

berton in December 1908, "All the other schools are now wanting one. Some will doubtless try for one this winter, and you will find that that most unpopular measure will become a very popular thing in this State."¹⁸

The formal opening of Pemberton Hall came on January 4, 1909, with a dinner in the dining room attended by Senator and Mrs. Pemberton, the members of the Board of Trustees, and the faculty of the school.¹⁹

The cost to students who resided at the Hall was \$4.00 a week. This included everything, with laundry privileges. Mr. Lord wrote to a prospective student that the Hall "offers the very best accommodations to be had in the town. To secure equally good accommodations in town would cost six or seven dollars a week."²⁰

The original appropriation sufficed to complete the building, but an additional sum of \$3,000 was appropriated in 1909 to finish ten rooms in the basement and attic.²¹ This was the last special appropriation made for Pemberton Hall. After 1909 the Hall was maintained and, when necessary, refurnished and redecorated, out of maintenance items in the regular school appropriations. When opened the Hall was able to accommodate one hundred girls with lodging, and an additional twenty-five students with table board only.

In actual operation Pemberton Hall fulfilled Mr. Lord's hopes. With Pemberton Hall in mind, he wrote in 1911 to the president of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Normal School that a woman's residence hall:

Acts as a standard of living, which others who keep boarders must approximate. It forms the social center of the school. The girls learn certain things necessary for them to know that they cannot learn in the classroom; and in general, in my judgment, a well managed dormitory is a valuable addition to a normal school.²²

The value of Pemberton Hall to the school was recognized in March 1911 by the members of a visiting legislative sub-committee. In its report to the House Appropriations Committee, the sub-committee stated that Pemberton Hall "has met the fondest hopes of its most ardent advocates and its value as a social center for teachers and pupils, and the opportunities it brings to student life in setting a high standard of living, can hardly be estimated." The success of Pemberton Hall had established "a precedent for other educational institutions to follow and this committee would urge that similar buildings be provided at our other Normal Schools."²³ Thus did a committee of the

¹⁸Letter, L. C. Lord to Senator S. C. Pemberton, Oakland, December 21, 1908. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

¹⁹Correspondence between L. C. Lord and B. H. Pennell, Kansas, Illinois, member Board of Trustees, concerning equipment, arrangements for opening, etc. of Pemberton Hall, August to December, 1908. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

²⁰Letter, L. C. Lord to Amy Maxwell, December 24, 1908. Lord Letterbooks, No. 22.

²¹Session Laws, 46th General Assembly, p. 39. Act of June 15, 1909.

²²Letter, L. C. Lord to W. S. Dearmont, Cape Girardeau, Mo., Jan. 6, 1911. Lord Letterbooks, No. 9.

²³Report to House Appropriations Committee on visit of March 3, 1911, by sub-committee. No date. Copy in Lord Letterbooks, No. 6.