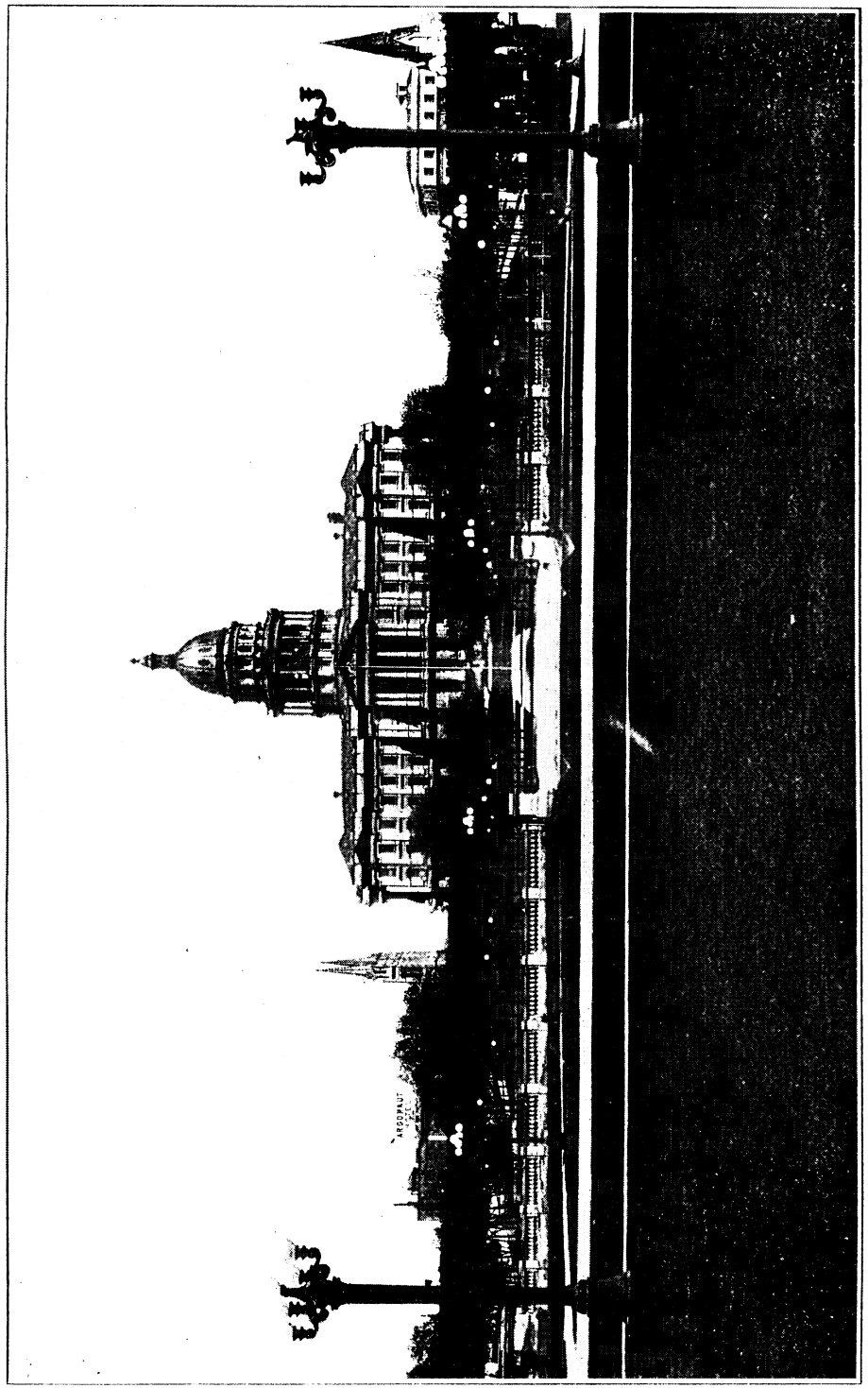

COLORADO STATE CAPITOL

HISTORY *of* COLORADO

Prepared Under the Supervision of

THE STATE HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF COLORADO

JAMES H. BAKER, *Editor*
President Emeritus, University of Colorado

LEROY R. HAFEN, PH. D.
Associate Editor
Historian, State Historical and
Natural History Society

TWENTY-FOUR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

THREE VOLUMES

(With which are issued two biographical volumes written and edited by the publishers)

VOLUME I.

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PREFATORY NOTE

In 1925, the present publishers requested the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado to undertake the preparation of a History of Colorado. It seemed to the Board of Directors of the Society that there was a real need for such a publication, if written by men of special knowledge and training; and the work was undertaken in commemoration of the then approaching semi-centennial of the admission of Colorado to statehood.

Dr. James H. Baker was selected as Editor, with LeRoy R. Hafen, Ph. D., the Historian of the Society, as Associate Editor. The plan of the work was determined upon, and arrangements for the preparation of the various chapters were made. The death of Dr. Baker, in September, 1925, was a serious loss to the State. Fortunately, however, for the present History, the work had advanced to the point that its completion as planned was not permanently affected. The editorial work was taken over by Dr. Hafen, and carried on and finished with ability. A special committee of the Society, with Dr. A. J. Fynn as Chairman, devoted much time and labor in aiding to bring about the present publication.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the authors of the chapters which constitute the History. They are recognized as specialists in their various fields. All of them contributed their services without compensation, and their fine work is a donation made from a love of Colorado and from a desire to produce a result of which the State could be proud.

The History, as prepared by the Society, consists of three volumes. With these are published two volumes of biographical sketches prepared and edited by the publishers.

The thanks of the Society are due to many people who, in various ways, have aided in the work. For illustration, the Denver Public Library kindly assisted in the onerous task of preparing the index.

HENRY A. DUBBS,
President.

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CHAPTER XXII

EDUCATION IN COLORADO

By Thomas J. Mahan

EDUCATION IN THE TERRITORY OF COLORADO—THE FIRST SCHOOL—THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN TERRITORIAL DAYS—TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS IN TERRITORIAL DAYS—TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO EDUCATION—CONDITION OF EDUCATION IN 1876—THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION—THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT—CITY AND DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS—EDUCATIONAL FINANCE—ELEMENTARY EDUCATION—SECONDARY EDUCATION—HIGHER EDUCATION—PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES—REFORM SCHOOLS—COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS—STATE HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY—QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS—TEACHERS' SALARIES AND PENSIONS—TEACHERS' INSTITUTES AND ASSOCIATIONS—PROGRESS IN TEACHER TRAINING—SUMMER SCHOOLS—PRESENT TENDENCIES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN EDUCATION.

Education in the region now embraced by the boundaries of Colorado did not begin with the advent of the white man and the establishment of his formal school. It should be remembered that the various tribes of American Indians who inhabited this region long before the coming of the white man had a system of discipline and instruction which might well be termed "education." Such training was provided by the parents or other members of the family, and it began at a very early age. True enough, it dealt chiefly with the practical arts of every day life, but it may be true that it better equipped the child to provide for himself and to contribute to his family than does our scheme of education today. But our education does not go back to this source, and consequently it need concern us here but little.

Exaggerated reports of wonderful gold deposits in the new "El Dorado" resulted in a great rush to this region in the spring of 1859. These early pioneers largely comprised the better and more enterprising classes of East, Middle West, and South. Their settlements rapidly increased; women and children came and towns sprang up. As is typical of all pioneers, they early began to make preparations for the establishment of schools.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

