THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF RENO COUNTY

by

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CONTENTS

TABLES

The Educational Development of Reno County

Introduction

Reno County is located in the south-central part of Kansas. The purpose of this study is to present a report of the development of public schools within Reno County. The study covers a period of fifty-eight years, from 1872 to 1930.

The data represented in this investigation have been secured through the kindness of the county and city superintendents of schools of Reno county, from official school records, bulletins, financial reports, from the State House at Topeka, from the Bureau of School Service and Research, University of Kansas, and from historical records. The method employed has been that of personal investigation, questionnaire, and library research. The writer spent several months in Reno county and Topeka in gathering data with the help and cooperation of school officials.

The Educational Development of Reno County

I. The Development of the County.

The educational history of Reno county began almost simultaneously with the founding of the city of Hutchinson.[1] Hutchinson determined its location before the boundary lines were definitely fixed.[2] Reno county, located in the south-central part of the State of Kansas, had its boundaries temporarily fixed by the legislature of 1868. It was named in honor of General J. Reno, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. The territory which comprised this county was not settled until three years later, the first settlers were not even within the confines of the county at that time.[3] In 1871 this county which had the required 600 inhabitants, a necessary number to entitle a county to obtain its self government, received an order issued by Governor Harvey for the organization of the county.[2]

Most of the early settlers came from Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, a few from the South. They were a sturdy type of people willing to dare and do. All struggled in poverty. In those days eggs were considered a luxury, and were saved for the sick. One woman later admitted that she was tempted to play sick so as to partake of that coveted luxury. Milk was not used, as the one aristocratic cow in the city of Hutchinson supplied the whole town, but even then she was dry six months of the year. There was little if any social difference or distinction between the inhabitants of the city and those of the farm districts.[11]

The city of Hutchinson grew up almost in a night. In June 1872 C. C. Hutchinson made a contract with the directors of the Santa Fe Railroad at their annual meeting in Topeka to build a town at the point where the railroad would cross the Little Arkansas River, and August 15, 1872 Hutchinson was incorporated as a city of the third class.[2] Ten years later the city's inhabitants numbered over 2,000, and in 1886 the city was incorporated as second class in rank, in 1911 it became a city of the first class by virtue of having a population of more than 15,000.[1] Now its population is more than 47,000.

The rapid growth of the city has been due to the rapid settlement in the county, also to the growth of industries, such as salt plants, strawboard manufacturing, creamery products, milling, and packing. These products have been produced on a large scale and their sources are seemingly inexhaustible.[4] Reno is at the outlet of a great wheat and corn growing district which places her in front rank among the counties of the state in this respect. The value of the farm products run from $6,600,000 to $8,500,000 annually. When this wealth is added to the immense income from salt, and from the commerce which passes this way the locality appears to be an unusually favored one.[3]

The first board of county commissioners had its first meeting on January 4, 1872. The entire county was placed in one township and was given the name of Reno. All the townships have since been sliced from this one. On February 3, 1872, Hutchinson was made the county seat. C.C. Hutchinson after whom the city is named, was elected legislative represen-

tative for the purpose of fixing the county boundary lines so it would lessen the danger of another town's being established nearer the center of the county that would contest with Hutchinson for the county seat. Everything which seemed possible was done to construct a bridge across the Arkansas river so as to make transportation easier and to make Hutchinson the trade center of the county.[2]

Reno county is divided by the Arkansas river and traversed by the Little Arkansas and the Ninnescah rivers. Another feature that made transportation difficult was the belt of sand along the river. These topographical features furnished excellent surface and subsurface drainage to the 99 per cent of prairie land of the county. People settled the land, broke up sod, planted corn, protected themselves against free-rangers and buffalo herds, and built houses. But not until transportation across the river was possible did the lands beyond it open up. During the latter part of the year 1872 and the year 1873 that part of the county was settled very rapidly.[6]

The organization of the county and the election of its officers were but the beginning of activities both in the town and the county. There were no roads laid out, no bridges to make traveling possible through the treacherous sand along the river which divided the county, no schools, and worst of all no money to pay for all these things. The homestead land yielded no taxes and was not taxed until proved upon. The fact that it was exempt from taxes until the title passed from the government to the individual was an inducement to the early settler to

put off "proving up" on his claim as long as possible. There was very little personal property and few persons besides the merchants had personal property above what was covered by the $200.00 exemption for the head of each family.[2]

Property was valued for taxation at from one-fourth to one-sixth of its real value. Consequently the burden of the taxes fell on the settlers who had bought railroad land and upon the railroad itself which was built in the county. These two classes furnished what money went into the county treasury. In 1872 there were 14 personal tax payers on the tax roll, and the total amount they paid in taxation was $14.25. The only method of providing finances for the necessities of county administration and improvement was to issue bonds. Bonds were issued for $35,000 for bridges, $15,000 for schools, and $5,000 for interest on bonds. A decided interest was taken in school affairs by the people, but as the county had been settled by poor emigrants, they were afraid to take any steps which would lead to increase of taxation in those early days.[8]

II. The Early Development of the Schools

It is impossible to write a complete history of Reno County schools. The records are in such a condition that not all of the information necessary can be obtained. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction does not have adequate records of the schools of this county. The county superintendent's office of this county has no records of the first three county superintendents' administrative terms. It is only recently that such information has been supplied in part from other records

and from the journals of the county commissioners. It is recalled by some of the old settlers that so little consideration was given this office that ten years after the organization of the county, the county superintendent of that day kept all records in a gunny sack, and pitched that sack in a corner of a coal shed. The Superintendent was in the habit of hiding from office and spending his leisure time in the coal shed playing chess. Persons desiring an interview with the county superintendent concerning school matters hunted up his "hideout" and the gunny sack.

