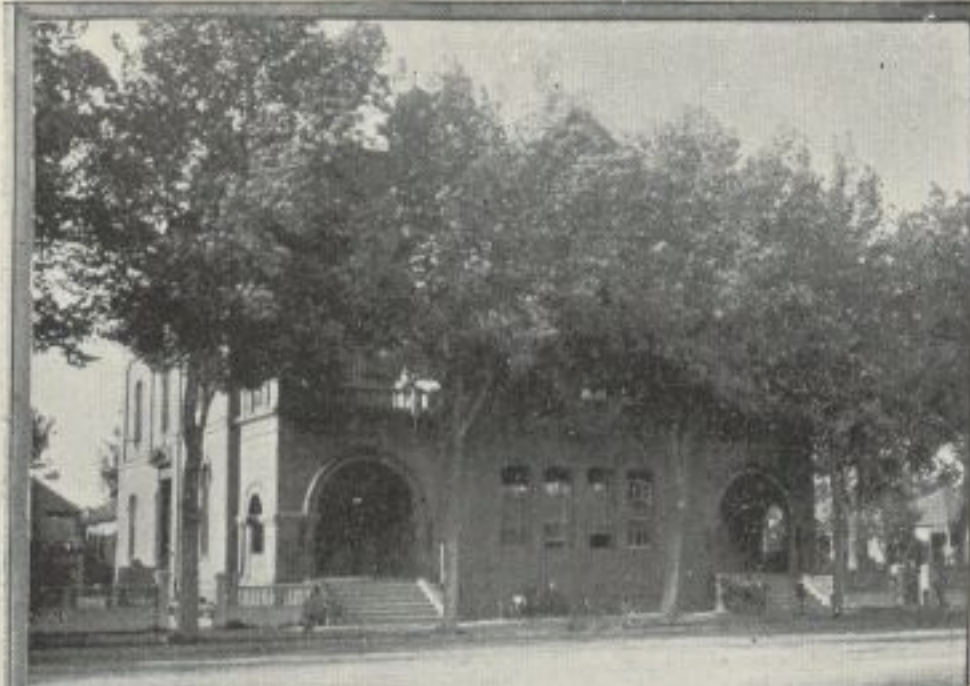
There are some as good professional schools in California as can be found in any part of the country. The Hastings Law College and the Toland Medical College are affiliated with the State University, and rank among the best of their kind.

The Cooper Medical College is credited with being one of the best in the United States. There are also several denominational and theological schools, and every city or town of considerable size has a parochial school. The large cities, and many towns, have public libraries, and each school district has a library supported by public funds, and supplied with books recommended by the State Board of Education, for public use and the instruction of the rising generation.

An excellent professional spirit prevails in the teaching forces of California, a determination to keep abreast of the times in educational work. Besides the State Educational Associa-



Forge Room, Throop Polytechnic School, Pasadena.

