THE GIFT TO THE STATE IS EVALUATED

The establishment of the Branch Station at Hays and its potential value to the state were reported upon editorially in THE INDUSTRIALIST in January, 1901, as follows: "About 4,000 acres is the best wheat land, it might be rented at one third to one half the crop, bringing $10,000 a year for the institution. Water can be had easily by boring 20 to 40 feet, and the best of water. There are fine white rock quarries within a mile of the buildings, easy to get at and enough for all time. . . . The gift to the state is worth $200,000." (11)

Two other editorials appeared in KANSAS FARMER within the next few months. The first, in December, 1901, said: "Two committees of the Kansas State Agricultural College Regents have visited Hays within the past week for the purpose of promoting arrangements whereby the College will acquire complete title to its portion of the abolished Fort Hays Military Reservation and beginning there an experiment station as contemplated by the acts of Congress and the State Legislature. . . . F. D. Coburn, Vice-president of the college regents, is very enthusiastic over the possibilities of having, on a large and decisive scale, an experiment station in the western half of the state, right at the navel of the continent as it were, and thinks a failure to make it in time the foremost example of its kind in existence an inexcusable and short-sighted folly. The body of land is ample, its quality entirely typical of both the high prairie and the creek 'bottom' and its situation every way superb." (12)

The second editorial, entitled "A Big Experimental Farm," appeared in May, 1902, and read as follows: "The Kansas State Agricultural College has just come into full possession of, and beginning work on, a part of the abandoned Fort Hays Military Reservation. The body of the land contains 4,000 acres, practically all of which is tillable land and representative of the vast area through western Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Colorado. . . . The Fort Hays reservation is situated 290 miles west of Kansas City on the Union Pacific. The reservation embraces 7,500 acres lying along Big Creek in Ellis County. . . . The Boards of Regents of the two institutions made a division of the land, which gave to the agricultural college all the land along the creek which runs diagonally through the quarters for four miles. The land slopes gently back from the creek to an elevation of perhaps 200 feet, which gives a great variety of conditions. "This location being typical of the Great Western Plains is expected to make a great experiment station. A thousand acres or so will be reserved for pasture and breaking at future times. A large area of alfalfa will be planted and other areas devoted to trials of various
forage plants that may be adapted to the west. Fifty acres of land is being prepared for planting forest trees next spring and undoubtedly a whole quarter section will later be developed to this... The branch station will bear the same relationship to the agricultural college as any of its various departments. It is not expected that any money of the national appropriation for the Experiment Station can be used here, as it is already inadequate to the needs at Manhattan. The Fort Hays Branch will rely on its own resources and the generosity of the state. The appropriation for the years 1902 and 1903 is but $3,000 per annum, which is hardly sufficient to make even a semblance of beginning. This amount will be put into fencing, opening the land, buying implements and making as many other foundation improvements as possible. The next legislature will doubtless provide for buildings, necessary stock and equipments for carrying forward the work in a manner commensurate with the needs of such an institution.” (13)

**THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STATION**

The plans for the management of the Branch Station were set forth in the following resolution adopted by the Board December 13, 1901:

“Resolved, That the president of the board of regents shall appoint a regent, who shall, under the direction of the board, have special charge of all matters pertaining to the Fort Hays reservation in behalf of the Agricultural College, the Experiment Station Council to direct all experiments, subject to the approval of the board.

Resolved, That the crop experiments and such other experiments as can be provided for, be begun in the year 1902 on as liberal a scale as circumstances and the funds at our command permit; and that all seeding, cultivation, harvesting, storing, sale and purchase of commodities, or of livestock and its feeding, pertaining to experimental work, and all records in reference thereto, be under the immediate supervision and direction of a competent man, who shall be stationed at Hays so much of the time as may be necessary for best doing the work contemplated.

Resolved, That such repairs be made upon the buildings on the Fort Hays reservation as shall make them available for use, and that a practical farmer be employed, who shall be known as foreman of the farm, and who shall see that all contracts pertaining thereto are fulfilled and all property belonging to the Experiment Station be properly cared for, and shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.

