CHAPTER XII.
THE CROOKSTON SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

By C. G. Selvig.

A RED RIVER VALLEY INSTITUTION—NEW BUILDING DEDICATED—DEATH OF SUPERINTENDENT W. M. ROBERTSON—THE SCHOOL'S ADVANCEMENT AND GROWTH—MOVING YEAR—SCHOOL FACULTY—EQUIPPING A TECHNICAL SCHOOL—THE SCHOOL'S GROWTH—ITS WORK OUTSIDE SCHOOLROOM DOORS.

The Crookston School of Agriculture must be considered separately from the Northwest Experiment Station, although they are located at one and the same place, and their work is carried on together. The Experiment Station had been organized and in operation for ten years before the School came into existence. The Crookston School of Agriculture is also a part of the Agricultural Department of the University of Minnesota. It was created by an act of the Legislature in the session of 1905. An appropriation of $15,000 was provided for the building known as the School Building (now named the Home Economics Building), which was completed in 1906. No funds for maintenance were voted. In order to have school open that fall it was necessary to secure funds for salaries and expenses. A sum of $2,500 was privately subscribed by patriotic citizens of Crookston and vicinity. This fund, and assistance from the Northwest Experiment Station funds, made it possible to begin in 1906. Thirty-one students, all the school could accommodate in its cramped quarters, were enrolled. Their names were as follows: Emma Agusta Anderson, Hallock; Agnes Bjoin, Crookston; Henry L. Blackmore, Baggs, Wyoming; Carl Carlson, Kennedy; William Dewar, Crookston; Walter Dewar, Crookston; John Distad, Perley; Hans Forseth, Climax; Christopher, Lewis, and Molly Fossbakken, Foss-; Clara Hagan, Hendrum; Christian Hanson, Beltrami; Floy Ingersoll, Crookston; Thor Lonne, Crookston; Christian Lindberg, Beltrami; Leroy Lytle, Crookston; Gustaf Nelson, Northland; Olaf F. Nelson, St. Hilaire; Simon Nelson, Climax; Carl Nordlum, Beltrami; Lena Opdahl, Beltrami; Elmer Oslund, Beltrami; Albert Petterson, Crookston; William H. Rager, Crookston; Lewis Regeimbal, Crookston; Carl Seeger, Red Lake Falls; Joseph Skala, Red Lake Falls; Julie Swisse, Faribault; Nels A. Thompson, Birkholz, and Ida Thompson, Beltrami, Minnesota.

The school building was a combination dormitory, dining hall, office, and class room building. The boys had rooms on the third floor, while the farm house was improvised into a ladies' hall. On the second floor were located the class rooms, the administrative office, and the library, while on the first floor were the kitchen and dining room. Many interesting experiences happened during the first two years of the school. Both the faculty and the student body acquired an enthusiasm for the aims and work of the institution and a loyalty to it that counted greatly in its influence upon the community. By the time the 1907 Legislature had convened and sent committees to inspect the school, it was found that a full-fledged institution had sprung into being. Two new buildings were provided at that session, Stephens