From all indications, it seems, that those who had charge of the county's educational affairs divided part of the county into spaces or stretches that would afterwards be settled up and school districts were informally organized. The statutes provide that a petition from the patrons of the proposed school district be submitted to the county superintendent, who, on hearing the petition, may lay out and organize the district. The present district boundaries have been whittled and cut to meet the demand of the patrons. The nearest approach to a record of the date of whittling some of the districts is the date of the first issue of bonds.[2]

At the first county election, held March 2, 1872, W. E. Hutchinson was elected county superintendent, but resigned in July. D. M. Hunt held the office until August. Alexander Lynch succeeded for the remainder of the year. Taylor Flick entered upon these duties on January 1, 1873. During his period in that office, a large portion of that

county was divided into school districts. His labor deserves credit, but his records deserve censure. J. P. Cassedy next filled the office of superintendent, from 1874 to 1876 and was followed by Kanaga and E. L. Lewis.

There are evidences that the educational development kept good pace with the progress and prosperity of the county.[6] At the commencement of the school year 1873, there were but five organized districts in Reno County, and at the close of that year there were forty-one. The first school house in the county was erected early in the spring, in the fall there were sixteen frame buildings completed while five others were in process of construction. The latter included, at that time, the magnificent brick and stone school building in the city of Hutchinson. It was ready for occupancy in September 1874. There were no organized schools taught prior to September 1, 1872. In 1873 eleven organized schools were reported having been taught during the year with an average term of 3.5 months.[9] Indications are that people were not able to support a winter term of school after the crop failure in the summer of 1874 but the period lost was later made up in the summer. The educational outlook, considering all handicaps, certainly was encouraging. The number of school houses built during the first two years sufficiently attested the general interest in education.[10]

The people of Reno County deserve honorable mention for the way they faced and overcame disappointments and adversities during the early pioneer days and throughout the succeeding years. Many schools had their start in private homes. Some districts lost their school buildings through

fire and storm. Most of the early school buildings were frame structures. One, the first school of Medora was a sod house which formerly belonged to a large cattle man of that time. It is related that Mrs. Sample, the teacher, went from house to house, soliciting small amounts from those able and willing to contribute, in an effort to raise money to buy a dictionary. Finally the coveted book was obtained, only to be stolen a short time after its purchase.[5] There were no blackboards, few books, and very meager apparatus. In spite of these inconveniences the county superintendent of 1874 reports that the county districts generally had good school houses. Some of these districts perhaps had gone in debt too far and found the debts rather burdensome.[4]

No sooner had the people settled than they looked for educational privileges. Early in 1872 District No. 1 was organized to embrace Hutchinson and vicinity.[5] Prior to this organization a school had been opened under the management of Miss Jennie Hodgson (whose portrait appears in the gallery of pioneer workers) and for some time her school consisted of one pupil, Olive Miller.[2] Rooms were used wherever they could be found, locations being shifted as buildings thus occupied might be needed for some other purposes. At that time there were no appropriations for schools. There was little property on which to levy taxes and it required nearly a year to levy and collect these taxes. A "select school" or subscription school was started. All of the children of the community were urged to attend the school although

the parents of some did not contribute towards the support of the school.[1]

A three-month term, taught by Miss Jennie Hodgson, the first school in the county, started January 15, 1872. It attained a maximum enrolment of 25 pupils. The salary received by the teacher was $20.00 per month, with house rent free. Later this subscription school was taught in one of the first twelve houses built in Hutchinson, a wooden structure, put up for a meat shop. It had not been completed when it was leased for school purposes. It was a cold winter and the pupils and teacher experienced much difficulty in keeping warm.[6] Indications are that there was another term of subscription school taught with Mrs. Sanford Maulsberry in charge. In the fall of 1872, District Number One was organized with J. T. Lane as teacher the first six weeks and Mr. J. R. Lindsey as teacher the remainder of the four and one-half months. At that time Hutchinson embraced a small town site with no definite border drawn, and street-crossings marked off with buffalo bones. District Number One apparently included everything in the county at first. The school term closed in 1873 with an enrolment of 80 pupils.[6]