Resolved, That the regent appointed to have charge of the interests of the Experiment Station at Hays shall be paid his per diem and actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties, but shall not be allowed mileage.” (14)

The Board appointed regent Fairchild as its representative to manage the affairs of the Station. The planning and direction of experiments was the responsibility of the Experiment Station Council. This plan of organization left much to be desired. No one individual was responsible. The plan of organization did not meet with the approval of the Office of Experiment Stations of the United States Department of Agriculture. This office was responsible from the
The criticism led President Nichols and the Board of Regents to consider carefully the matter and to take steps to obtain a director for the Station. After several prospects were considered, some of whom failed to receive the approval of the Board and others offered the position failed to accept, Dr. C. W. Burkett was appointed Director of the Experiment Station September 26, 1906. (16)

**STATION SUPERINTENDENTS**

The first superintendent of the Hays Station, appointed March 29, 1902, was J. G. Haney. Mr. Haney was a graduate of the college who for some years was assistant in field and feeding experiments and later agricultural agent of the Chihuahua (Mexico) and Pacific Railway Company. He began his duties as soon as the title to the reservation was reported clear by the attorney general. The KANSAS FARMER reported editorially in July, 1902, as follows regarding Mr. Haney's appointment: "Kansas has been exceedingly fortunate in the selection of a manager for this station. Prof. Haney belongs to that class of young Kansans who are sought for positions of importance the world over. He is a Kansas farm product of the vigorous sort. He is well equipped by education and experience for the work. He inspires confidence in those around him and is in every

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5. Dr. A. C. True, Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture.
way one of those men at whose hands great works are apt to be accomplished.” (17) Mr. Haney served until December 31, 1904.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Haney, O. H. Elling, who had served as foreman of the farm under Mr. Haney, was appointed Acting Superintendent and served in this capacity until March, 1907. At that time the new Director of the Station, Dr. C. W. Burkett, secured as superintendent C. K. McClelland, who began his duties in May, 1907. Mr. McClelland came from the Office of Farm Management of the United States Department of Agriculture and had been associated with Dr. Burkett in agricultural education work in the East. In June, 1909, the resignation of Mr. McClelland was accepted, effective December 31, 1909. A successor was not appointed immediately, and during this period George K. Helder, assistant superintendent, was in charge of the Station. The position eventually was filled by Prof. A. M. TenEyck June 1, 1910. Professor TenEyck was head of the Department of Agronomy at the College. The subject of farm management was his specialty. Dr. H. J. Waters, who had just become President of the College, felt that the work of the institution as a whole might be strengthened by the transfer of Professor TenEyck to the superintendency of the Hays Station and the appointment of another agronomist at the
Fig. 7.—A. M. TenEyck, 1910-1912.

Fig. 8.—George K. Helder, 1913-1916.

Fig. 9.—Charles R. Weeks, 1916-1920.

Fig. 10.—Harry L. Kent, 1920-1921.
College to head the Department of Agronomy. In addition to his appointment as superintendent of the Station, Professor TenEyck was made Professor of Farm Management in order that he might lecture on this subject at the College. He rendered but little service in the latter capacity. Dean Edwin H. Webster, who at this time was Director of the Station, did not work harmoniously with Professor TenEyck. This led to unsatisfactory working conditions. Professor TenEyck resigned December 31, 1912.

In anticipation of the resignation of Professor Ten-
Eyck, H. M. Bainer was elected superintendent of the Station by the Board. He did not accept. George K. Helder became superintendent July 1, 1913. He had acted as superintendent in advance of Professor TenEyck's appointment and was assistant superintendent under Professor TenEyck. Mr. Helder served until March 15, 1916. He was succeeded by Charles R. Weeks who resigned May 1, 1920, to become secretary of the newly organized Kansas Farm Bureau. Mr. Weeks was succeeded by Prof. Harry L. Kent who had served as the first principal of the School of Agriculture at the College from September 1, 1913, until May 15, 1920.

Fig. 12.—W. W. Duitsman, superintendent since 1952. “A worthy successor to Mr. Aicher.”
when he became superintendent of the Station.

