

the subject, the more thoroughly was I convinced that you were right—that the building was a necessity, and I worked harder to get it.¹³

While the idea of a women's dormitory was novel, that of a gymnasium was not, as the other state schools had gymnasiums. In his report to the Board of Trustees in December 1900, Mr. Lord had pointed out the need for a gymnasium. A room on the third floor had been set aside for a gymnasium, but it was not properly located, and the space would soon be needed for other school activities. Without a proper gymnasium, it was not possible "for a normal school to attract so large a number of young men as it otherwise would."¹⁴ So in 1903 a gymnasium was added to the request for a women's dormitory.

Again Mr. Lord went before the House Appropriations Committee, in March 1903. He reported the result to Senator Pemberton: "The outlook in the House Committee for our dormitory is, to say the least, discouraging. I really had no hearing on the subject, as they began at once to fire questions at me which, in most instances, were already answered in the mind of the one who asked them." One committee member advised Mr. Lord to drop the dormitory proposal, "lest the chances of getting a gymnasium be endangered." Mr. Lord told Senator Pemberton that if "we cannot have but one, we much prefer the dormitory. On the other hand, we do not wish to lose both, and would far rather have the gymnasium than nothing." He was not giving up his hope for a dormitory, however. "I do not wish to have you annoyed or embarrassed in trying to save a lost cause, but you have no idea how much a dormitory will add to the popularity of this school, and it will essentially increase our attendance by the number it can accommodate."¹⁵

After becoming convinced that the dormitory stood no chance of approval in the 1903 legislature Mr. Lord became concerned about saving the gymnasium. He asked Senator Pemberton on April 4, "How can we get \$25,000 for a gymnasium? All the other schools have them, and I think the Committee favored that, but I understood they reported our bills out without any reference to any building whatever."¹⁶ A few days later Senator Pemberton reported that the Senate Appropriation Committee had recommended the appropriation bill for the school with the \$25,000 for a gymnasium, rather than with \$50,000 for a gymnasium and dormitory.¹⁷

The bill as stated by Senator Pemberton, passed on May 16, 1903, with an item of \$25,000 for building and furnishing a gymnasium. However, this item was vetoed by Governor Richard Yates.¹⁸ In a way, this was fortunate. If the Normal School had obtained a gymnasium in

¹³Letter, Senator S. C. Pemberton, Oakland, to L. C. Lord, December 24, 1908. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

¹⁴Report of President Lord to the Board of Trustees, Eastern Illinois State Normal School, December 18, 1900, in Business Office files.

¹⁵Letter, L. C. Lord to Senator S. C. Pemberton, Springfield, March 24, 1903. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

¹⁶Letter, L. C. Lord to Senator S. C. Pemberton, Springfield, April 4, 1903. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

¹⁷Letter, S. C. Pemberton to John H. Marshall, secretary, Board of Trustees, April 16, 1903. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

¹⁸Session Laws, 43rd General Assembly, pp. 59-60.