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New Trier High School Expands

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High school is a model of efficient educational planning. Through the foresight of the board some seven years ago the suggestion advanced by Edward J. Phelps, a member of the board, was followed and twenty more acres of ground were purchased. This, added to the original 14 acres, formed a total of thirty-four acres. It was purchased at exactly the right time and is now recognized as one of the best moves made in the best interest of the school and at a saving of money. Buildings and grounds now owned by the school have an estimate value of over one and one half million dollars.

The new gymnasium in itself represents unusual space and financial economy by combining the three units which under the original plans were to be constructed as separate plants. The boys' and girls' gyms are planned for the best utilization of space possible and the two opened out into one large hall from an auditorium with an outside seating capacity of 3,500 people. This auditorium is the largest north of Evanston and is suitable for use as a meeting place for any large civic gathering. In its erection the board has provided the school with another means of saving a duplication of effort and a corresponding waste of time. Heretofore it has been impossible to gather all of the students together at one time, making it necessary to call two or more meetings. The field house is located on the basement floor and also represents the latest in design and accommodations.

With the completion of the gymnasium unit, the metal and wood working shops will be moved into the old gyms and the present shop rooms will be used as class rooms. In ad-

dition to providing more academic rooms the moving of the shops will place all noisy departments upon the outskirts of the plant and will centralize all of the class rooms. This is also regarded as an effective piece of administration.

Through the inauguration of a budget system and the close adherence to its provisions the financial situation of the school is also entirely favorable. Through the \$500,000 bond issue and current revenue the board has been able to provide the 12 class rooms, the power plant, the expansion of the mess hall and the erection of the gymnasium unit and at the same time to meet the annual cost of maintenance of \$70,000, the payroll of \$300,000 for the 120 people required in the operation of the school, and the \$40,000 required yearly in the retiring of the old indebtedness.

At the present time the outstanding bond indebtedness is \$490,000, \$30,000 of which was incurred in 1910. Through the bond issues the board has been able to extend the cost of expansion over a considerable period and to equalize the cost falling on the several periods of taxation thus eliminating any hardship to any one group of tax payers. Despite these expenditures and the various building programs which have been effected, it has been possible through efficient administration to reduce the cost per student by 8 percent during the past four years. That is to say that it costs 8 percent less per student now—with the increased service that is being given and the better equipment that is maintained—than it did five years ago.

While it may occur to some that the provision of facilities such as are being provided is entirely out of proportion to the needs of the school, this is not the case. At the present time there are over 1,500 students enrolled at New Trier—an increase of 1,160 pupils since 1910 or in 17 years. At the present rate of increase in enrollment, which is about 100 each year, the registration in the school will have reached the 3,000 mark within about 15 years. This opinion is based upon information derived from figures obtained from the Illinois Bell Telephone company and other public utility corporations, figures that have been compiled for the purpose of providing these corporations with a basis for planning future service expansion. The thought may also occur that this rate of increase will probably decrease as the years go by. According to the same source of information, however, and the observations made during the past few years the rate will go in just the opposite direction—up—and in all probability will soon reach 125 to 150 students each year.

Face New Problems

These facts provide the board with a problem that must be solved within the next few years. New class rooms to take care of the 3,000 students must be provided, yes, but that is not the only problem which must be faced. When the enrollment in the school has reached the 3,000 mark, what then? The school will then have become so large that any additional enrollment must make its handling unwieldy.

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