

Mt. Pleasant
School
For Indians

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U. S. Indian School

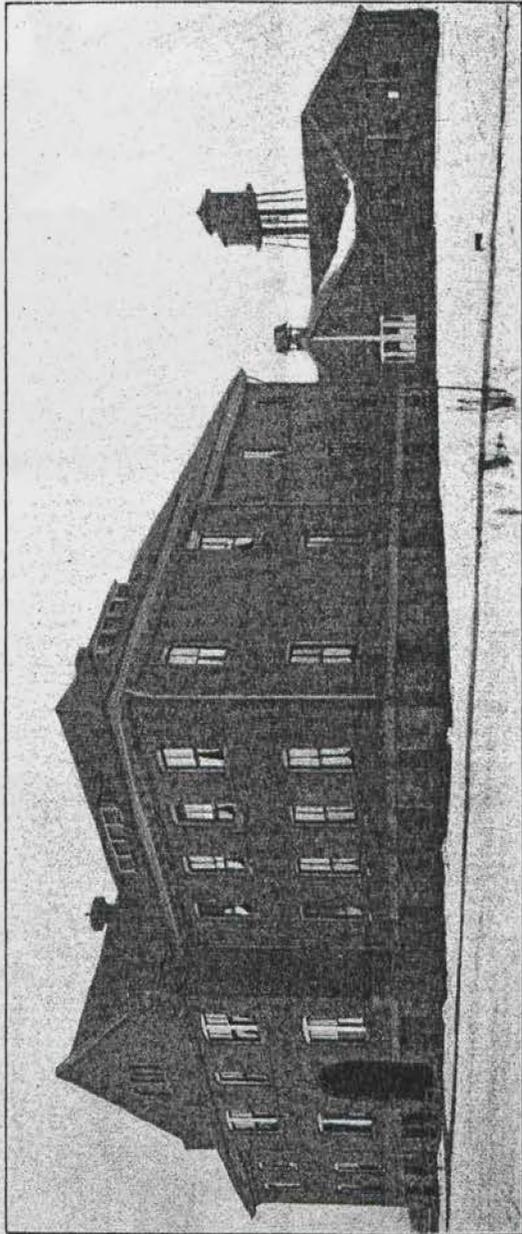
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.



*It is the Purpose of this School to Prepare Indian Youth
for the Duties, Privileges and Responsibilities
of American Citizenship*

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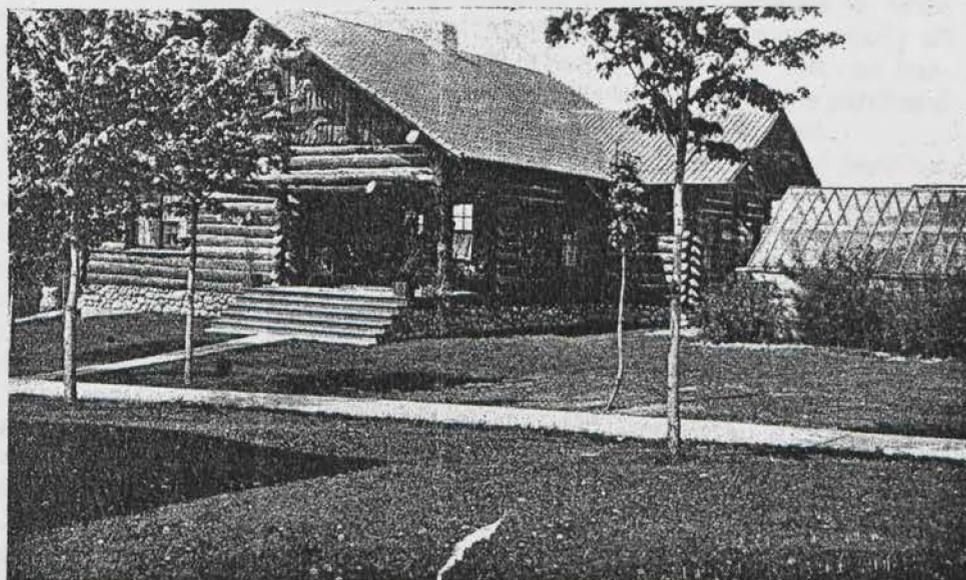
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Girls' Quarters and the Dining Room.