On Jule 10, 1873, bonds to the amount of $15,000.00 were voted for a school building in Hutchinson. During the first year only two of the four rooms were finished. It was a splendid brick structure which was completed in 1874. That year closed with an enrolment of 125 pupils. In 1875 the upstairs rooms were occupied but the building was

inadequate to accomodate the ever increasing number of students, Other districts were soon organized principally north of the Arkansas River. In March 1873, District Number Two issued bonds to the amount of $1,000.00 and a school house was soon built. But south of the river, District Number Seventeen organized and issued bonds to the amount of $800.00, May 17, 1873.[2]

Table I. Tax Levy, Bonds Issued, Expenditure of Schools, Valuation of School Property During the Years 1872 to 1928

Years	Bonds issued	Tax levy	Expenditure for Schools	Valuation of school property	Valuation of county
1872	.00	.00	,00	,00	
1878			21,893.	76,853.	
1888	25,140.	13.	117,470.56	192,025.	
1898		13.	104,004.69	225,000.	
1908	25,500.	15.2	197,142.85	322,885.	
1918		16.4	545,240.49	1,269,600.	
1928		38.3	1,100,190.66	2,600,094.54	99,256,280.

With the increase of population in the county there was an increase of property valuation due to the productiveness of the soil and to the discovery of minerals which made Reno county one of the trade centers in the state. With the increase of wealth there was an increase in tax revenues and school expenditures. In 1873 bonds were issued to the total amount of $31,200.00, and school property was valued to the amount of $14,556.00.[8-9] The records show that at no time has there been a drop in property valuation or tax levy during the

period 1872 - 1928 years.

Table II. Number of Organized Districts, School Census, Enrolment, and the Number of Pupils Per Teacher

Years	Dist. org.	Census 5 to 21	No. of teachers	Enrol-ment	Pupils per teacher
1872	0	187	1	1	1.
1873	41	685	12	149	12.4
1874	63	1,514	34	1,300	38.2
1878	93	3,682		2,923	
1888	145	8,918	185	6,847	37.
1898	160	9,176	215	7,571	31.
1908	160	10,177	231	8,147	35.4
1918	144	12,191	342	9,488	28.3
1928	108	13,378	428	11,576	27.3

During the years 1873 to 1878 ninety-three school districts were organized.[12] School enrolment increased amazingly fron one pupil in 1872 to 1,300 pupils in the spring of 1874.[2] According to the census taken every ten years up to 1928 there have been no drops in the school population in Reno county.

Table III. Grade and High School Enrolment, Number of Teachers, Number of Pupils Per Teacher in Eight Leading Cities in Kansas

Cities	1888	1898	1908	1918	1928
ATCHISON					
enrolment	2,123	2,203	1,882	2,162	2,292
No. of teachers	40	43	43	69	72
No. pupils per teacher	53	51	44	31	32
COFFEYVILLE					
enrolment	620	1,190	3,078	3,439	3,921
No. of teachers	8	13	61	88	109
No. pupils per teacher	78	91	51	32	27
LAWRENCE					
enrolment	2,261	2,409	2,446	2,577	2,118
No. of teachers	34	50	60	86	98
No. pupils per teacher	66	70	40	28	31
LEAVENWORTH					
enrolment	3,461	3,537	2,923	2,811	2,721
No. of teachers	57	64	70	95	92
No. pupils per teacher	61	55	42	30	30
HUTCHINSON					
enrolment	1,462	2,114	2,650	4,327	6,288
No. of teachers	21	41	55	118	166
No. pupils per teacher	69	51	48	37	37
KANSAS CITY					
enrolment	4,139	8,218	10,836	15,648	23,877
No. of teachers	69	141	248	420	598
No. pupils per teacher	60	58	47	37	40
TOPEKA					
enrolment	5,518	6,712	7,090	7,633	12,073
No. of teachers	90	116	209	247	354
No. pupils per teacher	60	57	32	30	34
WICHITA					
enrolment	4,636	4,356	6,699	11,097	20,469
No. of teachers	67	86	152	311	551
No. pupils per teacher	69	50	57	38	37

Hutchinson as the leading center of culture and education in Reno county compares well with the leading cities of the state of Kansas in improvement of its educational facilities. With the increase of school enrolment there has been an increase in the number of teachers employed. The enrolment per teacher in Hutchinson was large during the earlier years but gradually decreased from more than 60 pupils per teacher in 1888 to 30 pupils per teacher in 1928. This indicates that more attention has been given to the improvement of teaching.

III. The Later Development of Schools

1. The Consolidation of Schools

Instead of organizing more districts the idea was later urged that better teachers and better schools would be obtained by combining several school districts. I.L. Dayhoff, county superintendent in 1897 to 1902, was most insistent on this feature of school district formation. He wanted to carry out this idea but was afraid to leave the matter to the districts which were affected. To gain his point, he induced the members of the Legislature from Reno county to get a bill through the Legislature combining Districts Number Four, Thirty-Five, One Hundred Eight and One Hundred Thirty-Nine. By this act the four districts were merged into a new one, called, "Union District Number One Hundred Thirty-Nine". At the same time and by the same act Districts Nine, Twenty-Five and One Hundred Fifty were combined to form Union District One Hundred Fifty. Considerable trouble resulted from this act, but it

soon became apparent that the new move was a good one, even though the method employed in attaining it was questionable. The same Legislature passed a general law allowing school districts to combine.[5]

