

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Reports of the Secretary to the President
Student Affairs President's Correspondence,
1900-1907

William J. Kerr

1-1-1902

Summer School

Stephens
Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/kerr_reports

Recommended Citation

William Kerr papers, University Archive, 03p01s04d02Bx002Fd11 (Summer School, 1902, 1904, 1906)

This Summer School, 1902, 1904, 1906 is brought to you for free and open access by the William J. Kerr at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reports of the Secretary to the President Student Affairs President's Correspondence, 1900-1907 by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



Summer School

At a special meeting of the faculty of the Agricultural College, the report of the Summer School Committee, which provided for the introduction of several new features into the regular summer school curriculum, was unanimously adopted. In the summer session of this year special emphasis will be placed on the work of industrial education as applied to the needs of the high schools and rural schools of the State. The laws passed by some states making the teaching of agriculture and kindred subjects mandatory in the common schools, and the laws passed by other states, such as Nebraska, Missouri, Montana, and Idaho, making these subjects optional and providing courses of study and other assistance to teachers, points unquestionably to the fact that there is a growing appreciation among the people of the United States for the value of industrial education. The comparatively new idea that children should, as much as possible, be kept in touch with their environment in their early education, gave rise to the so-called nature study, which at present has been so misapplied and distorted by inefficient teachers as to become almost farcical. Educators have already recognized that this defect can easily be remedied by replacing the multitudinous varieties of topics and hap-hazard work now taught in the grades as nature study by systematic and carefully planned courses in agriculture, domestic science, and mechanic arts. It has been proved, beyond the question of a doubt, that these courses can successfully be taught in the high schools and in the grades, and with infinitely greater value to the pupil than many of the present subjects with which our common school curriculum is crowded.

The vital question of how to secure teachers qualified to properly teach this work is the one now pressing for solution. The demand today for teachers of various lines of industrial education has assumed gigantic proportions in the United States and is already difficult to meet even in our own State. The primary object of the Agricultural College Summer School is to supply this need. The agricultural faculty, many of whom have had the practical experience of teaching in the grades, in high schools, and in normal schools; the specialists on the Station Staff; the experimental farms, barns, live-stock, dairy, and conservatory, as well as the various scientific laboratories of the institution, will all be at the disposal of the students of the summer session. There will also be given, in addition to the technical work, courses in the common school branches, credits for the completion of which will be accepted by the State Board of Education in lieu of examinations. Several prominent eastern educators will deliver addresses, and the best local talent has been secured for similar purposes.

The Committee has in process of preparation a circular describing the courses offered and giving the names of the faculty and special lecturers. The school begins June 11th and continues six weeks.

by J. Stephens