Professor Kent was a talented man and also an able administrator, but he was not prepared by temperament or experience for the superintendency of the Station. He rendered good service but was not happy in his work. He resigned September 15, 1921, to become President of New Mexico State Agricultural College where he served with signal success and longer than any other president of that institution. Professor Kent was succeeded by Louis C. Aicher September 26, 1921. Mr. Aicher’s appointment was a fortunate one. He was a graduate of the College, class of 1910. He had served successfully 10 years as superintendent of the Aberdeen, Idaho, Experiment Station before coming to Hays. He was well prepared by training, experience, temperament, and personality for the position. Mr. Aicher came to the Station at the time when power on the farms of Kansas was changing from animal to mechanical. He had unusual vision as to farm mechanization, and ability to develop personally equipment adapted to the need. He replaced the mule and horsepower on the Station with mechanical power, thereby reducing the labor requirements of the Station and eliminating many of the most difficult labor problems. The change also improved the timeliness of farm operations, resulting in improved crop production. Mr. Aicher remained as superintendent of the Station until June 30, 1952, when he retired under the University’s mandatory age retirement policy. During the 31 years that Mr. Aicher served as superintendent, the Station developed into one of the leading institutions of its kind in the country.

July 1, 1952, W. W. Duitsman became a successor to Mr. Aicher and has continued to the present time (1962). He was prepared for the position by serving for five years as a successful county agent and for two years as assistant superintendent of the Station under Mr. Aicher.

THE STATION
A DEMONSTRATION FARM

The Board of Regents was concerned that the Station become a farm to demonstrate good farm management practices as well as an experiment station. The Station was so large that only a small portion was needed for intensive experimental work, leaving large areas available for commercial cropping and utilization. It was the desire of the Board that these areas be used for demonstrating the best husbandry practices and that the Station become a creditable demonstration farm. This desire was expressed in a minute of the Board: “Mr. McClelland and Mr. Colliver are both informed that the Board regards it to be of vital moment that the station farming, outside the plot work, be...”
of such a nature as to produce maximum yields as nearly as possible and also to make the station farm a model farm in which 'model' feature the Board considers the prime factor is having the work done at a time when it ought to be done; and the management is accordingly instructed to pick up outside men and teams at piece-work prices, whenever practicable, otherwise at hour prices, to whatever extent is necessary to keep the farm work in line with the best farm management. Carried.” (18)

Many factors stood in the way of the Station's becoming the model farm that the Board desired. In the first place, the Station was slow in acquiring the work stock that such a large commercial operation required, and satisfactory outside help was not easily obtained. In the second place, the requirements of good soil husbandry were not well understood. The Campbell system of soil management was the accepted practice of the time. The system required excessive tillage that under western Kansas conditions resulted in soil blowing. It was not until correct soil management practices were understood and mechanical power equipment become available that the Station became the type of farm that the Regents envisaged.

**PHYSICAL PLANT**

When the Experiment Station was established, the military compound proved unsatisfactory as its headquarters. A new campus to serve this purpose was established on the east side of the highway about one mile directly south of the city of Hays. It was located on bench land south of Big Creek at an elevation above the flood line. The location was about one half mile southeast of the old military compound.

The Legislature of 1903 ap-
appropriated $27,900 for the support of the Station. This money was used principally for the beginning of construction of the physical plant. One frame building was moved from the military compound to a more convenient location on the Station campus. It was repaired for the occupancy of the superintendent. Later, it was used as a residence for the dry land agriculturist and is still in use as a residence for the cerealist. Three other frame buildings were moved to the Station campus from the military compound, repaired, and used, one as a barn, one as a tool shed, and the other as a storehouse for sacked grain. Other frame buildings were dismantled and the old lumber used in supplying dimension material and sheeting for the horse barn, granary, house for workmen (14 rooms), and machinery and stock sheds. A water system was also installed. During 1904 and 1905 an elevator was built and the two stone buildings at the Fort repaired for use as dwellings.

In 1906 the large horse barn was struck by lightning and burned. The following spring a new barn with stone basement 40 x 60 feet, costing $4,400, was built to replace the building that burned. This building served only temporarily as a horse barn. A new barn less pretentious but more convenient was built on another site. The building erected as a horse barn was converted later into a large granary with bins on the ground floor and with sacked grain storage above. It served a most useful purpose to store the large quantities of seed grain produced on the Station.