Twenty-three elementary union schools employing from 2 to 9 teachers have been organized in Reno county since the passage of the law. Some of these schools are now located in small towns, or third class cities, one is a suburban district of Hutchinson. The Nickerson school has merged into a second class city school and Hutchinson into a first class city. There are seven schools having two teachers employed.[17]

Consolidated Elementary Schools in Reno County

2 teachers	3 teachers	5 teachers	6 teachers	7 teachers
Mitchel	Union Five	Arlington	Turon	Sylvia
North Reno	Castleton	Buhler	South-Hutchinson	
Obee	Partridge	Haven		
Lincoln	Medora	Langdon		
Prosperity	Plevna	Pretty Prairie	(9 teachers	
Harmony	Abbyville		Nickerson)	
Luthern	St. Josephs			

Nickerson employs 9 teachers. The high school is a community school and is not under the supervision of the county superintendent. The process of consolidation decreased the number of rural district schools so that only 103 teachers were employed in the one-room teacher schools in the year 1930, as contrasted with 157 such teachers twenty years ago. Principals are included in teachers listed above.

A step which was intended to improve conditions in the rural elementary schools was the development of "Standard Schools". The

definite requirements for making a school standard are; an acre of land, a well built school house with a ventilated heating system, satisfactory lighting system, adjustable window shades, adjustable seats, sanitary water facilities, clean and well kept surroundings and outhouses, a library with suitable books for all grades, a globe, and maps. The qualifications required of teachers are; a second grade county certificate and teaching experience, a Normal Training certificate, or state certificate. The yard must be beautified with shrubbery and trees.[2]

In the year 1918 there were 48 standard schools in Reno county which made it rank first in this respect among counties of the state. Brown county ranked next with 33, and McPherson ranked third with 25 standard schools. "The progress that is being made in Reno county in developing a sensible system of education," says Governor Arthur Capper, "is a mighty encouraging item in the growth of school work in Kansas. I watched the movement with much interest. The great increase of the number of standard schools is especially gratifying. This indicates that the quipment which is being provided is such that much better educational work can be done than was possible several years ago. A person interested in the welfare of boys and girls can get much pleasure from traveling over Reno county and seeing the large number of excellent rural school buildings. The old type of building is rapidly disappearing never to return."[5]

2. The Organization of Rural High Schools

The next step in the development of the schools in Reno county

was the organization of rural high schools. The sentiment or demand that the children of rural schools might enjoy substantially the same educational facilities as are enjoyed by city children did not originate with teachers of the county but with the Grange. The Grange is an organization composed entirely of farmers. The people were of the opinion that the most economical way to educate boys and girls of the farm was to bring the school to the students, rather than send the student to a school away from home.[2] Parents wanted their children under their immediate influence during their early adolescent years which necessitated the establishment of institutions nearer home.

Preceding the advent of the rural high school several high schools outside of Hutchinson had been started in the county. In the year 1909 there were organized two schools each offering one year of high school work. In 1915 five high schools were organized which offered the four year course, and three others which offered less than four years of work.[13] These schools offered the regular academic subjects, including German and French, domestic science, manual training, commercial subjects, and art.[2] In 1918 the city of Hutchinson contained about one-half the population of the county but the number of young people attending high school from the rural areas exceeded that of the city by at least 100 pupils. This indicates that education was available to the rural as to the city children.[5]

At present there are eleven organized rural high schools in the county offering a four year course with a teaching staff of from three to six members, principals included, and one community high school

with nine teachers, principal excluded. Governor Arthur Capper offered (taken from Old Trail and New, page 45) the following statement:

> "Efficient rural high schools are provided for continuing the training of the students after they leave the grades, the parents have taken a great interest in the work of rural high schools which means continued support and growth in the next few years. We are entering an era of educational development and Reno county folks should have pride in the big part they are taking in blazing the trail for the movement."

3. Other Educational Interests

Education in Reno county has received a liberal support from the people. Whatever means were obtainable for the purpose of furthering educational interests they were zealously applied. To Superintendent Payne is credit due for the introduction of the classification register. In 1885 he succeeded in placing Welch's Register into each school room of the county which marks the beginning of a more accurate and complete record for the schools in the county.

Closely following the introduction of the register was the adoption of the uniform series of text books for the schools of the county. County uniformity was adopted in 1889 during Mr. White's period as county superintendent.

In the summer of 1892 Superintendent Hill prepared a thirty-two page manual and course of study for the county schools. One of these manuals was given to each teacher, one to each district officer in the county, and an additional copy was placed in each school room for the use by pupils.