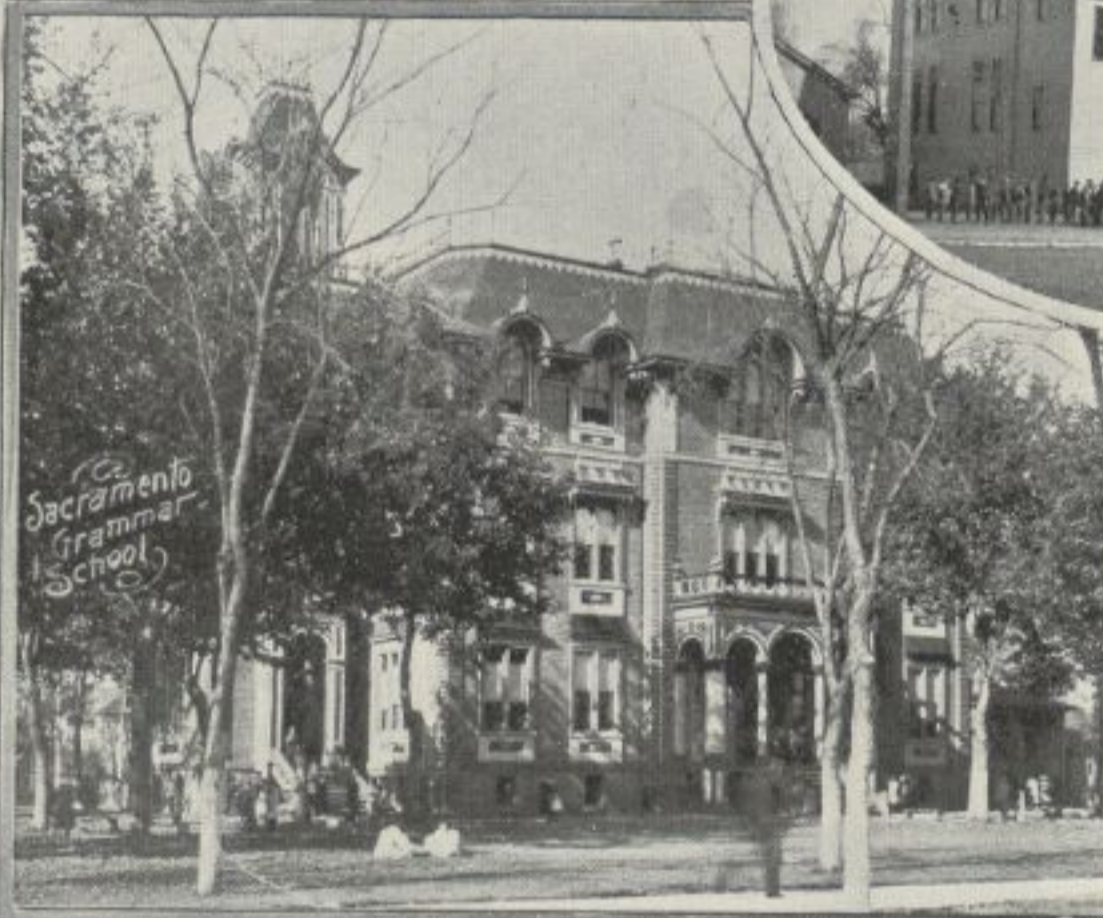


Jefferson Grammar School
Stockton

Lowell Grammar School, Fresno



Laurel Grammar School
Santa Cruz



Sacramento Grammar School



Salem St. Public School, Chico



Visalia 1st Ward Grammar School

Marysville Grammar School



tion, which meets annually for the discussion of matters educational, similar associations are maintained in the southern and northern parts of the State, and one in the San Joaquin Valley. A Teachers' Institute is held annually in each county, lasting from three to five days. All teachers in the county are required to attend and participate in the work, and they are paid for their time during such attendance. Able instructors are engaged and paid from the Institute fund. Summer schools and seminaries are held during the long vacation, at the State University, at Pacific Grove, and other parts of the State, for the benefit of teachers and others wishing to avail themselves of such privileges.

To all of these associations the railroad company gives reduced rates to teachers. It also has on sale, in some parts of the State, a school commutation ticket at a lower rate per mile than for any other class of transportation issued.

The greatest impetus to the progress of education in California during the last twenty years came from the opening of the Leland Stanford Junior University in 1891. The liberal-minded generous-hearted founders—Senator and Mrs. Stanford—exhibited rare good judgment in selecting Dr. David Starr Jordan as President, and wisdom in placing him in entire charge of the internal arrangements of the University. Being a man of rare and versatile ability, a good judge of human nature, and possessed of "the courage of his convictions," Dr. Jordan soon drew around himself and to the University a class of helpers, possessed of his own spirit of helpfulness, and, on opening its doors with several hundred students, many of them from other States, Stanford University stepped at once into prominence and became a stimulus to the University of California and a lifting force to the educational strength of the State never felt before. With an enrollment of 1,153 students taught by 104 professors and instructors, and the means to complete the buildings and support its colleges, it is destined to a great and useful future. The generous rivalry between the State and Stanford universities has already made each better for the



Santa Rosa High School.

existence of the other. With these two great universities as a lifting force to a well-organized and generously supported State school system, and the disposition shown in every department of life to facilitate the education of our youth and turn out men of purity, strength and character, the outlook for the future is, indeed, encouraging.

SUMMER IN MEXICO.

Attendants upon the National Educational Association Meeting at Los Angeles, July 11th-14th, should by all means have their tickets read on the return trip via the Sunset Route, and homeward saunter across the line into Old Mexico. The side trip from El Paso to City of Mexico and return will be but \$25; from El Paso to City of Mexico, with return to Eagle Pass, the same amount. If the latter trip is made, the through N. E. A. ticket returning will be honored eastward returning from Eagle Pass. Tickets may also be purchased from Eagle Pass to City of Mexico and return for \$20.

These very low rates are open only to holders of N. E. A. excursion tickets.

Mexico in midsummer is delightful. The tablelands traversed chiefly by the railways are from five to eight thousand feet high, and the cup in which Mexico City rests is 7,350 feet above sea-level; the average summer temperature, 65° Fahr. There is no finer summer climate anywhere.

As for its educational possibilities, Mexico is unsurpassed. If you are an archæologist, it is a country older in civilization than Spain; if you are a student of modern sociology, it is a nation just awakening.



A Country School, Highgrove, California.