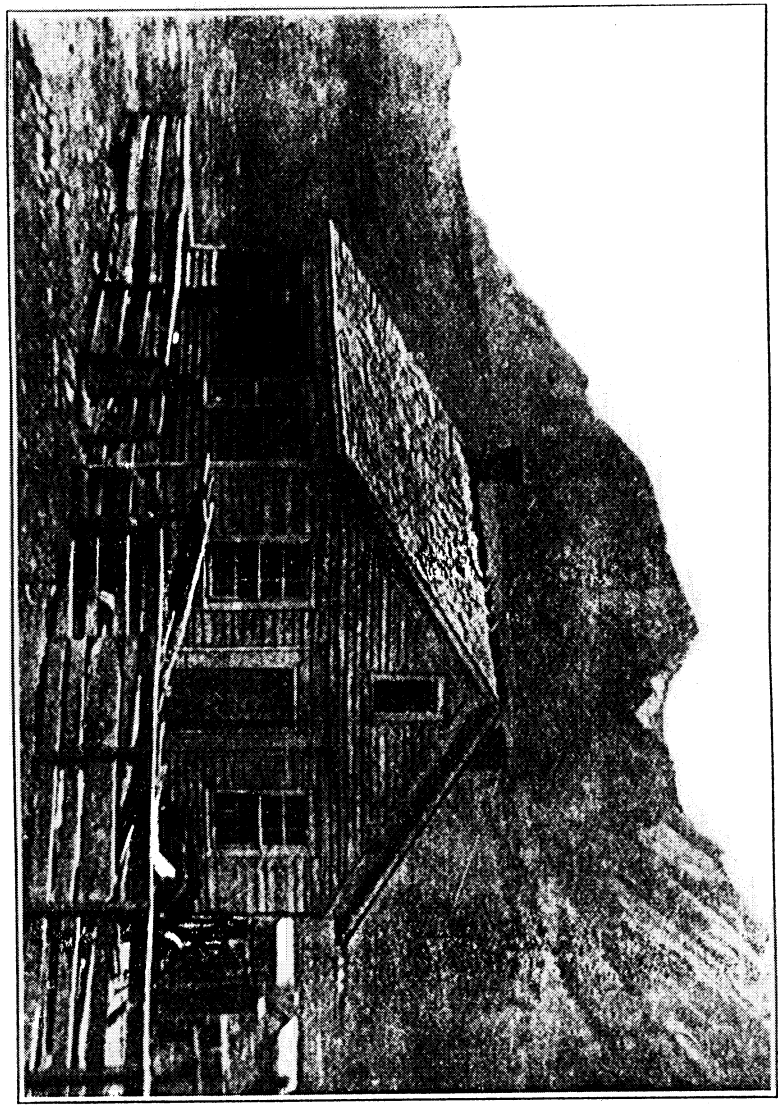
The sentiment of the time is expressed in the following statement printed in the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver, August 27, 1859. "No school house or place of religious worship is to be found in our city. Shall this longer be said of us?" On September 22 of the same year appeared the following: "A movement is on foot by citizens of Auraria and Denver to erect a union school house for the coming winter. Mr. Ross is circulating a subscription paper. About $250 has already been raised." This was followed by an advertisement for Mr. Goldrick's school on September 29: "Union day school will open October 3, in the room lately occupied by Colonel Inslee, Auraria. Pupils may enter by the month. Terms moderate." And on October 20 was published the statement: "Union School is prospering. Already it numbers twenty pupils and more have been promised."[1]

While authorities differ as to the first school established in the present limits of Colorado, it is most generally agreed that Mr. O. J. Goldrick's Union School in Auraria, now West Denver, established October 3, 1859, was the first.

Mr. O. J. Goldrick, the first person to teach in Colorado, was born in Ireland and graduated from an Irish University. He came to Denver with a wagon train from St. Louis in 1859, and is said to have entered Denver driving a team of oxen and wearing a black broadcloth suit and a high silk hat. He had only 50 cents in his pocket.

Mr. Goldrick had taught school in Ohio and when he found that no school existed in the little camp, soon made

[1] Data furnished by L. R. Hafen, Historian of the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado.



FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN COLORADO
Boulder, 1860

preparations and established both a Sunday School and a day school. The latter, like all of the first schools, was a private school supported by subscription of the parents whose children attended the school. Mr. Goldrick "boarded around" and received an average salary of $27 per month. The following spring, May 6, 1860, he re-opened his school under the name of the "Denver Union School" and employed a Miss Miller as his assistant. Later, in 1862, Mr. Goldrick became superintendent of schools in Arapahoe County and served for two years.

THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE

Following a slump in the mining industry in the latter part of the year 1859, there came to Colorado many immigrants whose purpose was to settle down and build permanent homes. Many of these immigrants settled in Boulder County, and while the first school in Colorado was taught in Denver, it was in Boulder County that the first school house was built.

"Mr. Abner R. Brown passed through the village of Boulder with a band of prospectors in June, 1860. The little town boasted of twenty cabins and two general merchandise stores. Being more of a teacher than a miner, he inquired about the number of children that might be of school age. To his surprise there were about forty. Leaving the gold seekers, he determined to teach school there. The question of a school house was settled by taking up a subscription. With the help of some of the citizens he constructed a frame building from boards and shingles made at a sawmill on Boulder Creek. The desks and benches he also made of pine boards. At an old abandoned placer mine he found some pieces of iron. These he fashioned into a stove. In Denver he purchased some sheet iron which he bent over the tongue of a wagon to form a stove pipe. The cost for furnishings and building was $1200."[2] Mr. Brown began teaching in this building in the winter of 1860. The building served also for town and

[2] *History of Education in Colorado*, by Sister Hildegarde Sumner, page 8 (Unpublished Master of Arts thesis, on file in State Teachers College Library, Greeley, Colorado).

church purposes until 1872, when it was replaced by a much larger and finer school building.

OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN TERRITORIAL DAYS

The first schools in the Territory of Colorado were almost all private schools, probably due to the fact that it was more difficult to finance public schools. By the year 1861 there were four private schools in operation in Denver. "Mr. F. B. Steinberger opened a private subscription school in Auraria (West Denver) on Ferry Street, in a small one-room log hut, in the fall of 1859. Mr. Steinberger taught school in Denver until 1861."[3] "Miss Indiana Sopris, daughter of Captain Richard Sopris, opened a private school on Eleventh Street on May 7, 1860. She has the distinction of being the first woman to teach in the territory."[4] Other private schools in Denver included: Miss Wood's Denver Seminary, opened October 3, 1860, and Miss Lydia Ring's school, opened October 1, 1860. Miss Ring taught a private school until the public schools were organized and later was principal of the West Denver schools. Mr. N. A. Baker (still living in Denver) also taught a private school in Denver, in 1862. Tuition in his school was paid in gold dust.

In the winter of 1860 a private school was opened in Golden, which town was then largely a cluster of tents, one of which served the purpose of a school house. There were only four or five pupils. Pueblo had a private school in 1862, taught by a Miss Weston, and Laporte opened a private school in 1865. Mrs. A. L. Washburn taught a private school in Larimer County in 1864, near the present town of Loveland.

While the private schools of the Territory were all supported by subscriptions paid by parents of children who attended, provision was always made for the children of those who could not afford to pay, thus extending the opportunities of schooling to all.

[3] *History of Education in Colorado*, by Cecil J. S. Bowling (Unpublished Master of Arts thesis, on file in Western State College Library, Gunnison, Colorado).

[4] Sumner, *Op. cit.*, page 9.

TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS IN TERRITORIAL DAYS

There were no tax supported schools in the Territory until the year 1862, when two districts were formed in Denver, one in East Denver known as district number one, and one in West Denver known as district number two. A board of education was elected by each district. Buildings were rented in both districts and they each opened a two room school in December. On December 16, 1862, the *Rocky Mountain News* printed the following: "Our public schools are now in successful operation. In East Denver schools there are some 60 scholars in attendance under two teachers, Mr. Lamb and Miss I. Sopris."[5]

The first district in Pueblo was organized in 1866. A two-room adobe building was erected on the site of the present Centennial High School Building in Pueblo. In 1873 a one-room brick building was opened on the south side and was soon replaced by a four-room building.

"In 1867, on the southern boundary of the state, a district was organized in Las Animas County in the mining town of Trinidad. The first teacher was George Broyles.

"El Paso County had in 1868 six districts organized. The first school opened was in Colorado City. Before 1875 they had one good graded school with some high school subjects offered.

"The counties of Bent, Clear Creek, Custer, Huerfano, and Fremont each had a one-room school building of frame, log or adobe before 1876, and Weld County had several such schools.

"Gilpin County has the distinction of having the first permanent school building. Like all the counties, it began school in improvised buildings. Central used an old saloon, Black Hawk an abandoned billiard room, and Nevada a room in which the school alternated with a town hall and a ball room. The rooms were uncomfortable, ill-ventilated, and shabby, with furniture to match. In 1870, Central City finished a $25,000 granite building, which today is too large for the number of children in the district. In the same county Black Hawk built a $15,000 frame building

[5] Data furnished by L. R. Hafen.

which still serves the district well. Nevada built a two-room frame building furnished like the other two cities of Gilpin County which was one of the first to have graded schools.