Administration Building.



The Domestic Science Cottage.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MT. PLEASANT INDIAN SCHOOL



AN ACT of Congress, approved February 16, 1891, directed the establishment of an Indian Industrial or Training School in Isabella County, Michigan, and appropriated \$25,000 for the purchase of not less than two hundred acres for the school and the erection of buildings thereon.

Many propositions were submitted by several different towns for the location of the school, and after a careful consideration of all propositions, and inspection of the tracts offered, the Secretary of the Interior, on the twenty-third of October, 1891, selected the land at Mount Pleasant known as the "Old Mission Farm" and the "Mowry Tract", containing in all two hundred acres, and adjoining the city limits of the city of Mount Pleasant. A glance at the map will show that the location of this school is at a point most accessible to the various Indian settlements in the State; indeed, it is probable that it is very near the center of the Indian population of the State. A single day's ride will carry you to any one of the settlements.

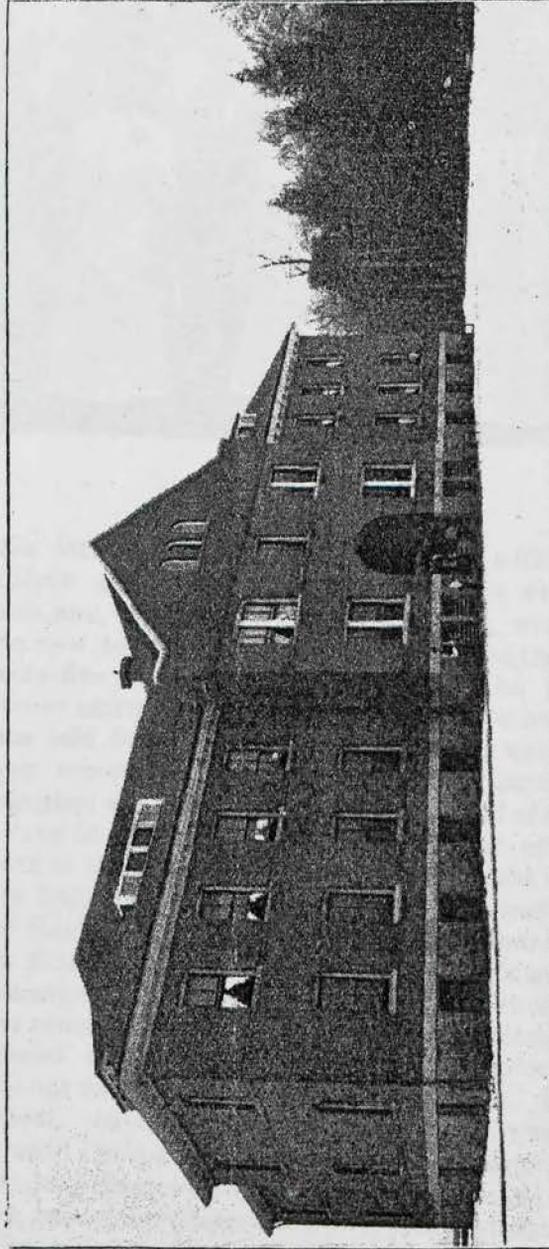
There were several good farm buildings on the land at the time of its purchase. The land was valued at \$8-400, of which the government paid \$5,000 and the citizens of Mount Pleasant contributed the remainder. Mr. S. W. Hopkins, on behalf of the citizens' committee of Mount Pleasant, forwarded the deeds for the tracts

chosen, which on account of some defects in one of the deeds, were not finally approved and recorded until February 2, 1892.

The land on which the school now stands was formerly granted by the Government to the Methodist Episcopal Church for educational purposes; was transferred by them to other parties, and finally rebought by the Government, thus giving to the children of the Indians of Michigan the school facilities many times promised in their treaties under which they gave up their lands, but hitherto not supplied them.

