

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.
HELD AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, APRIL 3
AND 4, 1903**

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Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Held at Chicago, Illinois, April 3 and 4, 1903 by Joseph Villiers Denney

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JOSEPH VILLIERS DENNEY

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*Held at
Chicago, Illinois, April 3 and 4, 1903*

EDITED BY
JOSEPH VILLIERS DENNEY
SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Copies of the Proceedings of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools may be obtained by addressing the Treasurer of the Association, Mr. J. E. Armstrong, Englewood High School, Chicago. The price of single copies is twenty-five cents. The price of the complete set as far as published (nine numbers, including the report of the Preliminary Meeting for Organization) is \$1.75.

The next meeting of the Association will be held in Chicago, Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, 1904.

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THE NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
OF
COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Eighth Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 3 and 4, 1903.

The eighth annual meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was held in Chicago, Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, 1903.

FIRST SESSION, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1903.

The Association was called to order at 10:30 a. m. in the Banqueting Hall of the Auditorium Hotel by the President, Director George N. Carman, Lewis Institute, Chicago.

President Carman delivered the annual address, as follows:

**THE OBJECT AND WORK OF THE ASSO-
CIATION.**

BY DIRECTOR GEORGE N. CARMAN, LEWIS INSTITUTE.

I shall take advantage of the opportunity of making the annual address of the president to review briefly the work of the Association and to consider some questions suggested by what has been done.

Article II of the constitution states that "The object of the Association shall be to establish closer relations between the colleges and secondary schools of the North Central States." Article III provides for such institutional and individual members "as may be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the Association," with the provision that "the representation of higher and secondary education be as nearly equal as practicable." At the preliminary meeting for organization it was resolved "That we recommend that the Executive Committee limit the membership of the Association to one hundred and fifty." The membership at present varies but slightly from what it was at the first annual meeting, and is as follows: Representatives of State Universities, 24; Universities other than State and Colleges, 27; Schools of Technology, 7. Total representatives of Colleges and Universities, 58. Representatives of Public High Schools, 40; Private Schools and Academies, 14; Normal Schools, 4. Total representatives of Secondary Schools, 58. Total membership, 116, equally divided between Colleges and Secondary Schools.

At the first annual meeting, held at the University of Chicago in 1896, topics under consideration were, "Systems of Admission to College," and "What Constitutes a College and What a Secondary School." A secondary school was defined by President Jesse as an institution with a four-year course of study devoted chiefly to Latin, Greek, French, German, English, history, algebra, geometry, and science. A college was defined as an institution (1) with requirements for admission equal to a four-year course in a secondary school, (2) with a four-year course of study embracing Latin, Greek, French, German, English, mathematics, history, political economy, philosophy, physics, chemistry, and biology, (3) with at least eight instructors who devote all of their time to college work, (4) with an income such as may be derived from

an endowment of not less than \$250,000. In determining what institutions may become members of the Association, the Executive Committee has followed in the main the definitions submitted by President Jesse.

At the second annual meeting, held at the Lewis Institute in 1897, so much interest was taken in the discussion of the "Fourth Resolution" that it was further discussed at the third meeting. You will recall the resolution, which ran as follows: "Resolved, That in every secondary school and in college as far as to the end of the Sophomore year, the study of language and the study of mathematics should be predominantly and continuously pursued; that the study of English, including grammar, rhetoric, and composition, should continue throughout every course; that two languages besides English should be studied, and that no other studies should be allowed to interfere with the pre-eminence of the studies here designated."

At the third annual meeting, Supt. Nightingale's substitute was adopted, which was as follows: "Resolved, That in both secondary schools and colleges, such courses of study should be provided as will offer to every student the best advantages, within reasonable limits, for the highest development of those talents with which he has been endowed, and that to this end studies should be arranged under the following heads, viz.: (1) languages; (2) mathematics; (3) natural and physical science; (4) history and literature; (5) civics and economics; further, that while students should, in general, be encouraged to maintain a reasonable balance between these, the courses should be so plastic as to permit alternative options, with a view to their adaptation to the individual capacities and purposes of students."

At the same meeting an unsuccessful attempt was made to determine upon certain constants for admission to college, and commissions were authorized to formulate

uniform entrance requirements in the various subjects of the secondary school curriculum. These commissions, however, were never appointed. The constitution of the Association was so amended at this meeting as to make "no college or university eligible to membership whose requirements for admission represent less than four years of secondary work" and "no secondary school eligible which does not have a four years' course of study."

The fourth annual meeting was chiefly devoted to a consideration of commercial and technical education. Two committees were appointed, one to report on commercial high schools and commercial courses in high schools and colleges, and the other on technical schools. These committees have thus far failed to report.

At the fifth meeting, held in St. Louis, a committee on College Admission Requirements reported in favor of a four years' curriculum for high schools that should include as constants (1) Two years' work in English, (2) Two years' work in mathematics, (3) One years' work in science, (4) One year's work in history, or six out of sixteen units, the other ten being elective.

The meeting of 1901 is notable for the appointment of the Commission on Accredited Schools, as an outcome of the discussion of the paper of Dean Forbes on "The Desirability of so Federating the North Central Colleges and Universities as to secure Essentially Uniform or at least Equivalent Entrance Requirements."

At last year's meeting in Cleveland the first Report of the Commission on Accredited Schools was presented to the Association and adopted, and Dr. Butler gave his address on "The Peril of the Small College," in which he presented the views on the shortening of the college course to two years, which were afterwards embodied in his first annual report as President of Columbia University.

In the light of the record that has been made, the

Association has certainly worked consistently towards the accomplishment of its object, the establishing of closer relations between the colleges and secondary schools. There may, however, be a difference of opinion as to whether as much has been done as might reasonably have been expected. The work of our Association has been compared with others of a similar character, especially that of the Middle States and Maryland, and attention has been called to the fact that our meetings are smaller although we cover a larger territory. I have already referred to the resolution, which was passed at the meeting for organization, recommending that the membership be limited to one hundred and fifty. I believe that the chief reasons for a relatively small membership are (1) the extent of our territory, (2) the belief that the Association should be a working rather than, or as well as, a talking body, and (3) that, if it is to be a body that is to do work, the membership should be largely constant, rather than shifting from year to year. It is apparent that there are not many representatives of the colleges and schools in states as far apart as Minnesota and Missouri, Colorado and Ohio, who can attend regularly the annual meetings of the Association. If then there is to be constant element, the membership cannot be large, and a larger attendance would mean an unduly large number of those who represent the locality in which the Association chances to hold its meetings.

A comparatively small body, if truly representative of the interests concerned, may act for a large territory and be more efficient than a larger body.

But is there anything to do but to talk? We have been reminded in this Association more than once that we have no authority to act for the states or institutions which we represent, for the state is the only authority in education. That there might be no misunderstanding,