A Normal Institute for school teachers was first held in the

summer of 1877. Beginning July 16, a session of four weeks was devoted to "Our Educational Problem". The enrolment was 50. The largest institute enrolment was 261 in 1890. Those institutes, no doubt, were an inducement for rural teachers to become better qualified in their work. In employing teachers, as a rule, those were given the preference who had attended the institute. And teachers not attending institute or other associations sometimes fell behind and dropped out of school work.[1]

Other devices for the purpose of increasing professional interest were the monthly teachers' association meetings from September to April inclusive. In addition to these meetings township associations under the name,"educational meetings" were organized in which teachers, patrons, and pupils participated. The Reno County Teachers' Association now meets twice a year and the State Teachers' Association once in two years in Hutchinson.

4. The Growth of Professional Interest

Most of the early teachers who came from the East had good educational training and made themselves felt during the early years in Reno County. One of these well known pioneer teachers was Miss Charlotte Sample, a teacher from Ohio. She taught her first school in Reno county in a sod house at Medora, six days in a week, at a salary of $25.00 per month. School was a new thing in those days, and children gathered at this"seat of learning" from miles around.[5] A large number of the earliest settlers in Reno county were returned soldiers from the

Civil War, who finding home conditions unsatisfactory, were lured west by a spirit of independence or adventure to the free homestead lands. Many settled in this county bringing their wives and children with them. The mothers who had been in the school rooms in the East faithfully put their hands to the wheels of education in the new homeland.[2]

Another source of securing teachers was through the county examinations offered to students finishing the elementary grades. At that time the majority of the common school graduates were able to obtain a third grade county teacher's certificate.[1] In 1892 there were a total of 238 students who had received such certification.

Methods of securing certificates changed with improvements in teaching. Accordingly, teachers with a higher grade of certificate received preference. Later the county grade certificates were replaced by normal training certificates, which in turn were displaced by certificates requiring from 30 to 60 hours college credit. Of the 108 teachers employed in the one-room rural school of Reno county during the year 1930 nearly one-third had certificates based upon college credit while one-half of the 80 teachers employed in the two or more teacher schools held similar certificates.

Table IV. Teacher Certification in Reno County Rural Schools 1930-1931

Certificate	Elementary Schools		High school	Total
	One-room	Two or more teacher		
Life 120 hrs.	0	0		
3 yr Life " "	0	0		
Life 60 hrs.	12	14		26
3 yr. Life " "	0	2		2
3 yr. State " "	23	22		45
3 yr. Ele. 30 hrs.	2	0		2
N.T.	37	8		45
P.N.T.	3	10		13
First Grade	16	15		31
Second Grade	15	3		18
State Ele.	0	3		3
City	0	1		1
Degree				
A.B. or B.S.	0	2	57	59
M.A. or M.S.	0	0	3	3
Total	108	80	60	248

All principals included

Table V. Teacher Certification in Hutchinson Schools 1930-1931

Certification	Ele. grades	Jr. H.	Sr. H.	Total
Life 60 hrs.	41			41
3 yr. State 60 hrs.	1			1
3 yr Ele. 30 hrs.	0			0
3 yr. Ren.	7			7
N.T.	1			1
P.N.T.	5			5
First grade	1			1
City	13			13
Permanent	13	5	3	21
State	7			7
Degree				
A.B. or B.S.	12	38	25	75
A.M. or M.S.	0	5	12	17
Total	101	48	40	189

All principals included.
Superintendents not included.

These data have been secured through the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Hutchinson City Schools. The special teachers and the teachers of the junior college are not included.

Table VI. Institutions From Which Teachers Degrees Are Received

Institutions	City of Hutchinson			R. H.	Total
	El.	Jr. H.	Sr. H.		
Kansas State Schools					
Emporia	4	6	6	3	19
Hays	2	1	2	0	5
Kansas U.	2	6	9	3	20
K.S.A.C.	0	7	2	8	17
Pittsburg	0	7	7	5	19
Denominational Colleges					
Baker U.			1	2	3
Bethany				1	1
Bethel				5	5
Friends		2		3	5
McPherson	2	1	2	7	12
Ottawa U.		1		1	2
South Western		1	3	7	11
Ks. Wesleyan		2	1	2	5
Sterling				2	2
Tabor				1	1
Wichita U.		1		2	3
Washburn				1	1
Other States					
Chicago				1	1
Colorado U.		2			2
Emury			1		1
Greeley T.C.	1	2			3
Gunnison T.C.	1				1
Iowa U.			1		1
McEven				2	2
Michigan		1			1
Northwestern			1	1	2
Oklahoma U.		1			1
Purdue				1	1
Phillips U.		1		1	2
Wisconsin			1		1
Texas				1	1
Columbia U.		1			1
Total	12	43	37	60	152

Table VII. A Summary of Degree Held and Institutions From Which Degrees Were Received by Teachers Employed in Reno County Schools, 1930 to 1931

School	Denominational	Kansas State	Other States	No. with no Degree	No. with Degree	Total
Rural						
Elementary						
One-room	0	0	0	108	0	108
Two or more teachers	1	1	0	78	2	80
High school	35	19	6	0	60	60
City 1st class						
Ele. grades	2	8	2	89	12	101
Jr. High	8	27	8	5	43	48
Sr. High	8	26	3	3	37	40
Total	54	81	19	283	154	437