"Costilla County has a unique record. Its first public school opened at San Luis in 1866, and not until May 1919 did it have an eighth grade graduate."[6]

By the year 1871 there were 160 school districts organized in the Territory, with 120 schools established and eighty school houses built.[7] There were at that time 7,742 persons of school age in the Territory, 4,357 of whom were enrolled in the public schools. By the year 1873 the number of school districts had increased to 243, with 180 schools and 125 school houses in the Territory; the number of persons of school age had increased to 14,417 and the number enrolled in school to 7,456. In 1876, the year of admission to statehood, a still greater increase is shown.[8] In that year, there were 313 school districts in the state and 219 school houses. The number of persons of school age had increased to 21,612, with an enrollment of 14,085. Thus it is noted that along with the great increase in population, there was a similar increase in interest in education and efforts to provide for the extension of the advantages of the public school were everywhere apparent.

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO EDUCATION

The first Legislative Assembly of Colorado, held in Denver in 1861, passed a rather comprehensive school law, similar in its provisions to that then in force in the state of Illinois. This law provided for the appointment, by the governor, of a "Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools" whose salary was to be $500 per annum and whose duties were similar to those now imposed on the state superintendent of public instruction. Accordingly, Governor

[6] Sumner, *Op. cit.*, page 13.

[7] *Second Biennial Report* of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Territory of Colorado, pages 2-3.

[8] *First Biennial Report* of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Colorado, pages 37-41.

Gilpin appointed W. J. Curtice to the position in December of that year.

All this did not mean much. "As a matter of course, the superintendent could accomplish but little. The impulses of the people were in the right direction, but the essential elements of success—children—were wanting. Some of the first school districts organized were as large as states, while the school population numbered less than a score."[9] Mr. Curtice accomplished but little, the only thing worthy of note being his publication of the first school law for the use of school officers. He resigned in 1863 and Wm. S. Walker was appointed in his place. No records were left of the doings of the latter.

In 1862 the Legislature enacted a law providing "That hereafter when any new mineral lode of either gold bearing quartz, silver, or other valuable metal shall be discovered in this Territory, one claim of one hundred feet in length on such lode shall be set apart and held in perpetuity for use and benefit of schools in this Territory, subject to the control of the Legislative Assembly." While this law seemed to promise much for the schools, the results were very insignificant—few claims so located ever contributed a dollar to the school fund.

In 1865 the school law was amended, making the territorial treasurer ex-officio superintendent of public instruction. A. W. Atkins was then territorial treasurer and the office of superintendent fell to him. He left no record of his official work, the same being true of his successors in 1866 and 1867.

In 1866 the Legislature passed a law making it a misdemeanor to jump mineral claims that had been set apart for schools, or for failing to relinquish such claims as had previously been preëmpted; also providing for the sale and leasing of school claims, and the investment of the proceeds in U. S. bonds, and for giving to the colored people a pro rata share of the school fund for the maintenance of separate schools.

In 1867 Columbus Nuckolls became superintendent, and his deputy E. L. Berthoud set out with good intentions but

[9] W. F. Stone, *History of Colorado*, Vol. 1, page 585.

little was done. "This chaotic state of affairs continued until 1879. It was no uncommon thing for the school funds to be misappropriated by both county and district officers."[10] Nearly all who were required by law to make reports responded with some such statement as: "My predecessor in office has left no records;" "I hope to get matters in shape so as to render a complete account next year;" "School matters here are in a bad condition; for the past two years the County Commissioners have neglected to levy a school tax, hence we have no money;" etc.

In 1870 the Legislative Assembly empowered the governor "by and with the consent of the Legislative Assembly" to appoint a suitable person as the superintendent of public instruction at a salary of $1000 a year. This law remained until Colorado became a state in 1876.

"With the advent of statehood, the schools, both city and country, became thoroughly modernized, culminating in the standardization of the schools, particularly of the second and third class, and in the development of consolidated or union schools in country districts."[11]

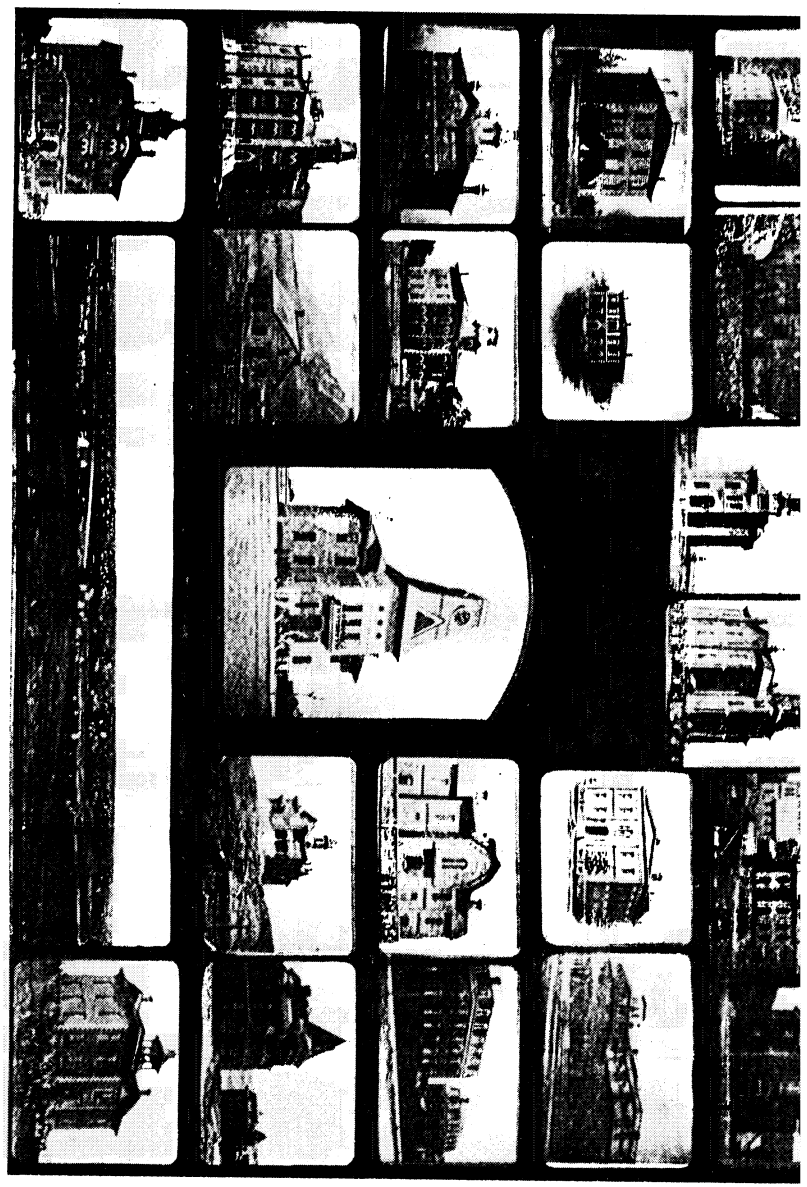
CONDITION OF EDUCATION IN 1876

In 1876, when the state constitution was adopted, the public school system of Colorado compared very favorably with that of most of the eastern states. The office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction was established and twenty-five counties of the state had superintendents of schools. There were at that time 21,962 children of school age in the state, 14,364 of whom were enrolled in schools. There were 341 school districts already established. School houses had been constructed in 217 of these, and schools were provided and teachers employed in all of the districts in which the number of children warranted them.

Secondary schools had already been established in Denver, Pueblo, and several of the other larger towns of the state.

[10] Stone, *Op. cit.*, page 586.

[11] Stone, *Op. cit* , 586.



COLORADO SCHOOL HOUSES, 1876

Upper row, left to right: Public School, Georgetown; Public School, Black Hawk; District No. 21, Arapahoe County; Greeley; Central City; Boulder. Second row: School for Deaf Mutes, Colorado Springs; Broadway School, Denver; Pueblo; Wolfe Hall (Denver). Third row: School No. 2, Denver; West Denver; North Denver; St. Mary's Academy. Fourth row: Colorado University (Boulder); First School House (Boulder); Colorado Springs; St. Aloysius Academy (Central City); School of Mines (Golden). Fifth row: High School, Denver; View of Denver; Golden School.

In addition to the common schools and the small number of secondary schools, several institutions of higher learning had also been established.

The State University at Boulder, which was incorporated by an act of the Territorial Legislature in 1861, was not yet in operation, but opened the following year, 1877, with an enrollment of forty students.

