

Northwest School Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial

The movement to provide a memorial was begun on Home Coming Day, Dec. 19, 1919. At that time Superintendent Selvig met with a group of alumni, including O. A. Flaata, Captain M. Stenseth, H. V. Anderson, Magnus Spjut, Clarence Lee, Conrad Clementson and others, with the result that the Northwest School Memorial Fund Committee was appointed. As members of that committee, the following alumni were appointed:

O. A. Flaata, president, Fisher; Herman Skyberg, vice president, Fisher; and C. A. Berg, Secretary-treasurer, Crookston, officers of the Northwest School Alumni Association; Harry Hedin, Twin Valley, Norman county; Robert Erlandson, Kennedy, Kittson county; Lenus Landby, Swift, Roseau county; Peter Ness, Cass Lake, Hubbard county; Gilbert Huot, Red Lake Falls, Red Lake County; Marie Mariner, Eldred, Polk County; Paul Engelstad, Thief River Falls, Pennington county; Herbert V. Anderson, Clearbrook, Clearwater county; Chloe Starr, Ogema, Becker county; Alfred Wiger, Ulen, Clay county, and Richard Billings, Audubon, Becker county. Esther Kroog, Northwest School and Station, treasurer.

A subscription campaign among alumni, former and present students, was agreed upon. The response was wonderful. Their loyalty to the Northwest School and to the service men was a beautiful tribute.

Plans for the memorial were secured and placed before the Board of Regents for their approval. President Burton notified the committee in these words: "I think that this is an eminently wise and desirable step which you have taken, and I congratulate the school upon the result already attained."

The campaign for funds continued during 1920, with enough funds subscribed to justify ordering the memorial. This was done. The stone was set and the plates were made in time to permit dedicating it on October 5, 1920. The story of this event is told elsewhere. October 5 will always remain a sacred day in the history of our own school. Two moving picture films were taken of the unveiling, one by a New York firm that our alumni in various parts of the United States wrote they saw, and the other a film owned by the Crookston Association.

In order to secure the balance needed, a more intensive campaign for funds had to be undertaken in the fall of 1920. The financial depression made the task very difficult. After Armistice Day, Professors Bengtson, McCall and Foker originated the idea of raising the balance needed by publishing Mr. Selvig's "Armistice Day, 1920," and "Service Flag" poems in a souvenir booklet to be sold at one dollar apiece for the benefit of the memorial fund. This was done and nearly \$700 was secured. When the subscriptions due are paid the fund will be adequate to pay the entire cost of the memorial.

The memorial is located on the entrance boulevard. The location will become more beautiful as the years go on. The memorial, too, will mean more and more as the ideals for which our boys entered the service are more fully appreciated. It is a sincere tribute to them, and all who took part in making the memorial possible are glad they did so.