Of the 283 teachers with no degree, 115 have a certificate based upon 60 hours college training and 2 have 30 hours of college credit. The total number of teachers having less than 30 hours of college work is 166 which is 38 per cent of the teachers employed in Reno county. Some of these 166 teachers may have the minimum number of hours in college work as required for making a certificate permanent but the author has no information on this.[17-18]

If the efficiency of the school is measured by the instructors' teaching efficiency, then it is important that only highly qualified teachers should be employed. Other things being equal, better teachers should receive better salaries. In Reno county teachers'

salaries have kept pace with progress and prosperity of the county. The first teachers in the early years, 1872 to 1874, received a salary of $25.00 per month. In 1882 there were 116 teachers employed in the county with an average salary of $35.00 per month for men, and $29.44 for women.[6] Later salaries have shown continued increases.

Table VIII. Average Salary of Teachers in Rural and in City Schools since 1908

School	1908 Men	1908 Women	1918 Men	1918 Women	1928 Men	1928 Women
Rural						
Grades	$50.70	49.70	72.00	66.00	105.00	92.00
High Schools	67.00	52.00	107.00	85.70	153.00	140.00
City						
Grades	59.92	50.00	96.00	79.00	165.00	147.00
Jr. High					187.00	175.00
Sr. High	79.50	65.50	127.00	109.00	259.00	212.00

The elementary grades of the one-room and the two or more teacher schools have not been considered in Table VIII as separate data for some years are not available. The salaries as stated are on an 8 month basis for rural grades, on 9 months for rural high schools, and on 10 month basis for city elementary and high schools.

Table IX. Average Salary of Teachers in Reno County Schools during 1930 to 1931

School	Men No.	Men Salary	Women No.	Women Salary	Average	
Rural						
One-room	4	$112.50	104	$104.82	$108.66	(8 mo.)
Two or More Teachers	6	110.56	64	107.82	109.19	(9 mo.)
High School	14	182.74	35	148.74	165.74	(10 mo.)
City 2nd Class						
Grades	0	.00	9	101.20	101.20	(10 mo.)
High School	3	186.67	7	182.50	184.58	" "
City 1st Class						
Grades	0	.00	101	153.90	153.90	(10 mo.)
Jr. High	9	186.10	35	163.72	174.91	" "
Sr. High	13	236.20	17	206.26	221.23	" "

The average salary per month is nearly $8.00 more for men than for women in the rural one-room schools during the present year. In the rural high schools the average salary for men exceeds $34.00. Since there are a very small number of men teachers employed in the one-room schools, the average salary of the teachers is probably not much above the average salaries of teachers in similar schools of other counties. In the rural high schools nearly 30 per cent of the teachers are men. In the junior high school of Hutchinson nearly 20 per cent are men teachers as contrasted with 43 per cent men teachers in the senior high school.[18] The principals of grades and high schools are not included in the rural high, and all city schools. The superintendent of the Hutchinson city schools received an annual salary of

$6500 during the year 1930 to 1931

Another factor which indicates that school officials in Reno county have given attention to teaching efficiency is the small number of inexperienced teachers employed in their schools. The number of such teachers employed in the rural schools is greater than the number of inexperienced teachers employed in the city of Hutchinson. In the year 1918 there were 44 inexperienced teachers in the rural schools and 44 employed in the Hutchinson schools or 88 out of the total of 373 teachers employed in the county. Of the 428 teachers employed in 1928, 39 inexperienced teachers were in the rural schools and 38 filled positions in Hutchinson.[14-15]

Since several writers do not agree in their accounts of the early history of Reno county schools it is difficult to determine the definite periods when the early superintendents served their official terms.

Table X. The City and County Superintendents and the Years They Served (As Nearly as can Be Determined)

Years	Hutchinson	Nickerson	Reno County
1873-74	Deburn		Taylor, Flick, Houk
1875-76	J.J. McBride, J.R Cambell		J.B. Cassedy
1877-78	S.B. Zimmerman		" "
1879-80	E.L. Jewell		J.W. Kanaga
1881-82	G.W. Winans	J.R. McGregor	E.L. Jewell
1883-84	F.F. Prigg	Eli Payne	" "
1885-86	?	A.T. Bode	Eli Payne
1887-88	John Schurr	" "	" "
1889-90	H.C. Minnich	" "	C.P. White
1891-92	" "	L.S. Baily	Sam W. Hill
1893-94	G.W. Winans	J.H. Jackson	C.P. Dawson
1895-96	" "	" "	" "
1897-98	" "	? Gonder	I.L. Dayhoff
1899-1900	" "	?	" "
1901-02	R.R. Price	F.C. Powell	" "
1903-04	" "	W. E. Hastings	J.H. Jackson
1905-06	" "	F.A. Mundell*	A.W. Hamilton
1907-08	" "	" "	" "
1909-10	J.O. Hall	" "	S.P. Rowland
1911-12	" "	" "	" "
1913-14	" "	" "	" "
1915-16	" "	" "	" "
1917-18	" "	" "	" "
1919-20	" "	" "	" "
1921-22	" "	" "	" "
1923-24	J.W. Cowans	" "	" "
1925-26	" "	" "	" "
1927-28	" "	" "	Phyllis Obee
1929-30	" "	" "	" "
1931-	" "	" "	" "

*Principal Nickerson Community High Schools.