The farm also included the old Indian Reservation burial ground which is still used for the school burial ground at the present time. The school farm now consists of three hundred and twenty acres, nearly all of which is tillable, the last one hundred and twenty acres being purchased soon after the original tract.

The school, however, had been opened under Mr. E. E. Riopel, as superintendent, on January 3, 1893, in the Commercial Bank Building, in the city of Mount Pleasant, and was continued there until March 22, when it was removed to temporary quarters near the new buildings under construction, but not then completed. On March 22, amid two feet of snow, the school was moved out to its present site, just at the edge of the city of Mount Pleasant, and here they camped in temporary quarters for three months, moving into the new building in June, 1893. The school opened with 13 pupils and 7 employees



A good View of Large Boys' Quarters.



Graduating Class.

About three weeks later a party of forty Indian children arrived from the upper Peninsula and, at the time of moving into the new building, one hundred and twenty-five pupils were enrolled. The corner stone for the main building was laid October 12, 1892, with Masonic ceremonies, and the building was finished and occupied by the school on June 20, 1893. This building was burned to the ground in 1899 and rebuilt in 1900, and is now used for the Girls' Home.

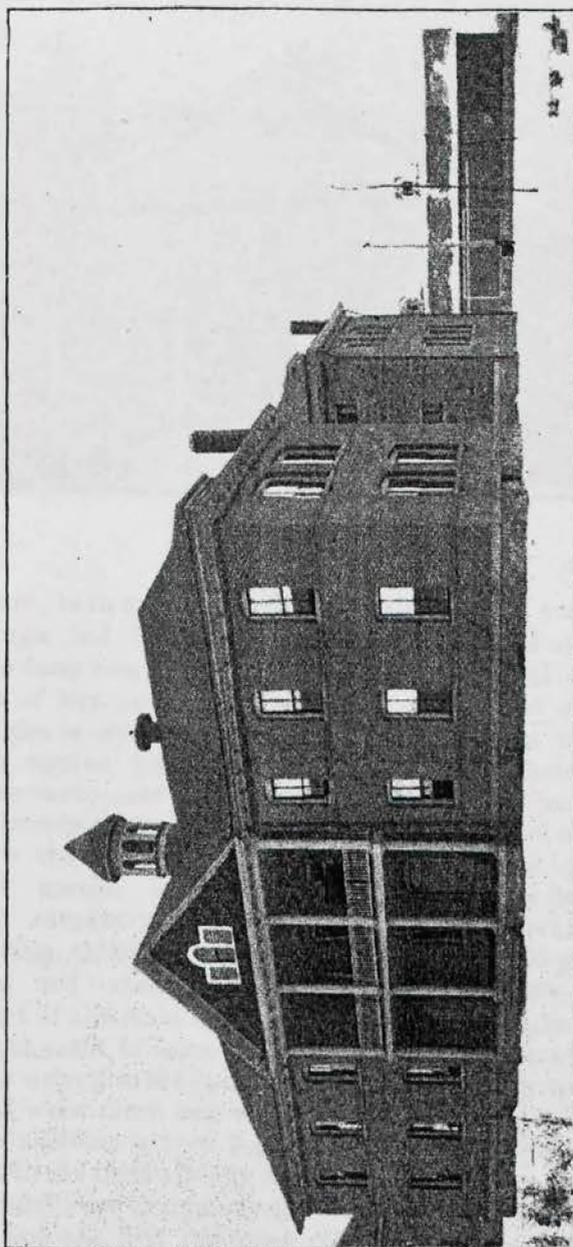
Just about this time, owing to a change in administration in Washington, Dr. Riopel was removed as superintendent and special agent James A. Cooper was sent out and placed in charge of the school, continuing in charge from July until October. On October 30, 1893, Andrew Spencer took charge of the school, coming here from the Cherokee Indian school in North Carolina. The buildings of the school at this time consisted of one \$20,000 brick building, containing girls' dormitory, kitchen, dining room, sewing

room, and shop, with the school rooms and chapel in one wing. A basement was under the whole building, in which was located the laundry and the boiler room. The large attic was finished for use as boys' dormitories.