The Colorado Agricultural College, at Fort Collins, was established in 1870, but in 1876 the school was not yet open, although one building had already been erected.

The State School of Mines at Golden had been established two years before (in 1874), and its first term which began in 1876 was attended by a total of twenty-six students.

The University of Denver which was established in 1864 was at that time a thriving institution and Colorado College, at Colorado Springs, had been in operation for two years (since its establishment in 1874).

In addition to the well organized system of public schools and institutions of higher learning, there was in 1876 one institution for the training of deaf mutes, located in Colorado Springs. There were twenty pupils in attendance that year, of whom eleven were boys and nine were girls.

It was not until the year 1876, when the State Constitution was adopted that Colorado's schools were put on a firm foundation. The Constitutional provision for education in the state in the case of the three levels, elementary, secondary and higher education, was both liberal and inclusive.

The Constitution provided for a uniform system of free public schools for all persons between six and twenty-one years of age, one or more public schools to be maintained in each district for at least three months of the year. It provided that the school fund remain intact—the interest only to be expended and that for school purposes only.

The Constitution provided also for the sources from which the school funds may be drawn; for a county superintendent of schools in each county; freedom from religious tests or qualifications and race and color discrimination; for compulsory attendance at school; for the organization

of school districts, the establishment of a board of education and for the election and duties of its members and for a state board of education. Other indirect provisions were made by the Constitution the purposes of which were to benefit education in the state.

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

As provided by the State Constitution, the Colorado State Board of Education is comprised of the superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of state, and the attorney-general. The superintendent of public instruction is president of the board. The duty of the board as prescribed by the constitution is "the general supervision of the public schools of the state." It functions chiefly in the formal approval of teachers' certificates recommended by the state board of examiners, and in considering appeals from decisions of the county superintendents relating to boundary disputes, etc. Lack of further functions in respect to the duties and powers granted this board by the constitution is doubtless due to the fact that it is made up of ex officio officers of other departments of the State, the duties of which require their full time.

THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The state superintendent of public instruction is elected every two years by popular vote at the general election. The qualifications as prescribed by law are that he must be at least thirty years of age, a citizen of the United States, and must have resided in Colorado at least two years.

The duties are prescribed by law which states, "He shall have general supervision over the county superintendents and the public schools." In practice the duties have been largely clerical. The state superintendent prepares the questions for the county examinations and grades the papers. He keeps the official seal; has school laws printed and distributes copies to all school officials and to school and state libraries; he files reports from county superintendents and school boards; furnishes registers and blank forms to teachers, school officers and administrators;

reports to the governor in December of each year the condition of the public schools; apportions the income of the school fund and notifies the county superintendent of each county of the amount apportioned to his county.

The state superintendent keeps in touch with educational movements and is provided by law with authority to "open such correspondence as may enable him to obtain all necessary information relating to the system of public schools in other states."

The state superintendent is president of the State Board of Education and is ex officio state librarian but may appoint an assistant librarian as prescribed by law, with a salary of $1500.

The judiciary duty of the state superintendent includes the making of decisions on all points related to the interpretation of the school law.

THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

In each county, a county superintendent of schools is elected at large at the regular biennial election. There are no educational qualifications and the salaries vary from $100 to $2,800 per year.

The duties of the county superintendent as prescribed by law include the general supervision over all the schools of the county, visiting all schools in the county once during each session, deciding boundary disputes between districts of the county, conducting county examinations, examining accounts of school districts, apportioning school funds within the county, approving school census lists of various districts and making an annual report of the condition of the schools to the state superintendent of public instruction. He also has many clerical duties to perform, such as the keeping of a record of his official acts, records of supplies furnished the several districts and of the boundaries of school districts, etc.

While the county superintendent is charged with many duties which would seem to indicate that he has a great deal of control over education in the county, in reality he has little real authority. His function is advisory only and the authority in the conduct of public school affairs is exercised chiefly by the directors of each district.

CITY AND DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

The cities or first class districts are subject to different laws from those governing districts of the second and third classes. Their board is composed of five members elected for a term of six years. The city systems act independently of both state and county superintendents. Their elections are held biennially and are not subject to the law governing elections in districts of lower class. Their board employs a superintendent of schools and special supervisors.

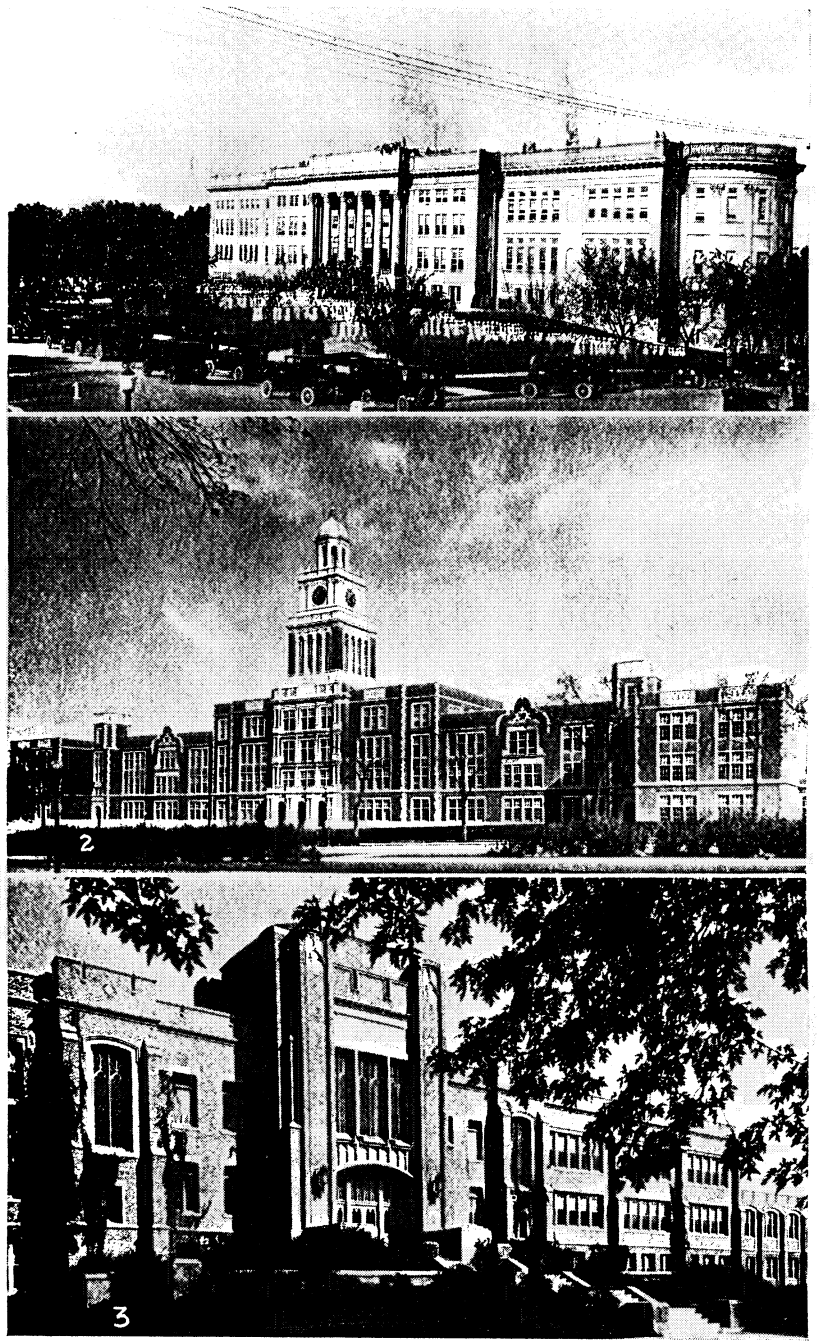
Colorado is organized for school administration on what is known as the district basis. There are thirty-six first class districts (school population 1,000 or over) ; 74 second class districts (school population 350 to 1000) ; and 1812 third class districts (school population less than 350).

Third class districts include all rural and small village schools of the state. Both second and third class districts have a board of three directors, one of whom is elected each year. The powers of these boards are almost unlimited. They employ teachers; determine the length of the school term, the length of the school day, the dates upon which school begins and closes; adopt the course of study; select the text books; select school sites; rent, repair and insure school buildings, etc. In fact they dominate the whole system of education.

