

helped it -----(sic). They were evidently seniors, and their graphic utterances gave a better idea of some things in connection with the School than one could get in any other way. 'The Normal School isn't a good place to go to have a good time' said one. 'You have to go to bed early, and study hard, and can't see the boys,' she added with a sigh. 'Well,' said another, 'it's a beautiful place for girls who don't care to go out, I'm glad I came,' and this praiseworthy sentiment was echoed by all.

"Parents approved of the strictness of the school because they could feel certain that their daughters were carefully looked after while there." *

Applicants had to be at least sixteen years of age. Upon entering each pupil had to declare his intention of teaching in the public schools of the State. This restriction tended to exclude those who merely wished an education.

* "Scholars Opinions," New Britain Herald, March 28, 1882, clipping in vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut.

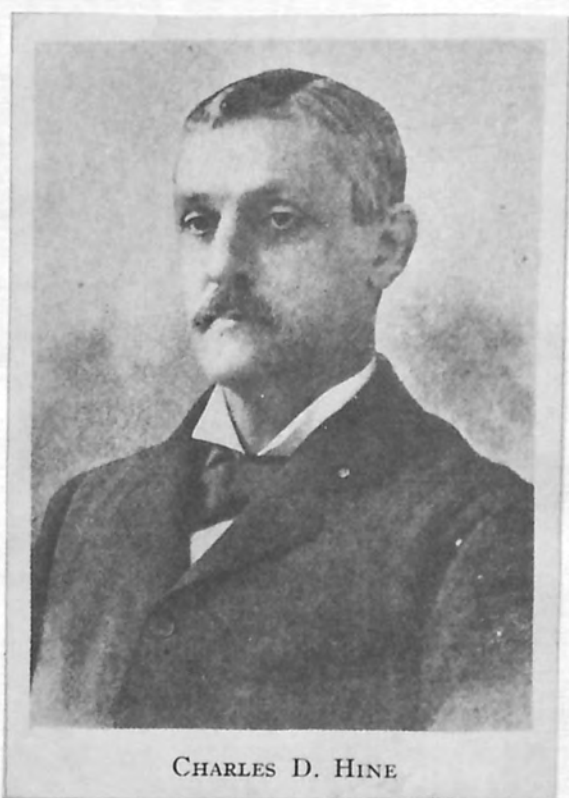
Tuition was free to all pupils who agreed to teach in the schools of the State, and text books were furnished without cost to the pupils.

The course was a two year course. There were two terms in the school year, a Fall and Winter term, and a Spring and Summer term. Two classes were graduated each year as students were admitted in February and September.

During the 70's and 80's Mr. Charles D. Hine, Secretary of the State Board of Education, did much for the Normal School and teacher-training in Connecticut.*

* Connecticut Schools, September, 1923, p. 2.

For forty years Mr. Hine did much for the development of Education in Connecticut. He was instrumental in bringing about the Connecticut system of professional supervision in rural schools, the training of teachers in service, the development of the public library as an aid in education, the Connecticut attendance and employment laws, adult and vocational education. He tried to bring about equal educational opportunity to every child, in city and country alike. He worked hard for the advancement of teachers and was therefore an interested worker for the Normal School and Summer School.



Footnotes (continued)

Steiner, Bernard, op. cit., pp. 44, 45.

During the Summer of 1888, Mr. Hine, assisted by Mr. S. P. Willard of Colchester, and Mr. Fred Ayer Verplank, of Colchester, conducted a Summer school at Niantic. The meetings which were attended by over four hundred teachers were held in the churches and school houses of the village. The school put special emphasis on methods of teaching, rather than on learning of subject-matter and had lecturers from all over the country speak to the students on their particular subjects. This school was held for the first two weeks of July and was the first of its kind in the United States to be supported by the State.

This was something of a forerunner of the Summer Normal School now conducted each Summer by the State Board of Education at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

*1 Annals of the State Normal School

at New Britain, Vol. 25, 1888, p. 29.

Rehder, Louise, "A Brief History of the State Normal

Training School at New Britain, New Britain, Conn.

1901, Publication of the New Britain School at

New Britain, February, 1902, p. 24.

Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. 9, 1881-1884, p. 421.

(Also in Vol. 9 and Vol. 10.)

*2 Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. 9, 1881-1884 (22).

77

In 1880, while he was in office, the General Assembly passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a commission "To investigate the necessity for the erection of a new building for the use of the State Normal School; and if said commission should find the same necessary, then to report upon the location and plans for such building."*1 In its report to the General Assembly in 1881 the committee urged that provision be made for a new building to be located at New Britain. Acting upon the report of this committee, the Legislature, in 1881, appropriated \$75,000 for the site and erection of a new building in New Britain for a Normal School.*2 A committee was appointed to proceed according to this action of the

*1 Catalogue And Circular Of The State Normal School
At New Britain, June 23, 1882, p. 27.
Schmahl, Louise, "A Brief History of the State Normal Training School at New Britain, New Britain, Connecticut, Publication of the New Britain Chamber of Commerce, February, 1926, p. 24.

Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. 8, 1876-1880, p. 421.
(Laws in Vol. 8 are not numbered.)

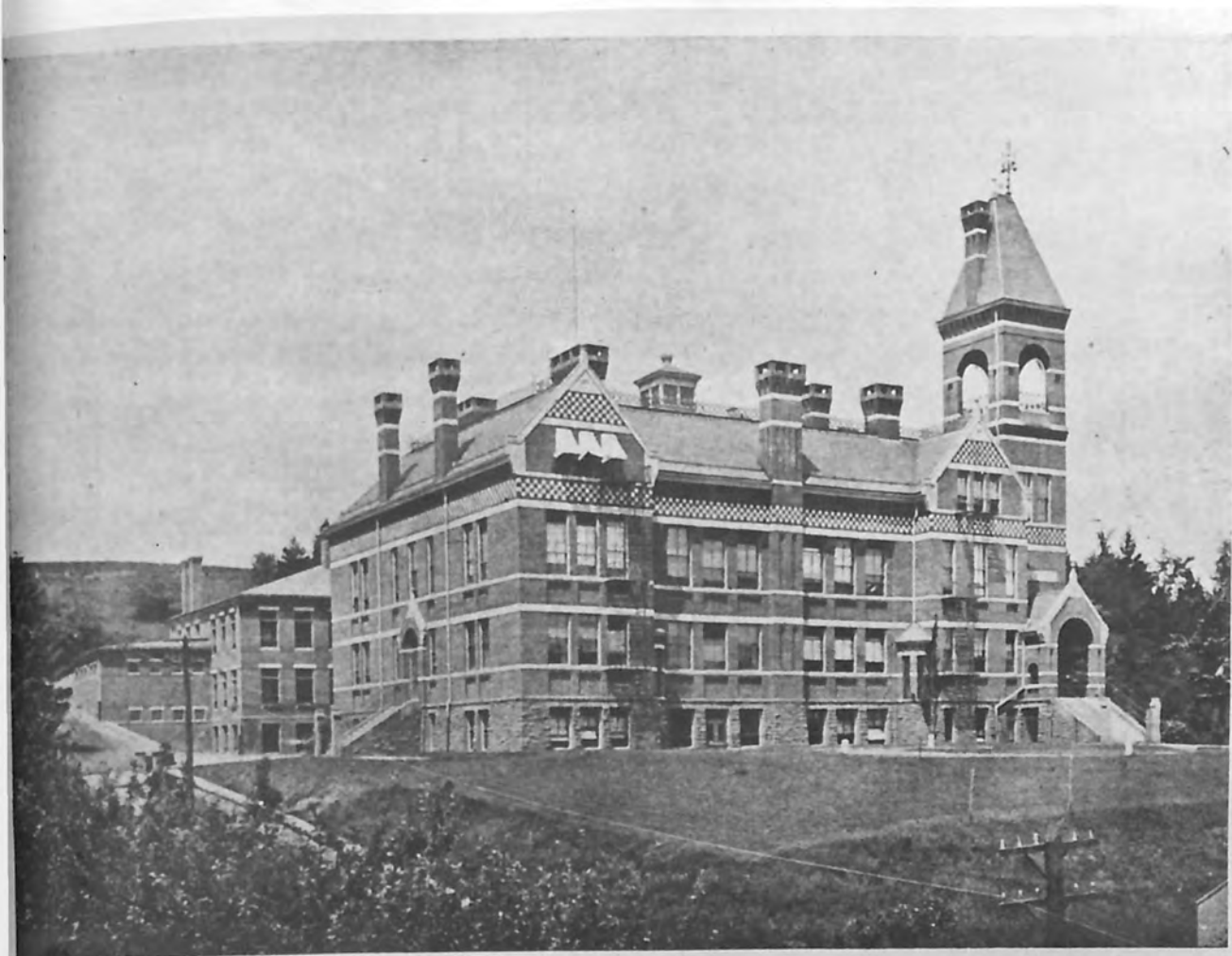
*2 Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. 9, 1881-1884 (95).

Legislature but was instructed not to act until the town of New Britain appropriated \$25,000 for the erection of the new building. The town of New Britain called a special meeting and appropriated the \$25,000 and the building now known as the "Old Normal School," was erected on Hillside Place. *1 The School was occupied in September, 1883, although it was not completed until January, 1884. At this time, Mr. Clarence F. Carroll was Principal of the School.