Two hay barns were purchased with the land, and a barn and storehouse were erected soon after. At the close of the first year of Mr. Spencer's work the enrollment was 145. Several new buildings were erected during Mr. Spencer's administration, among which was a new laundry building.

In the latter part of 1897, Mr. R. S. Graham was appointed superintendent and remained at the head of the school until 1900. During this time the new laundry was equipped with a full set of machinery, an electric light plant installed and a water-works system completed. The latter was a great protection to the school in the way of relieving it from the danger of fire.

In 1900 Mr. E. C. Nardin took charge of the school and continued to



The School Building.



Employees' Club.

build up the plant, both by the addition of new buildings and in improving the farm. The farm was soon producing good crops of hay and grain and garden vegetables in abundance, also fruit, such as apples, strawberries, raspberries, currants, etc. The industrial departments organized at this time, in which the Indian boys and girls received special instruction, were: farming, carpentry, engineering, blacksmithing, tailoring, sewing, laundry work and cooking. The grounds in front of the main building were leveled and sown to lawn grass and shade trees were also set out.

The orchards were much improved in 1902 by the addition of new apple and plum trees to the trees already on hand, and the next year an apple crop of 700 bushels and the first fruitings of young peach, plum, cherry and pear trees, grapes, etc., gave a great stimulus to the interest of the pupils in fruit culture.

A new pump house was erected at

this time, which enclosed a deep-well, steam pump, and opened into the boiler house. Several other new buildings were put up and old ones improved. The new hospital was completed and occupied; additions were built to the school house and the large dining hall, which added much needed space to both the dining hall and the general assembly room; a new water tank was also installed, which provided the school with 40,000 gallons of water at 75 pounds pressure, and the barn was extended to make room for an unusually large crop of hay.

Mr. Nardin greatly increased the area of land devoted to fruit at this time and special instruction was given in fruit raising, with the idea in view that this was an especially desirable industry for Michigan Indians, as there was in this state lack of skilled labor in this line of husbandry.

In November of 1904, Mr. R. A. Cochran was transferred from the Rice Station School, Arizona, as superin-



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tendent here, and has continued to fill this position for the past nine years, being the superintendent at the present time. During the years of Mr. Cochran's administration new buildings have been added and improvements made until the school now presents the appearance of a little village.

The school campus is beautiful with trees, flowers, shrubs, and vines, and the buildings are large and comfortable, having all the modern conveniences, such as steam heat, electric lights, hot and cold water, etc.

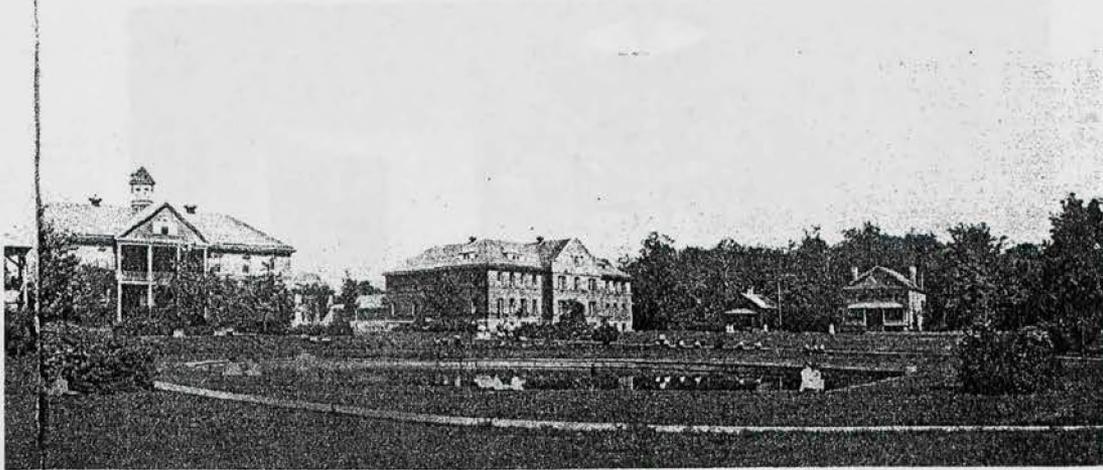
There are thirty-seven buildings in all on the school campus and farm, the most important of which are the Girls' Home, the Large Boys' Home, the Small Boys' Home, the School House, the Dining Hall and Kitchen, the Hospital, the Superintendent's Cottage, the Administration Building, the Employes' Quarters, the Laundry, the Power House, the Industrial Building, and the Commissary, all of which are of brick. The other buildings are of frame, cement, and the log cabin, which was build for a domestic science cottage. All buildings and land belonging to the school at the present time are valued at \$200,000.00.