In districts of the first class the board is composed of five members elected for a term of six years. These boards employ special superintendents and supervisors and act independently of state and county in almost all matters pertaining to the school. They usually do not recognize certificates issued by either county or state, but conduct special examinations of their own. They are also granted special powers by law including the power to establish and maintain continuation schools, part time schools, evening schools, vocational schools and schools for aliens or other opportunity schools.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Sources of Support. The schools of Colorado derive their support from three main sources—the state school



TYPES OF NEW COLORADO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1. Central High School, Pueblo. 2. New East High School, Denver. 3. Byers Junior High School, Denver

fund, the county general school tax and the special school district tax. There are in addition to these, lesser funds derived from forest reserve rentals, certain fines, fees and forfeitures, royalties from mineral lands, special federal aid, etc., though the income from these sources is relatively small.

The State Fund. The state school fund includes interest on the permanent fund and rentals and leases of state school lands. The permanent fund is derived from the sale of school lands and in 1921 amounted to $6,905,505.98, which produced an annual income of $359,204.97. There were 3,748,942.38 acres of land granted to the public schools by the Federal Government, of which 2,768,761.17 acres are yet unsold.

The state school fund is apportioned semi-annually by the state superintendent of public instruction to the sixty-three counties of the state, on the basis of the school census of the number of children of school age in each county. It is then re-apportioned to the school districts of the counties by the county superintendents on the same basis.

The County Fund. The county school fund is derived from a general school tax levied by the county commissioners from each county on all the taxable property of the county. The law required that this levy be at least two mills and not more than five mills on the dollar, until the year 1913. At that time a change was made in the assessed valuation of all taxable property from a fractional part to its true value, and a reduction in the levy was made accordingly.

The county funds are distributed to the schools on the same basis as the state funds and the amount so provided varies from one to twenty-five per cent of the total school expenditure.

The District Fund. The local district tax is the chief source of school support in the state. The various school districts levy a special tax to raise the amount necessary to operate the schools over and above the amount received from the state and county. In first and second class districts the local district tax is determined by the school boards, and in third class districts the qualified electors fix the amount to be raised. Approximately three-

fourths of the total school expenditure is derived from this source.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

At the time Colorado entered upon her statehood, in 1876, elementary schools existed in the leading centers of population, but universal education was not as yet the accepted thing. In 1875 "there were 20,000 school children in the territory, and yet only one-half had entered a school room and only one-half of that half had attended school 116 days in the year."[12] Five counties had a single one room school each, while four more counties were so fortunate as to have more than one school within their borders. Previous attempts at gathering any data had been more or less unsuccessful, for while the territorial law required regular reports, there was no means of enforcing the law and few reports actually came in. The United States Bureau of Education *Report* gives a slightly higher number attending school than the quotation given above,[13] and yet the figures are anything but encouraging. All this was due largely to the nature of the people who made up the shifting population of a rapidly growing mining state where the percentage of women was relatively small and where the lure of gold attracted the adventurer rather than the home seeker.

By 1900 a remarkable change had taken place in Colorado schools. From a few scattered, small schools had grown a system which had nearly 120,000 students, with compulsory school laws and legal regulations for the truant. Building was rapidly advancing, and in that year no less than 126 new school buildings were erected in the state.[14]

In 1926, fifty years after she became a state, Colorado has one of the finest school systems in the country. Since

[12] *Education in Colorado.* Compiled by order of the State Teachers Association, News Printing Co., Denver, 1885, page 42.

[13] *Report* of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, 1876, pages 500-507.

[14] *Twelfth Biennial Report* of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Colorado, 1900, pages 82-93, 67-72.

1900 the enrollment has doubled; there are well over 3,000 schools attended by some 250,000 students.[15] The property of the schools amounts to $33,000,000 and is growing rapidly. Much work has been done in the education of foreign children, especially in the mining districts and in the sugar beet belt. The first consolidated school was established in 1912, and since then the movement has grown very rapidly. In 1924 there were 126 consolidated schools with 35,000 attending them.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education had little foothold in Colorado at the time she became a state. There were no laws in regard to high schools, except an old territorial law entitled "An act to establish a common school system." This act declared that a school board had the power to permit the organization of a high school if the necessary funds were provided by private subscription. Under this provision only one school was organized, that being the East Denver High School, which opened in 1874 and graduated its first students four years later.

With the coming of statehood, the General Session Law of 1877 provided that first and second class districts might establish separate high schools. The high school in the early days was a product of evolution, since the ninth grade was usually established for eighth grade graduates who wished to go on—and so the system grew.

With the growth of the need for high school training, it was found that the sparsely populated parts of the state were having difficulty in meeting this need. For this reason the union high school was made possible by legislation in 1909. By this plan territory surrounding a town might incorporate with that town for the purpose of establishing a high school. The financing of such schools proved difficult, and there are at the present time only about twenty-five such schools in Colorado. Although there was only one high school in the state in 1876, twenty-four years made a great change, and by 1900 there were nearly 7,000 high

[15] *Colorado Year Book,* 1925. State Board of Immigration, pages 152-159.

school students in Colorado.[16] However, only one town, Denver, was able to maintain a separate and complete high school, though most of the graded schools throughout the state had high schools in connection.

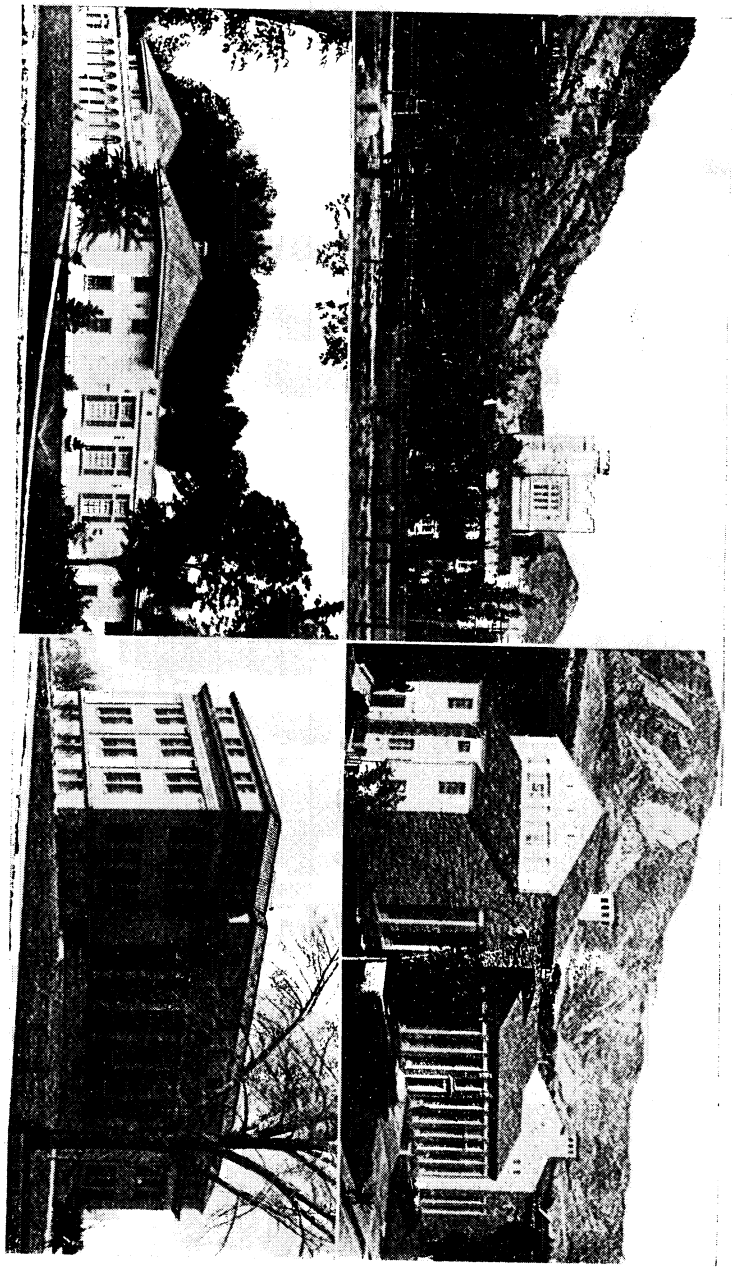
The high schools of the state are rapidly increasing in number, equipment, enrollment and service. In 1923 there were 197 four year high schools in the state, 37 three year, 66 two year and 56 one year high schools. The plan of the junior high school, with the resultant three grade high school, is being favorably received in the state. Denver, Colorado Springs and other cities are experimenting with this type of organization with seemingly good results. Denver has also recently completed some of the most modern and up-to-date high school buildings in the country.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Colorado now has six major institutions of higher learning, besides several smaller colleges. These all have an interesting history and one which shows the determination of a people to advance the interests of themselves and their children by sacrifice in money and effort in the interest of education.