The new building of 1883, which is still standing, was at that time a beautiful edifice. It is of red brick with trimming of Ohio freestone. At the corners and at each story are black and buff brick. It is three stories high and has a tower and belfry which overlook Walnut Hill Park. The building stands on a high location and can be seen from Hartford and as far away as Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts. *2

*1 Catalogue And Circular Of The State Normal School
At New Britain, June 23, 1882, p. 27.

*2 "State Normal School," New Britain Herald, March 28, 1882.



NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING, NEW BRITAIN.

1883 - 1924

This building has been taken over by the City of New Britain and is used for the offices of the City School Board as well as for the Atypical and Open Air Schools

Up to 1883 the Normal School students had no actual practice in teaching provided by the School. They were given lectures on the theory of the work but had no chance to work with children as the students now do in the practice schools. Mr. Carroll, *1 who was Principal at that time, realized there was a great need for practice schools. Through his efforts, practice schools were provided where students could have actual contacts with children and get a chance to train in the art of teaching. This system, which was started in New Britain, *2 has spread all over the United States.

*1 "State Normal School, "The New Britain Herald, March 28, 1882.

*2 Mowry, William Augustus, Recollections of a New England Educator, p. 159 (previously cited on page 9). Practice teaching was established as early as 1823 in Concord, Vermont, but this was in a private school.

81

In April, 1884, the kindergarten was opened at New Britain Normal School. Miss Clara W. Mingins, a graduate of Miss Van Wagenein's Training School, New York City, was in charge of the work.

In February, 1885, a new training class was organized and began work immediately as assistants. The course took about one year. Members of the class were required to become proficient in doing every type of work, including gifts and occupations. Each had to acquire a thorough knowledge of the theory connected with the practice. The students were allowed to take up any subject they wished in the Normal School, attending lectures which did not interfere with the course prescribed by the kindergarten. Each student paid a tuition of fifty dollars *1 and also the cost of the material she used in her work. *2

*1 Official Records in vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut.
"No tuition was charged after 1889."

*2 Report of Mr. Carroll to the State Board of Education,
1894 - 1895.

At this time many people had the impression that kindergartens did not amount to much as they were merely places where children played aimlessly. Incompetent, and poorly trained teachers had done much to cause this mistaken idea.

The work done in the kindergarten was under the guise of play, but was really elementary, industrial instruction. Only those who intended to complete the course were allowed to take the kindergarten course. The training was considered thorough at that time and for this reason only a limited number of students were received in the training class. *1

The State of Connecticut was the first to admit kindergartens to the public school system. New Britain Normal School felt that it should provide teachers adequately trained to teach in the kindergartens of the State. *2

*1 Report of Mr. Clarence Carroll to the State Board of Education, 1894 - 1895.

*2 Report of the Secretary to the State Board of Education, 1890.

At first the City of New Britain provided training facilities for Normal School students. Practical teaching became so popular* from 1883 on and proved of so much value in the training of teachers that provisions were made for more and more of it. In 1885 there were four model schools in New Britain. The plan was so successful that in 1885, five schools in South Manchester were taken over for this purpose and each girl trained for twenty weeks in South Manchester before completing her training.

* American Journal of Education, Vol. XVII, p. 817.

The growth of the practice school or training school movement was comparatively rapid in Connecticut after the first Normal School was started. In 1867, New Haven opened the City Training School which successfully provided good teachers for its own schools. A second in New Haven, the Welch Training School, was opened in 1884. A second State Normal School was opened at Willimantic in the Fall of 1889 and at the same time the Norwich Free Academy opened a Normal department.

In 1890 there were six model schools in New Britain, five in Bristol, one in Hartford (one year only), and seven in South Manchester. In April, 1891, the Annex, which was, as its name indicates, a building annexed to the Normal School on Hillside Place, was completed and occupied as a training school. *1

The Legislature appropriated money to build the Camp School which was completed and occupied in September, 1903. In 1905 the Bartlett School was added to the model school system. In 1909 the State purchased the Rogers property in front of the Normal School to be used later as a site for an addition to the Camp School.

In 1913, South Manchester voted to discontinue practice teaching in its schools. The system, which was to be discontinued gradually, ceased in June, 1914.*2 In 1913

*1 Official Records, in vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut.