The capacity and present attendance at the school is 325, 175 boys and 150 girls, representing the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie tribes of Indians of the state of Michigan.

The Indian pupils at this school are gathered from Michigan only and are enrolled for a term of three years. The Government pays for their transportation to the school and after they have completed their term, returns them to their homes.

The pupils attend school half of every day and work in some industrial department the other half of the day.

In the literary department the course of study corresponds to the first eight grades as required by the Public Schools of Michigan. After completing the course here, pupils have the privilege, if they desire to do so, of attending high school in the city of Mount Pleasant. Lectures and talks are given to the pupils during the evening hours by the teachers on such subjects as health, temperance, current events, etc., with one evening each week devoted to stereopticon views or moving pictures. Special programs are prepared for such days as Flag Day, Humane Treatment of



eral of Campus.

Animals, Arbor Day, Tuberculosis Day, Christmas, Washington's Birthday, Easter, etc. These entertainments are prepared and given by the literary societies, the different grades in school, the band, and the school orchestra. The literary and debating societies have done a great deal to familiarize the pupils with parliamentary laws and customs and to make them think of the important topics of the day.

The industrial training given in this school is of the most practical nature. The girls are taught housekeeping, sewing, laundry work, cooking, nursing, and a special course in domestic science has recently been added. A new domestic science cottage has been completed lately, and is the most attractive building of the school to visitors. It is built of logs, cut from the woods on the school farm, and all of the work, both of hewing the logs and preparing them for use, and also constructing them into the building, was done entirely by the school carpenter and his detail of Indian boys. The cottage is built bungalow style, and is modern in every way, being heated with steam and lighted with

electricity. It is fitted out with the best improvements and methods for teaching domestic science.

The boys are taught engineering, farming, carpentry, baking, shoe mending, and tailoring. The school farm contains 320 acres and a great variety of grains, fruits and vegetables are grown here. Since many of our Indian boys come from small farms special attention is given to agriculture. The tailor shop is about as popular among the boys as any department which we have on account of the great demand for our tailor boys in the resorts, so numerous in Northern Michigan during the summer months.

The pupils of the school are about evenly divided as to religion, being Catholic and Methodist. They are encouraged to attend church on Sunday mornings, an employe being detailed to act as escort and accompany them to the church of their choice. On Sunday afternoons a nonsectarian service is held in the large assembly room in the school house for all pupils.

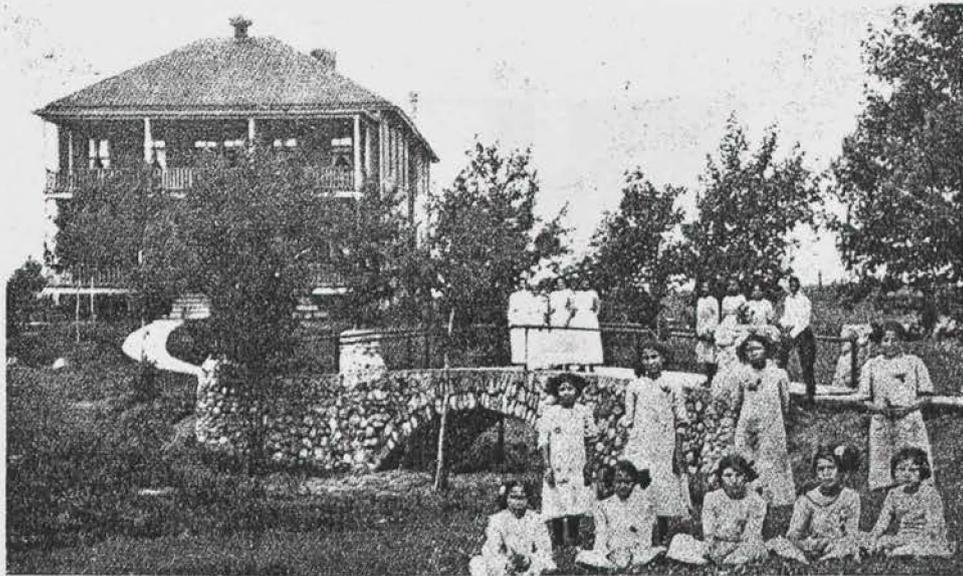
There are about 10,000 Indians in the state of Michigan. They are divided into two classes; the progressive