The earlier superintendents were not retained in office for a long period of time. Whether they lacked ability efficiently and successfully to discharge their duties or whether they made such profession a stepping stone towards another goal to be attained can not be definitely determined. Later some of these city and county officers

have been filling responsible places elsewhere. S.B. Zimmerman became a lawyer. Sam W. Hill served as United States marshal, Eli Payne was professor of mathematics at Emporia, Kansas, State Teachers College, which position he held fifteen years.[1] G.W. Winans and I.L Dayhoff served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Schools in the years 1889 to 1893, and 1903 to 1907 respectively.

The first examinations of pupils in Reno county for completion of the common school courses were held in the spring of 1887. The county superintendent and his associate examiners prepared the questions. The examinations were held in April, on a day selected. The county superintendent appointed examining committees, two teachers on each committee, who conducted these examinations at the places designed by them. The committees forwarded the papers to be graded to the superintendent who made an examining board responsible for the grading of the papers. Only 9 pupils received a diploma the first year but in the year 1892 there were 59 students who received diplomas. Upon completion of such a course many students received a teachers certificate of the third grade.[1]

In Hutchinson there has been a graduating class every year but one since 1882. There have been hundreds of boys and girls graduated from the Reno county elementary and high schools.[2] In 1908 there were 389 graduates of the elementary and high schools in the whole county, this number was nearly doubled in 1918 (576 graduates).

In the year 1928 there were 692 grade graduates and 462 in the high schools in the county. Of the 692 students graduating from theelementary schools 200 came from the one-room schools, 194 from two or more teacher schools, 298 from city schools. Of the 462 graduates in the high schools 183 came from the rural, 279 from first and second class city schools.[12-14-15]

Reno county has a population of 47,785 and a school census of 13,378. According to the census taken every ten years since 1908 there has been a steady increase in student enrolment and average daily attendance. The following data taken from the Twenty-Sixth Bi-ennial Report of the State Superintendent of Instruction of Kansas verifies this statement.

Table XI. Census, Enrolment, Attendance of the Rural and the City Schools, in the Years 1908, 1918, 1928

Year	Schools	Census	Enrolment	Average Daily Attendance	
				Elem.	H.S.
1908	Rural				
	One-room	4,480	3,442	2,527	0
	Two or more Teachers	1,880	1,419	1,072	0
	City				
	Second class	372	636	212	265
	First class	3,445	2,650	1,890	229
Total		10,177	8,147	6,195	
1918	Rural				
	One-room	4,202	2,740	2,172	0
	Two or more Teachers	2,049	1,923	1,343	279
	City				
	Second class	371	453	186	228
	First class	5,623	4,372	2,249	518
Total		12,192	9,488	6,975	
1928	Rural				
	One-room	3,578	2,145	1,840	0
	Two or more Teachers	2,694	2,714	1,642	781
	City				
	Second class	354	429	174	190
	First class	6,752	6,288	3,309	1,921
Total		13,378	11,576	9,857	

A greater attendance of pupils then the census number indicates that students attended from the surrounding districts. In the year 1908 attendance at the Community High School (at Nickerson) exceeded the Hutchinson high school attendance by 34 students. Reno county had no rural high school until after 1918. By the year 1928

the attendance of 781 students in rural high schools was 163 more than the attendance in the community high school.

There was a time when schools were over crowded and teachers had the responsibility of from fifty to sixty students in one room as illustrated in Table I. This situation has changed. Teachers today have at the most 37 and often less than 20 pupils in their class rooms.[15]

Table XII. Number of Teachers, Average Enrolment, Average Attendance, 1928

School	No. of teachers	Av. enrolment per tacher			Av. attendance per teacher			Av. weeks per year
Rural		Grades	Jr.H.	Sr.H.	Grades	Jr.H.	Sr.H.	
One-room	111	19.3			16.6			32
Two or More Teachers	132	26		14	22		13	36
City								
Second Class	19	28		20.4	22		19	36
First Class	166	37	30.8	26	32	32	22	36

The average attendance of 13 in rural high schools can hardly be considered adequate or economical. The author is of the opinion that there is a need of consolidation of high schools as elementary schools are being consolidated.

There is a country wide tendency for rural people to migrate towards the city or into smaller towns as indicated by J.E. Butterworth in his Principles of Rural School Administration. Reno county is no exception to this general trend. The writer believes the rural people

either recognized the fact better educational opportunities were being offered in towns and cities or they found that it was more profitable economically to live in cities than on the farm. The data in Table XI show evidences of the gradual change. Accordingly, in 1908 school census in the rural one-room schools was 4,480 as compared to 3,578 in the year 1928, showing a difference of 902. In the city schools of Hutchinson the census in 1908 was 10,177, in 1928 there was a census increase of 3,201, the total census being 13,378.

