

The minutes of the Board of Education meeting held October 24, 1901 disclose that the Board was anxious to gain accreditation for the Normal School and thus went along with Matthews plan:

October 24, 1901

The Principal was instructed to confer with the California State Board of Education and to endeavor to secure the full accrediting of the Normal School diplomas in that state. He was authorized to incur necessary expense attending the conference with the California Board.<sup>13</sup>

Matthews obtained a working relationship with the Normal Schools at San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose and Chico. The following letter to President Matthews telling of the decision of the California State Board of Education marked the beginning of a rapid academic growth for the Tempe school:

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 18, 1902

To Whom It May Concern:

In pursuance of Section 1735 of the political code of the State of California, the State Board of Education, at a meeting held January 11, 1902, recommends the Tempe Normal School of Arizona as being of equal rank with the state normal schools of California, and holders of the highest grade diplomas issued by said normal school may be granted the grammar school certificate of California by county or city boards of education without examination, as provided by the section of the law above referred to.

Thomas J. Kirk  
 Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 Secretary State Board of Education<sup>14</sup>

13. From the Minutes of The Board of Education

14. Thomas, Alfred Jr., Arthur John Matthews - Educator and Administrator, Op. Cit. p. 60.