

ing fee, \$5 or more, which places the member on the Sustaining Membership list and stamps him as a special advocate of the geography movement.

The Illinois Council of Geography Teachers has met with cordial approval from many teachers, from those in rural schools to University professors. The work is hardly begun however, and all can help promote the cause of geography in the great commonwealth of Illinois.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES IN NEBRASKA

By N. A. BENGTON, Director

THE Nebraska Chapter of the National Council of Geography Teachers is carrying on work along three definite lines,—(1) Seeking to strengthen geography programs at state and district teachers' meetings; (2) Emphasizing the use of available geographic publications; (3) Through standing committees, studying seriously the problem of improving the geography courses in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools.

The council provides the organization essential to make our needs for geography talent at educational meetings felt. For some years geography has been neglected on the programs of important associations because no definite demand for representation was expressed. The officers of such associations are in nearly all cases anxious to furnish the programs desired by the teachers, but inasmuch as they are not mind readers, they must judge the desires by the preferences positively stated. In response to such expression Professor Whitbeck was secured for the State Teachers' Association meeting of 1916, and by using him at four section sessions about fifteen hundred teachers were reached. The Geography section, attended by over four hundred teachers especially interested in geography, was a memorable success. Next year through the influence of the Council the Executive Committee of the State Teachers' Association has invited Professor Brigham, so we are looking forward to another great meeting. At district association meetings this spring, Professor Miller of Mankato, Minnesota, was on the program at the Northeast Section at Wayne; Miss Rose Clark of the Peru Normal at the Southeast Section at Nebraska City, and Miss Nelson of the University Teachers College at the Central Association at Hastings and the Southwest Association at Holdrege. From all these meetings very gratifying reports have been received. The Council is now also planning a two days' state

meeting this spring to be held at Lincoln, one day of which is to be given to a field excursion.

The Nebraska Council is not planning on issuing any regular publication. The members feel that the *Journal of Geography* admirably fills the need in that line. A mimeographed bulletin of local matter is prepared and sent to members three or four times a year. This deals with helps in teaching local geography, notices of recent publications of value, selected bibliographies, and news items. The bulletin thus serves the purpose of a home publication and knits the membership into a somewhat closer union than would otherwise be possible.

The third line of work entered upon is still in its early stages so only its ideals and potentialities can be discussed. That geography in the course of study needs strengthening both in quality and in quantity is generally admitted, but the solution of the problem is not easy. Suggestions are abundant but they lack organization, and are generally hazy and indefinite. The subject matter of the course as well as methods of presentation are both under the fire of critics. The Nebraska Council feels that here is the problem of first import in Geography today, and have begun an attempt at its solution. Committees which are earnestly trying to work out a course of study that will measure up to the present ideals of geography teaching have been appointed. In order to study each phase of the school work intensively three committees have been selected,—for the elementary school, the junior high school, and the high school respectively. These committees have fields which overlap somewhat, an advantage in that it compels correlation and thus insures careful attention to proper sequence of the various topics to be studied. The members are anxious to correspond with teachers of geography in other states and thus facilitate exchange of ideas in the problems under discussion. The following is the committee membership:

“Geography in the Elementary School”

Miss Rose B. Clark, Peru State Normal, Chairman.
Superintendent C. E. Collett, Gothenburg.
Miss Annie M. Cogil, Lincoln.
Miss Agnes Mortimer, Lincoln.
Miss Mildred Walker, Omaha.
Miss Dora Krebs, Peru State Normal.
Miss Olive Griffith, Blair.

“Geography in the Junior High School”

Miss Jeanette C. Nelson, Uni. of Nebr., Lincoln, Chairman.

Professor H. H. Hahn, Wayne State Normal.
Professor E. E. Lackey, Wayne State Normal.
Miss Melvina Waters, Norfolk.
Miss Sue Wilson, Lincoln.
Miss Edith Johnson, Lincoln.
Miss Elizabeth McBride, Lincoln.

"Geography in the High School"

Professor A. J. Mercer, Kearney State Normal, Chairman.
Miss May Bardwell, Lincoln.
Professor J. T. Link, Seward.
Professor Wm. G. Bishop, Neb. Wesleyan Univ., Univ. Place.
Miss Cordelia Condra, Kearney.
Professor Albert Snare, Bellevue College, Bellevue.

These committees are planning to prepare detailed outlines of subject matter to be covered in the various grades, and as full and explicit directions as possible with regard to methods of presentation. Lists of references will also be suggested with carefully prepared notes to aid the teachers in selecting the references best suited to their especial needs. When the committees have prepared their reports, the final work of editing will be done by a committee of two members of each of the original committees meeting with the State Director as chairman. The final report will then, it is hoped, be presented as a published bulletin. For the completion of this work at least two more years will be necessary, and hence members will welcome suggestions from others who may be interested in the same problem.

This summarizes the work accomplished and in prospect by the Nebraska Council. The great value lies in organization, thus giving the geography teachers an avenue of expression and also serving as the bond which makes possible a serious and sympathetic study of problems of geography teaching. Furthermore, it promotes the association of congenial souls,—a social phase of real value.

WORK OF THE MINNESOTA GEOGRAPHERS

By C. J. POSEY, President Minnesota Council

THOSE who have followed the inception and growth of the National Council of Geography Teachers will agree that the pioneer work of its present efficient secretary in the organizing of that body would of itself entitle Minnesota to high rank in the