There were 266 students from Reno county enrolled during the year 1925 in collegiate institutions within the state. At that time no other county not having a college within its area had nearly so large a number of students enrolled in college. In fact there were nine counties which had colleges within their borders that had a smaller total of college enrolment than did Reno county. Students from Reno county were enrolled in 14 different institutions in the state.[19] In 1928 this county had 241 resident students in the state educational institutions.[20] In 1930 the total number of students from Reno county enrolled in collegiate institutions within the state were 532. Of these 152 were enrolled in state institutions, 105 in private colleges, and 275 in junior colleges.[21] The junior college in Hutchinson was opened in 1928.

It is evident that Reno county is a relatively wealthy county and very well able to meet any reasonable demand for expenditure in the interest of better and more extended education. With a value of 100 million in 1930, this county is one of the wealthiest in the state. At

least since 1925 its property valuation has been equaled by only three other Kansas counties. These counties which have a larger valuation are: Sedgwick with 224 million, Wyandotte 161 million, and Shawnee 135 million dollars.[22]

At present the Hutchinson school district has a property valuation of $36,666,917.00 and if this amount is equated on the basis of the pupils in average daily attendance comparisons can then be made on that basis with other city schools in the state.

Table XIII. City Schools of Kansas Having a Population of 12,000-70,000 in 1931

Cities	Valuation per pupil in av. attendance	School tax levies
Topeka	$9,734.16	15.75
Emporia	8,498.48	15.5
Lawrence	8,417.02	17.5
Salina	8,060.81	13.5
Hutchinson	7,436.72	19.5
Leavenworth	6,415.73	17.5
Coffeyville	5,666.31	19.5
Pittsburg	5,555.15	17.5

The tax levy in Hutchinson apparently is high in this comparison. It is the same as one other city but these two cities are the only ones in this list which maintain a junior college.

The average cost per pupil per month in average daily attendance in the grades, junior high and senior high school as compared with the average cost of all the Kansas cities of the first class may be regarded as about the average cost. In 1928 the yearly cost per pupil in

average daily attendance in Hutchinson was $68.50 in elementary grades, $83.00 in junior high, and $106.50 in senior high schools.[15] The elementary school cost was about the average cost for first class cities in the state. The city junior and senior high schools cost each about eight dollars below the average of similar cities in the state and about eighty-nine dollars below the average cost of rural high schools.

Hutchinson has a school bonded indebtedness of $743,000.00.[22] For the total average daily attendance of 4,932 students, college not included, the amount of indebtedness per student in average attendance is $150.64 for the year 1930. This is a relatively small amount of indebtedness compared to the property valuation of $7,436.72 per student in average daily attendance.

The school systems of Reno county are operating in 165 buildings and 483 class rooms, Hutchinson has 17 buildings and 174 class rooms.[15] "The situation in Hutchinson with reference to school buildings and equipment," says F.P. OBrien, "is distinctive among the larger cities of the state. Five of the city's ten elementary school buildings and four kindergarten cottages have been constructed within the past six years.[19] Both of the junior high school buildings, manual training extension to the senior high school building, and also the junior college have been constructed within the last fifteen years."

Reno county has a Community (County) High School established at Nickerson in 1903, which is maintained by county taxation. All students

from Reno county have the privilege of attending this school free of all tuition. "Prior to this many ambitious boys and girls of Reno County were unable to gratify their educational desires simply because financial conditions would not warrant their attendance at institutions outside the county or at Hutchinson, where a small tuition was required, in addition to the regular living expenses. The County High School and Nickerson College (organized in 1898) were conducted practically as one school."[23] Students coming from outside of Reno county were subject to tuition charges.

Since 1911 the Nickerson Community High School has been a member of the North Central Association of colleges and secondary schools. Later the Partridge High School also became a member. This means that these schools are recognized by the standard colleges of states in this Association, and that their graduates may enter any of these colleges without examinations.

Summary

In 1872, the county was an experiment, now, a realization; then it had a few settlers with no financial resources; now it has a population of 47,785 with a wealth of over a hundred million dollars. Early in 1872, there was one pupil in school; in 1928 the school attendance was 9,857.

The first educational institution in the county was a subscription school; in 1928 there were 165 schools having a school property valuation of $2,600,094.54. That subscription school was taught in a building designed for a butcher shop while at present the schools of the county are operating in 165 splendid buildings with 483 class rooms.

The first teachers received a maximum monthly salary of $25.00 as contrasted with the average salary received by teachers (principal not included) in 1930 from $108 to $150 in elementary grades, from $140 to $259 in high schools. The early teachers taught without certificates but the efficiency of the schools now demands adequate preparation and certification. Now 93 per cent of the city high school teachers and 100 per cent of the rural high school teachers have a college degree.

The Reno county high schools graduated 462 students in the year 1929. The junior college in the county enrolled 275 students and 257 students were attending other collegiate institutions in the state.

Other indications of educational effort and development in the county may be found in the reduction in number of small schools by condolidation, in the establishment of rural high schools, in the bonded indebtedness for schools and in the control of school costs.

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