One of the first "Visitors Days" put on by the new experiment farm. A demonstration of the horsepower and equipment that were used for road building and tillage operations. Also shown are a pair of driving horses and a buggy.

New Leaders — Expanding Roles

William Robertson succeeded Hoverstad as station superintendent and was the first school superintendent. Robertson was with the station-school from 1905 until his death in January 1910. He established the curriculum of academic and vocational training for the new school. He secured staff and faculty to implement the school programs. His greatest contribution to the Experiment Station was considered to be the installation of a surface drainage system, a system which also improved the campus area.

Field plots continued under Robertson. In wheats, Minnesota Nos. 163 and 169 and some hybrids of Fife and Bluestem dominated the trials.

Poultry was an important farm commodity in those years, how else could you feed the local preacher when he came for Sunday dinner. The Station maintained flocks consisting of Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, White Leghorns, Light Bramas, Cornish Indian Games, Piken ducks, African geese and Bronze turkeys. As early as 1902 a poultry specialist was hired at the Station, C.S. Greene, being the first. He was followed by C.E. Brown who published a bulletin on poultry work dealing with poultry housing, feeding and breeding for high egg production.

Animal husbandry was also a factor in the early Station research. Shropshire sheep, large Yorkshire and Duroc Jersey swine and Galloway cattle were on the farm in 1902. By 1910, the dairy cattle herd consisted chiefly of the Holstein, Milking Shorthorn and Guernsey breeds with both purebred and grade animals in each breed.

Conrad Selvig was appointed by the University Board of Regents to succeed Robertson. He served as school-station superintendent from 1910 through 1927. He worked toward building the school, with developmental plans to allow for future needs. He organized the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1910 and served as president through 1927. His leadership in drainage matters led to the organization of the Red Lake River Conservancy Project. The Experiment Station continued to test and introduce new and better varieties, including the introduction of 'Grimm' alfalfa to the Valley. Livestock research continued to grow under Selvig's leadership. He was elected to U.S. Congress from the Ninth District in 1926 and served three terms.