Dining Room, Domestic Science Cottage.



Kitchen View, with class at work, Domestic Science Department.



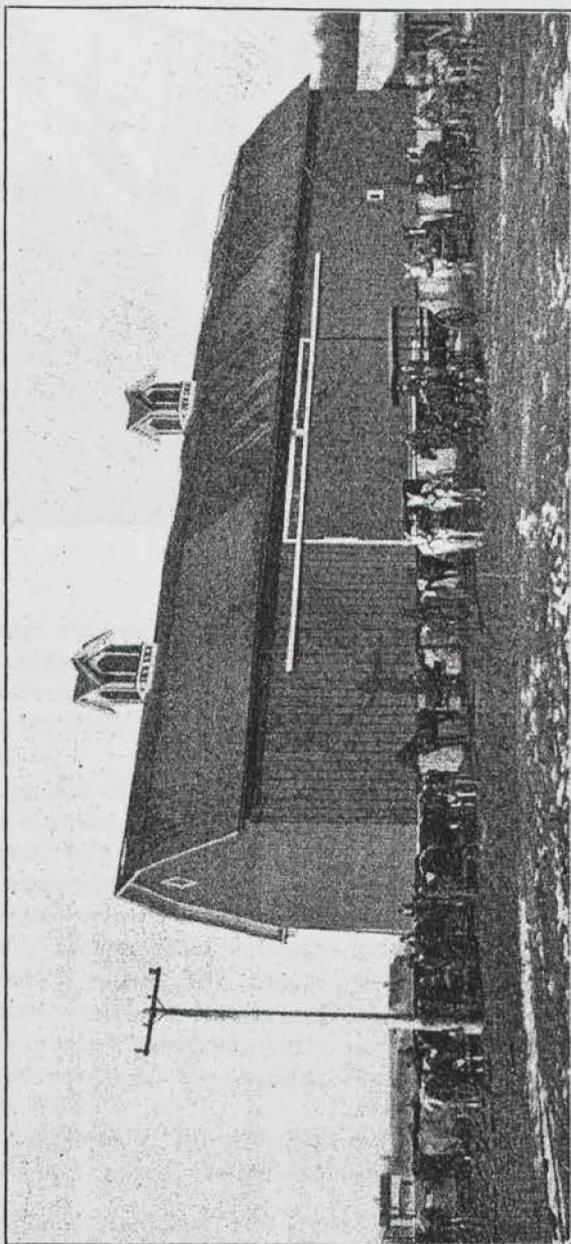
Hospital and Bridge.

Indians, who almost without exception send their children to the public schools; and the poor, uneducated Indians, who usually cling together and are found in the Indian villages or settlements, adjoining some lumber camp, town, or summer resort. This is the class of Indians from whom the great majority of our pupils come, and it is really remarkable that such bright, happy children, as we have in school here, can come from such wretched homes.