Colorado College is a Congregational school which had its beginning in a land grant along Monument Creek in 1871. When the Congregational Church asked the Colorado towns to make grants for the founding of a school, Colorado Springs offered $10,000 and forty acres of land if $40,000 more was forthcoming. On this basis Colorado College opened in 1874 with eighteen students in a rented building down town, where it remained until 1880, when its own building was completed. Its early history was characterized by financial adversities and several times it seemed that its existence was to be cut short, but by the efforts of able leaders and the backing of its church it weathered the difficulties and in 1900 had several buildings with good equipment, and about 400 students. From then on it grew rapidly until, in 1925, there were 750 students under a

[16] *Report* of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Colorado, 1899-1900, page 93.



UPPER: MACKY TOWER AND THE NEW ARTS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
LOWER: AMMONS HALL AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

faculty of seventy-five. At that time the school occupied sixteen buildings.

The University of Colorado was really incorporated in 1861, and its location fixed at Boulder by the territorial government. However no real work was done until 1874, when the legislature appropriated $15,000 for the school with the condition that the same amount should be raised by subscription. This was done, and the building was commenced the next year. When Colorado became a state, the university received a grant of seventy-two sections of land and was made a state institution. It began actual instruction in 1876 with an enrollment of forty-four students. The next important step was in 1880, when the medical department was started. This was done largely to provide a home supply of physicians and to protect the state from the invasion of poorly prepared men who were coming here to practice. By 1900 there were seven departments with an enrollment of 700 students. Now there are about 3,000 students taught by a faculty of 406 members, and the school occupies twenty-two buildings.

Denver University, the Methodist school of the state, had its beginning in an academy known as Colorado Seminary. The Seminary began under a charter grant in 1864 and gave instruction from the primary grades to academic work. In 1880, when it really became the University of Denver, it had one building worth $7,000 which was entirely paid for. It had six departments, with thirty-six instructors and 260 students. Denver University also had difficulties, but they were not so extreme as those of Colorado College and in 1900 the school had seven departments and 600 students. It continued its growth and in 1926 there are over 100 instructors and 3,500 students in the school.

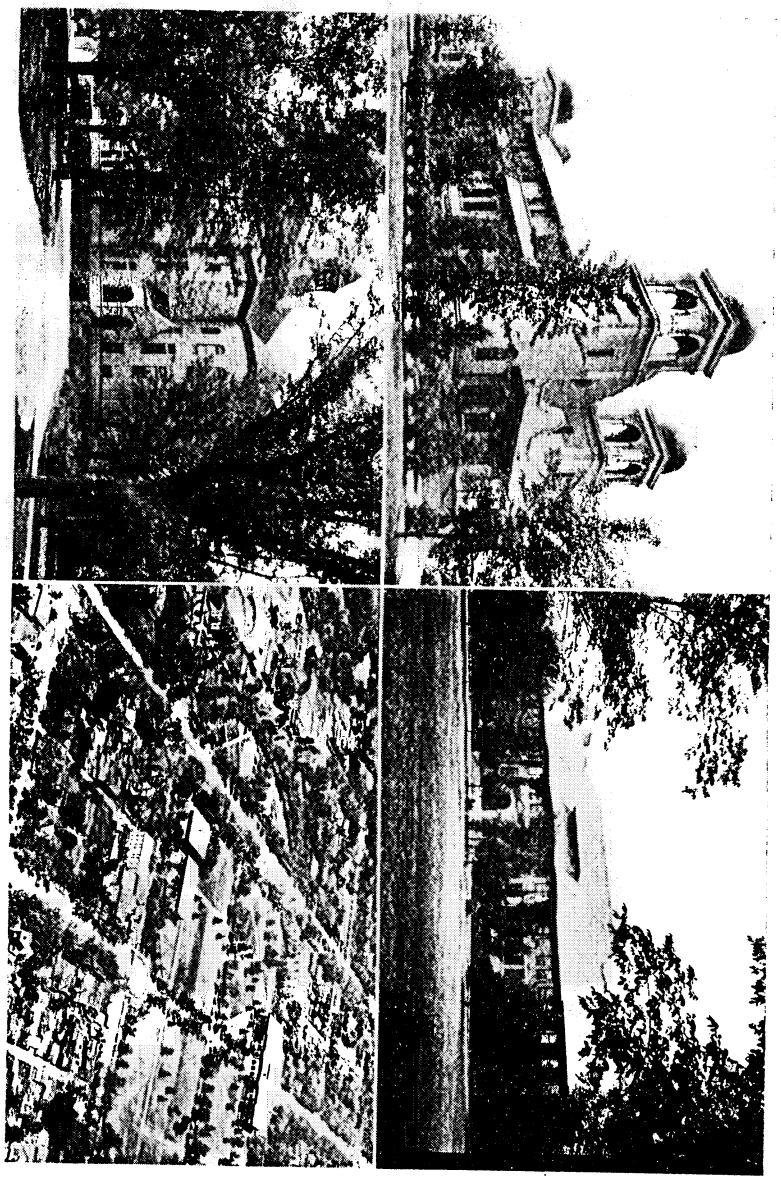
An attempt to establish a School of Mines was made by the territorial legislature in 1870, and a building was partly completed. In 1874 an appropriation of $10,000 was made but the growth of the school was very slow; most of the students attending the school were not regular but part-time students; for many years they had only gratuitous, part-time instruction; in 1876 there were only six students. In 1880 a $13,000 building was erected and a permanent

income from taxation guaranteed; and in that year the number of students increased from thirty to sixty with a great increase in the number of full time students. From then the attendance fell off and did not again reach the sixty mark until 1890. The year 1890 marked the real beginning of the growth of the Colorado School of Mines. In 1900 there was a faculty of seventeen instructing almost 300 students. At the present time the school has ten buildings, nearly 500 students and a faculty of over fifty. The school is situated at Golden.

Colorado Agricultural College was not legally established until 1870, though it had 90,000 acres of land prior to that time. After it was legally established it had no funds to carry on its work. The people of Fort Collins, the town where the college is located, took the lead, and in 1876 the school had a site and one small building which were worth $5,000. In 1877 a tax income of $7,000 annually was assured. In 1879 the school was really open to students for the first time and started with twenty students and one course of study. The growth of the school was rapid and in 1900 there were 345 students enrolled. There are now 2,000 students and a faculty of 131.

Colorado State Teachers College began as a normal school in 1889. Prior to this time work in pedagogy had been given at the University of Colorado, but it was felt that a separate school was needed for the training of teachers. An appropriation of $20,000 was made and Greeley donated forty acres of land and $15,000 for a building. The school began with ten teachers and seventy-six students in the college and 225 students in the model school which was established in connection with the college. In 1900 there were 500 students in the school. At the present time the school has sixteen buildings, with a $250,000 gymnasium under construction, a faculty of over 100 and nearly 2,000 students. It is given the credit of being one of the outstanding teacher training institutions of the country, and is the only institution of its kind to give standard graduate work leading to the degree of Master of Arts.

There are other schools in the state which should be mentioned: Western State College, at Gunnison, which does the same kind of work as Teachers College and which is



LEFT: UPPER, MEMORIAL CHAPEL; LOWER, MAIN HALL, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
RIGHT: UPPER, PALMER HALL; LOWER, AIRPLANE VIEW, COLORADO COLLEGE

under the same board of directors; Regis College and Colorado Women's College in Denver; the Normal School at Alamosa, which is growing and making good progress. Higher education in Colorado ranks with the best which can be found in the country.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Private and parochial schools had more of a place in the early days of Colorado than they do today. Early schools were often private or under the guidance of some church. Especially was this true in reference to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church founded missions which in many places were quickly followed by schools; Denver, Pueblo, Trinidad and many other places early had Catholic schools.

Many private schools which charged tuition for the compensation of the teacher became at least partly supported at public expense, and with the growth of the state were usually taken over by the state or local district.

