

The Academy of Idaho



THE Academy of Idaho was established by an Act of the Legislature of Idaho, sixth session, 1901. The purpose and scope of the school, as set forth in the Act, is the teaching of all branches commonly taught in Academies, including also the various studies pertaining to a good common school education, and such special courses as are commonly taught in business colleges.

The idea of such a school, to be located in Pocatello, was conceived by the Hon. Theo. Turner, state senator from Bannock County. The location of other state institutions of learning, and the geographical position and admirable railroad facilities of Pocatello, appeared to him in such a way as to demand a school in this section of the state.

Mr. Turner was ably assisted by representatives, Hon. W. J. Ingling, Hon. Denmark Jensen, and Hon. J. Frank Hunt, also by Hon. Thomas F. Terrell, lieutenant-governor.

The first board of trustees was: Alexander Houlehan, J. M. Bennett, J. U. Stueki, W. C. Whitwell, J. H. Bonham, and Theodore Swanson. The first meeting of the board was held in Pocatello April 27, 1901, when the board was organized by electing J. M. Bennett, president, and Alexander Houlehan, secretary.

The first Faculty, chosen May 21, 1902, consisted of: J. W. Faris, principal, H. D. Cheney, languages, E. J. Norton, English, and I. E. Hill, mathematics.

The school opened September 22, 1902, with an enrollment of forty students.

A liberal interpretation has been placed upon the purpose and scope of the school and courses in mechanic arts, domestic economy, and music have been added to the college preparatory and the commercial courses.

The enrollment of the school has increased from forty to one hundred eighty-eight, and the faculty is now composed of eleven members. This year the main building, a beautiful structure, will be completed according to the original plans. A boys' dormitory, a girls' dormitory and a shop have been erected. During the summer an infirmary will be built; the campus has been parked and beautified; athletic fields have been provided for; a gymnasium has been equipped;—in short, a barren bit of land has been transformed into a beautiful campus dotted with substantial buildings equipped with every convenience of a modern, up-to-date school, all within five years. This splendid growth is largely due to liberal state appropriations and progressive business-like boards of trustees.

While the Academy has made marked progress in the past, the future was never so bright, and greater things are expected to come in the next few years than ever before.

J. W. FARIS.