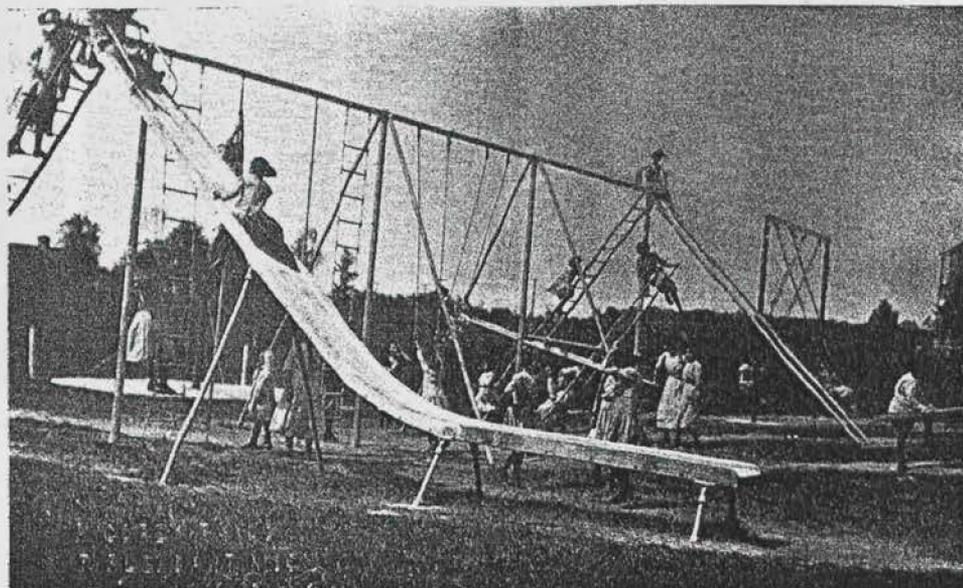
Many of our pupils work during the summer vacations, the girls doing housework in the homes of Mount Pleasant families, or working in the laundries or hotels in the numerous summer resorts found all over Michigan. Others find work in the canning factories, preparing the fruit and vegetables for canning. The boys from our school find all the work they can do in the sugar beet fields of nearby farmers. Our tailor boys are also in great demand during the summer months, in the tailor shops found in

the summer resorts. Many of the Indians take their families out berry picking during the berrying season and make quite a little sum from selling the different wild berries and fruits as they ripen during the summer and early fall. The pupils in this school are an exceptionally fine class of children. The city of Mount Pleasant being a "dry" town, offers no temptations along that line for our Indian boys.

The library belonging to the school is open to all of the older pupils and affords much enjoyment to the more quiet and studious children. The library has lately been considerably increased. Music holds quite an important place in school. The choruses from the different grades furnish music of an unusually fine quality, and make the Sunday afternoon services very attractive to all. A band of twenty pieces gives frequent concerts at the school. They give a sacred concert in the band stand every Sunday evening during the summer, which



Our Modern and Commodious Barn.



Girls' Playground.

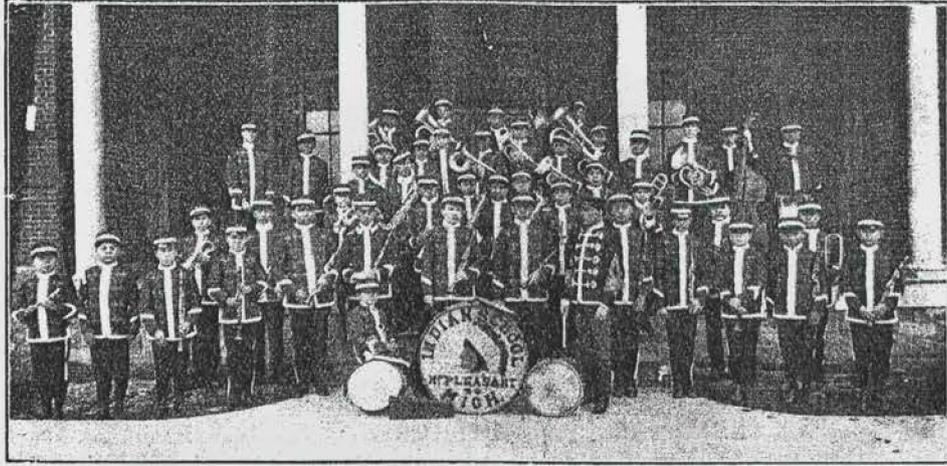
attracts many visitors from outside the school, besides being a treat for the pupils themselves. The school orchestra also adds its share to the pleasures of the pupils.