In the early history of Colorado, private and denominational schools abounded. The Catholics had sixteen schools of varying kinds in nine towns and cities. The Episcopalians had a school for girls and another for boys. Colorado College was a Congregational institution and Denver University was Methodist. There was a Presbyterian school at Salida and a military academy at Canon City.[17] There were about 200 students enrolled in elementary private and parochial schools when Colorado became a state.

Elementary schools of this type are not encouraged today; public education is more favored. However, quite a number of schools of this type are in operation at the present time, and they probably will continue for some time.

REFORM SCHOOLS

Colorado maintains an industrial school for boys and an industrial school for girls. These institutions are inde-

[17] *Education in Colorado.* History of the early education of Colorado; compiled by order of the State Teachers Association, Denver, 1885, p. 99.

pendent of the State Department of Education and are governed by special boards of from three to six members appointed by the governor.

The industrial school for boys is located at Golden, fifteen miles from Denver. The institution furnishes board, room, clothing, schooling, medical attendance, dental work, special eye and ear treatment, military drill, amusement and entertainment, and has about twenty teachers giving trades instruction. Necessary disciplinary and restraining measures are also provided.

The various departments first attend to the practical work needed for the institution, which provides valuable training and experience in the chosen occupations of the boys. Training is provided in typing and bookkeeping, printing, woodworking, gardening, plumbing, blacksmithing, mason and cement work, shoe and harness making, tailoring, florists' work, boiler and machine work, farming, baking, laundry, culinary work, etc. Regular religious services, both Catholic and Protestant, are provided.

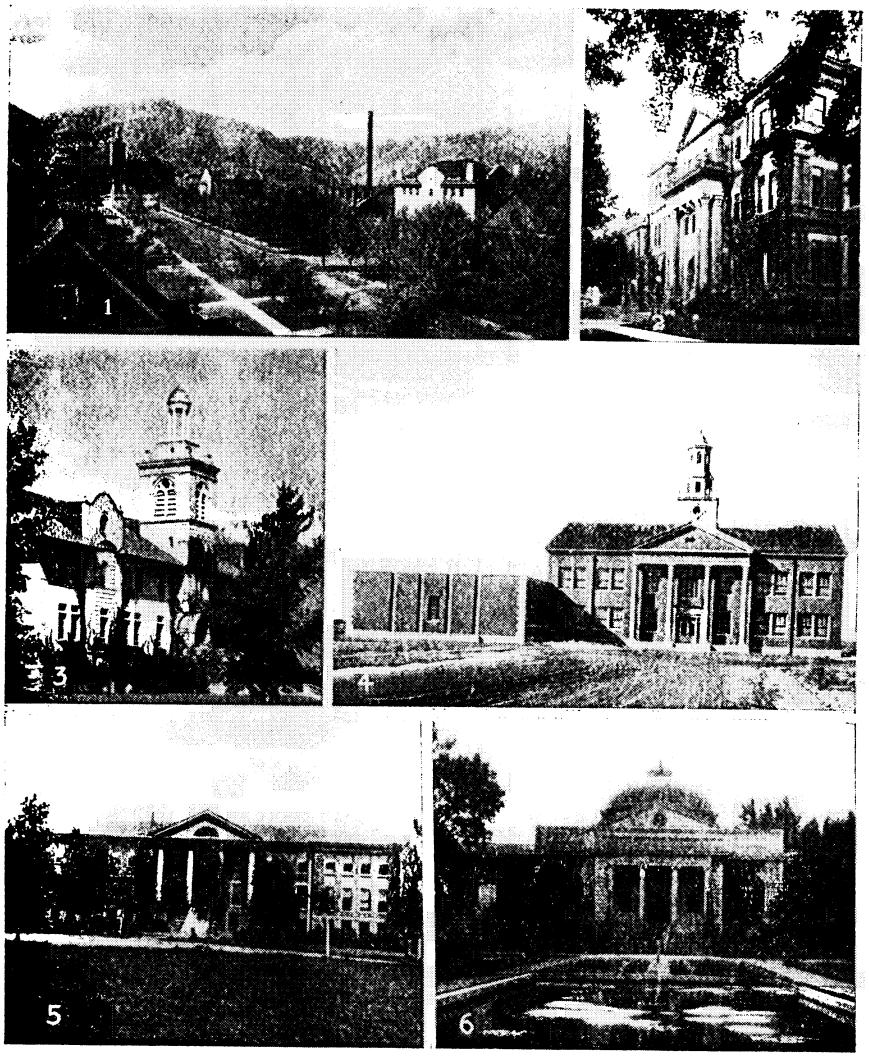
In 1922 there were 366 boys enrolled in the school, with an average number of 318 per day during the term.

The industrial school for girls is located at Morrison and serves a similar purpose to that of the institution for boys. Girls are committed to the institution by the county judges of the state and are well cared for in every respect. Attempt is made to provide training along the lines that will prove most practical and beneficial to the girls when they leave the school. Wholesome recreation is amply provided and a light form of discipline has always been the policy of the institution.

Regular religious services are conducted by Protestant and Catholic ministers and devotional exercises are held each morning and evening.

During the year 1924 there were 215 girls in care of the institution.

In addition to the industrial schools, the state maintains a school for deaf and blind, at Colorado Springs; a home and school for dependent and neglected children, at Denver, and a home and school for mental defectives at Grand Junction.



1. Campus, State School of Mines. 2. Administration Building, State Teachers College. 3. Simon Guggenheim Hall, School of Mines. 4. Adams State Normal School (south wing unfinished). 5. North Hall, Western State College. 6. Library, State Teachers College

COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS

Commercial education in Colorado is begun in many of the elementary and secondary schools of the state, especially the latter. Many of the high schools offer special commercial and trades courses which equip in part or altogether for some of the vocations.

In addition to the commercial training provided by the public schools of the state, three of the institutions of higher learning have special departments in commercial training, including the University of Colorado School of Business Administration, the Colorado College Department of Business Administration and Banking, and the University of Denver School of Commerce. Other business and commercial schools of the state include the Barnes Commercial School, Central Business College, Denver Business College, Modern School of Business, and Woodworth's Shorthand College of Denver; the American Business College of Pueblo; Blair's Business College of Colorado Springs; the Boulder Business College of Boulder; Dodds' Commercial College of Canon City; Greeley Commercial College of Greeley; the Hoel-Ross Business College of Grand Junction, and the Trinidad Business College of Trinidad.

STATE HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The State Historical and Natural History Society, which was founded in 1879, was in 1915 made one of the state educational institutions. It has furnished for the benefit of the public valuable publications pertaining to state history, ethnology, and science. It is memoralizing this semicentennial year (1926) by publishing a history of the state. In the autumn of 1922 the directors of this society, in conformity with a suggestion by Dr. A. J. Fynn, framed a bill and presented it to the Legislature (1923), requiring state history to be taught in the public schools. Immediately after the passage of the bill interest in the story of Colorado began to awaken on the part of pupils, instructors, and citizens generally.

This society has a valuable collection of books, manuscripts, and relics pertaining to Colorado and the West. It

also has excellent archaeological, ethnological, and natural history exhibits on display at the State Museum, Denver.

QUALIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Since the early teachers of Colorado were largely from the East, they were fairly well qualified in the technique of teaching as it was developed at that time.[18] But with the advent of native men and women in the teaching profession in Colorado, the need of better qualifications was felt.

As early as 1861, provisions were made for the examination of teachers and further provision was made in the state law in 1877.[19] The county superintendents were the authors and sole judges of these examinations, and dissatisfaction with them was keen. First, second, and third grade certificates were issued. The same general plan of certification has been in effect ever since, with some changes made from time to time. The last change was made in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly in 1923. It provided, in part, that by 1931 all teachers in the state shall have at least two years of professional training beyond the high school.

These regulations have at no time been constant, as each successive Legislature has changed them more or less. The issuing of certificates has been taken away from the county superintendents and the boards of the first-class districts and been placed entirely in the hands of the state department. Provisions for recognizing certificates from other states are becoming more stringent. Some of the characteristics of the certification of teachers may be seen from the following summary of the certification law of 1900.[20] The State Board of Education or the State Board of Examiners may issue state diplomas without examination if they are sure of the fitness of the candidate. Conditions for acquiring a state diploma are that the candidate: possess a first-class county certificate which is in

[18] State Superintendent's *Report*, 1880, page 24.

[19] Act of 1877, Section 2505.

[20] *Twelfth Biennial Report* of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. 1899-1900, page 37.

force; pass an examination on the general subjects; pass an examination on three subjects chosen from the special subjects; present evidence of higher education.