*2 Ibid.

the town of Newington voted to turn its schools over to the State Normal School of New Britain for training teachers. The Newington schools were given up in 1917 and more rooms were added to the Training Schools in New Britain so that students might get their training there.*

As time went on, the people of Connecticut began to appreciate the work of the Normal School and the demand for trained teachers increased throughout the State. By the early part of the twentieth century, the supply and demand were fairly well balanced. Then came the World War with its abnormal conditions in the business world. High salaries in offices, banks, factories, stores, etc. attracted many young women and the registration in the Normal School fell off for a short time. The demand for trained teachers in the State, however, increased. Teachers' salaries increased. The Normal School realized that it was not providing an adequate supply of trained teachers. It knew that higher salaries would attract more young women into the teaching field and saw that it must make provision

* Official Records in vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut.

for training those who wished to become teachers.*

In 1919 the demand for admission to the School was larger than the School could care for. Many applicants could not be admitted. New Britain Normal School had a larger attendance, at that time, than any other Normal School in New England. Many girls had to travel long distances by rail every day to attend school for boarding facilities in New Britain were limited. Twenty years ago pupils from sixty different towns in the State attended the Normal School while in 1919 only twenty-five towns sent representatives to the School.

When the Normal School on Hillside Place was erected, it was considered a beautiful structure which well met the needs of the School. This was in 1882 -1883. Forty years brought many changes in ideas and demands; and by 1922 the building had become inadequate for training teachers efficiently. Other Normal Schools in the country had been so improved that New Britain Normal School was inferior in facilities and equipment in comparison with other Normal Schools in this country. More rooms, and larger ones were needed. The demand for a new plant

* Proposed Normal School Plant, New Britain.

This is a pamphlet published by the State Board of Education (no date given) and is in the vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut.



MODELING ROOM, NEW BRITAIN.

This was an attic room in the Normal School on Walnut Hill. It was up three flights of winding stairs and was used as a class room.

was made, for it was felt that the attendance could be doubled if the School had adequate building facilities.

Some of the recitation rooms were unfinished attic rooms. They were poorly ventilated and poorly lighted. Classes in music and art were held in these third story attic rooms which could be reached only by steep, narrow, wooden stairways. In case of fire, there might have been danger.

The School had no grounds adequate for games, sports, or plays. The training schools connected with the institution did not have enough rooms for training the students.

As has been mentioned, it was impossible for students to find good boarding places. Those who were fortunate enough to find suitable ones had to pay much more for board than students of other states where dormitories were connected with the schools. Commuters had to pay high fares to railroad companies. There was no dormitory life to help the school spirit, character, and health of the students.

Mr. Marcus White, who had been the Principal of the School since 1894, saw it grow from a struggling Normal School to a successful one. His unfailing efforts in behalf of the institution raised its standard to the highest place in the educational world.



MARCUS WHITE

70

At the close of the World War, the attendance at the New Britain Normal School was larger than that at any other Normal School in New England. The School did not have facilities for taking all the applicants that were eligible and many had to be refused admission. The New Britain Normal School had the finest system in the United States for training teachers but had one of the poorest buildings. Mr. White not only realized the present need but anticipated future needs. He succeeded in presenting the situation to the Legislature of 1919.*

The attention of the Legislature was drawn to the fact that the State should provide opportunity for those teaching during the year to study during the summer. Emphasis was put on the fact that the State was not training teachers for Junior High Schools, defective and abnormal children, Americanization classes, special art work, special music work, etc.

* The New Britain Herald, June 18, 1924.

The needs of the State in the work of teacher-training were so plainly put before the Legislature in 1919 that it appropriated money for purchasing land in New Britain and for providing plans for a new building.* The hope was that the needs of the State might be taken care of in the near future. About twenty-five acres of land were purchased in the northern part of New Britain, in the section known as Belvidere, in the Stanley Quarter.

* Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. XVIII, 1919 and 1921.

(294)

"An Act Making An Appropriation For The State Normal School At New Britain.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

A sum not to exceed sixty thousand dollars is appropriated for the acquisition of land at New Britain for the state normal school, and for providing plans for new buildings.

Approved, May 14, 1919."

In September, 1921, an addition to the Camp School was completed and occupied as a training school. In 1922, the Bartlett School was given up by the State and the Monroe School was taken over. In 1923, the Stanley School was added to the system for training purposes.*

Special Laws of Connecticut, Vol. XXIII, 1919 and 1921.

(413)

AN ACT VOTED IN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL FOR BUILDING PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly Convened:

The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the state board of education, for the purpose of installing a power and heating plant and erecting an administration building for the state normal school at New Britain, upon the site purchased under the provisions of an act making appropriation for such purpose, approved May, 14, 1919. The comptroller shall draw his order on the

* Official Records in vault at Teachers College of Connecticut, at New Britain, Connecticut.

with the comptroller for all moneys expended under the provisions of this act; provided the city of New Britain shall purchase, or agree to purchase, by a committee of three persons, one to be appointed by said city, one by the state board of education and one by the two members so chosen, at the appraised value to be determined by such committee, the buildings and site of the present state normal school at New Britain.

Approved, June 14, 1921.*