Knowing that a strong body is as necessary to success as a well trained mind or hand, athletics are encouraged as much as possible, and the football and baseball games between the various classes arouse great enthusiasm and rivalry among the pupils. Besides football, baseball, tennis and skating in their season, several picnics are enjoyed each year by the pupils at some near-by lake.

Great improvement in the physical condition of our pupils, especially

among the girls, has been noticed since the out-door play ground apparatus has been erected. There are two play ground outfits, one for the boys and one for the girls, and the playground is thronged with happy children at all hours of the day.

The one great aim of this school is to help prepare the Indian boys and girls for the duties, privileges, and responsibilities of American citizenship, by training them in the formation of good habits and character, in giving them a reasonable amount of knowledge of civic rights and duties, in developing the physical, mental and moral faculties, and in encouraging industrial development.



The School Band.



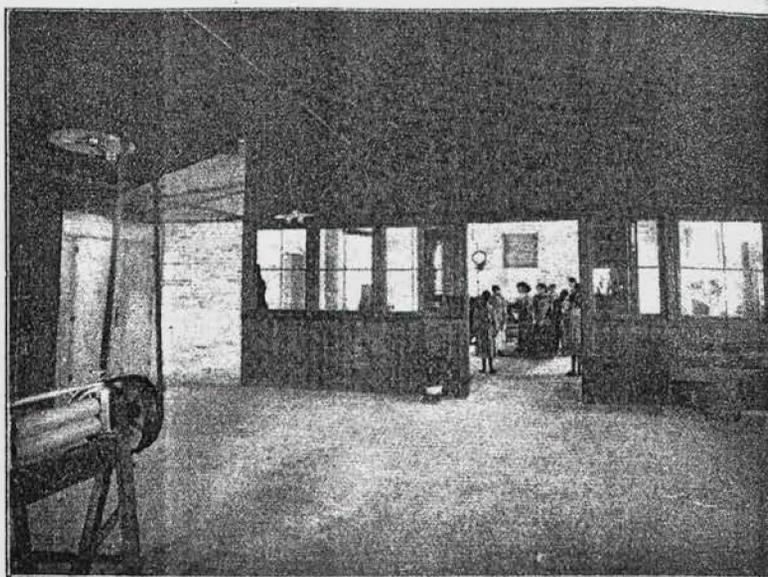
A Mt. Pleasant Indian Base Ball Team.



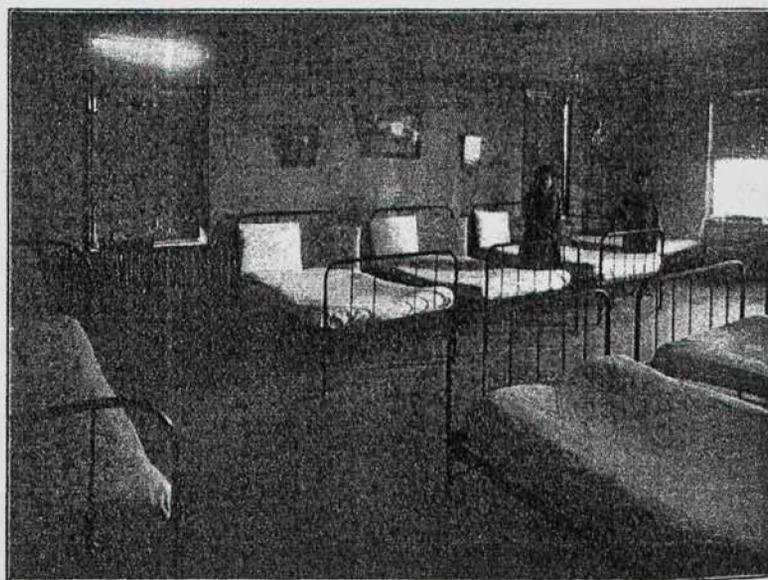
Small Boys' quarters.



Football Game Mt. Pleasant vs. Saginaw High.



An Interior View of School Laundry.



View in one of the Dormitories in Girls' Quarters.

*This pamphlet was executed by student-apprentices
of the printing trade at the Chilocco
Indian School, Oklahoma*