TEACHERS' SALARIES AND PENSIONS

The trend of teacher remuneration through several periods in the development of Colorado education may best be shown by extracts from the reports of state superintendents. Not much material is available for the early days of statehood. The following is taken from the report of 1875: Average salary of men, $60 per month; average salary of women, $48 per month.

In 1899 there was a fairly uniform minimum salary schedule in operation. Most of the schools were going over the minimum, as they do today, but the following figures will show the lowest and the highest salaries paid to teachers in that year:[21] In the graded schools: The lowest county average for men, $45; for women, $42.25; the highest county average for men, $125; for women, $120. In the rural schools: The lowest county average for men, $31.25; for women, $29; the highest county average for men, $75; for women, $64.

By 1921 the present minimum salary schedule was in effect, and under it the following average salaries were being paid:[22] In the high school: Men, $187.80; women, $166.79; average salary, $162.69. In the one-teacher school: Men, $102.72; women, $96.81; average salary, $101.37. In the two-teacher school: Men, $124.64; women, $110.15; average salary, $116. Three-teacher schools: Men, $149.19; women, $113.48; average salary, $118.97.

In 1921 a law was passed which provided for the following minimum salary schedule:[23] Minimum salary per month, $75; minimum salary for teacher with two years' training, $111.11; minimum salary for teacher with four years' training, $133.33.

[21] *Twelfth Biennial Report* of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Colorado. 1899-1900, page 94.

[22] *Report* of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Colorado. 1921-1922, page 123.

[23] Colorado School Law, 1923. Section 236 a.

At present there is no state system of pensioning teachers in Colorado; however, some of the larger city systems of the state have adopted individual systems by which teachers are pensioned after a certain number of years' service.

Denver is perhaps the leader in adopting a system of pensioning teachers. The Denver system, known as the "Denver Teachers' Retirement Fund," was established in 1909 and is supported by a special levy amounting to a maximum of one-tenth mill. The teachers do not contribute. Men may be retired on a pension of $480 annually at the age of sixty, and women at the age of fifty-five, provided they have served twenty-five years, fifteen of which must have been served in the City of Denver, or at disability after at least ten years of service. The getting of pensions depends entirely upon the discretion of the city, which may at any time discontinue granting new retirements.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES AND ASSOCIATIONS

On November 25, 1875, Mr. Horace M. Hale, at that time superintendent of public instruction, sent to superintendents, principals, teachers, and friends of education, a letter which announced a convention which would meet in Denver in December. This was the first move toward an organization for teachers in the state. The notification mentioned specifically the organization of a State Teachers Association and the consideration of the revision of the school law. These were the topics which were taken up at the meeting. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and all the machinery for an association which would be as efficient as possible was perfected. The whole matter pointed toward the benefit of education in Colorado. The following officers were elected to manage the affairs of the first teachers' organization in Colorado: President, Horace M. Hale; secretary, Aaron Gove; assistant secretaries, Estelle Freeman and Sara A. Scott; treasurer, L. G. A. Copley.

The membership at this time numbered about 100 and came mostly from Denver, Pueblo, Golden, Boulder, Greeley, Fort Collins, and the mining districts in the mountains west of Denver. From that time regular meetings have been held and the association has grown along with education and all the other activities in the state. More and more functions have been taken over by the association. In 1924, at the annual meeting, a motion was made to employ a full-time secretary. Mr. W. B. Mooney was appointed in 1925 to this office.

At the first meeting of the Colorado Teachers Association it was recommended that institutes be held in various counties and attempts were made to do so in several counties, but the difficulties of travel and the expense were so great that many found the plan impracticable. But with the coming of better facilities and the development of the state, the institute has gained prominence and for many years has been a source of real inspiration to the teachers. With all this came the chance for better training of teachers through the institutions of higher learning; one of the chief of these was the Colorado State Teachers College; the Western State College at Gunnison helped greatly, and also, though more recently, the Normal School at Alamosa. With these opportunities teachers could get thorough training during the vacation period, and this training is much better than that afforded by the short institute sessions. The institute is now on the decline and will soon be replaced by better methods of teacher training.

PROGRESS IN TEACHER TRAINING

Beginning with the opening of the University of Colorado, training at state expense has been available to teachers. The normal department, in which the subject matter of the common branches was taught along with some pedagogy, was maintained until the Normal School, which is now the State Teachers College, at Greeley, was opened, in 1889. There were not many students at that time, but not a great many teachers were needed in Colorado, and with the increase in the number of teachers needed, the State Teachers College grew. From its humble beginning with seventy-six students and ten teachers, the school has grown rapidly and it now has, as noted earlier,

over 100 on the faculty, nearly 2,000 students, and many excellent departments. It is now among the leading institutions for the training of teachers. Besides this school, the state maintains two other colleges for the purpose of training teachers. Western State College at Gunnison is an outstanding school, and compares favorably with institutions of its kind in other states. The Normal School at Alamosa, also a teacher training institution, is still young, but it promises to be of great value in the training of teachers in Colorado.

Most of the other institutions of higher learning in the state have strong departments of education where prospective teachers may receive training under excellent instructors.

Denver University, a pioneer educational institution in many striking respects, was the first to introduce pedagogical extension work. In 1898, Dr. D. E. Phillips established an annual course for teachers leading to university degrees. At the present time more than 700 Denver teachers are taking advantage of the Saturday classes of this university. The State University and the State Teachers College maintain similar extension college work in Denver and in a number of other cities and towns of the state.

The Agricultural College at Fort Collins maintains a department for training teachers, in which a large number are enrolled each year. It also provides special training in rural education and leads in this movement in the state.

The University of Colorado, at Boulder, now definitely established among the outstanding universities of the country, maintains a college of education in which excellent teacher training is provided. Teachers' courses are provided in many departments and special emphasis is placed upon educational methods and principles.

Colorado College also provides professional training of high grade for teachers. Hence, means for the professional training of teachers are not lacking in Colorado. The movement has grown, since 1876, in approximate proportion to the increase in the population and industry of the state.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

For the benefit of teachers and others who are unable to avail themselves of the privileges of college training during the regular semesters, and for regularly matriculated students who wish to continue their college training without loss of time, seven of the institutions of higher learning of the state hold summer sessions, viz., the University of Colorado at Boulder, the State Teachers College at Greeley, the Agricultural College at Fort Collins, Western State College at Gunnison, Denver University at Denver, Colorado College at Colorado Springs, and the Adams State Normal School at Alamosa.

The summer schools have grown to be one of the most potent factors in higher education in the state. Most of the institutions offer a full quarter's work and a larger number and variety of courses than are offered during the regular year.

Another advantage of the summer schools is in the policy of the various institutions of employing a special faculty for the summer term—outstanding men and women, experts in their fields—from the most prominent universities and colleges of the United States and from foreign countries.

During the summer term of 1925, the State University at Boulder had in attendance over 3,000 students, with most of the states and several foreign countries represented. Their special faculty numbered more than fifty. The State Teachers College at Greeley had in attendance the same summer over 2,500 students, with thirty-seven states and several foreign countries represented. Their special faculty numbered more than forty. Denver University also had enrolled in the summer of 1925 nearly 1,000 students, and the enrollment in some departments was so large that it had to be limited. Likewise, the enrollment and special provisions for the summer sessions in the other institutions mentioned are accordingly great, and the summer school is now recognized as one of the most important quarters of the year in most of the institutions of higher learning, while in some it is the most important.

PRESENT TENDENCIES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS IN EDUCATION

Colorado has kept pace with the nation in educational development and progress. The system of public instruction is broad and extensive. Beginning with the kindergartens and continuing up through the elementary schools, secondary schools, normal schools, colleges, and universities, practices of the best that is known in education today are to be found. The socialized recitation, the project method, the individual instruction method, multi-track systems, scientific grouping and classification, etc., etc., some of which are yet in an experimental stage, nevertheless are all to be found in operation in the various levels of the schools of the state.

In addition there are technical schools, vocational schools, continuation schools, and opportunity schools. Vocational education comprises a prominent part of the modern curriculum. The 6-3-3 plan of organization embodying the junior high school is common throughout the state. The program of curriculum revision now being carried on in the Denver schools is attracting attention throughout the nation. The schools of the state are characterized by continued changes in subject matter and in method, and are indeed among the greatest of the laboratories of progress.

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(The first three of which are written and edited by the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado)

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