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TEXAS WINS

EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

ONE WAY TO IMPROVE THE PROFESSION

An unusual opportunity now presents itself to those teachers who are eager to see their calling a real profession that will secure popular support and respect. The opportunity lies in recruiting for teacher training the most capable and the most ambitious of our high school graduates. If we could secure the enrollment in our Normal Schools and Teachers Colleges of 1000 of our most promising high school graduates each year for the next two or three years we would see the profession of teaching spring forward by leaps and bounds. It is the poorly prepared teacher with meager equipment and little ambition that is proving a dead-weight to further improvement of our vocation and we can look for better conditions only when we earnestly and successfully elicit the interest of the best of our high school product in teaching, one of the greatest of all professions.

\$3,000,000. FOR TEACHERS COLLEGE

The General Education Board has appropriated \$1,000,000. to Teachers College of Columbia University upon condition that the school raise \$2,000,000. additional for an endowment fund. \$1,000,000. of this amount has already been pledged and the full amount will undoubtedly be pledged to further the work of this great Teachers College.

AN ELOQUENT CONTRAST

The following taken by the December *School Review* from an Alabama publication speaks volumes:

"The board of education of the city of Detroit, with a population of 993,739 according to the 1920 census, has been allowed a total of \$31,201,024. for the year 1920-21.

The white population of Alabama, according to the 1910 census was 1,228,832. The total disbursements in the state last year for all schools, both white and negro, were \$7,258,398."

Four years ago the Texas legislature submitted to the people of the state a constitutional amendment that would raise the limitation on local taxation from 50 cents on the \$100. to \$1.00. By a few hundred votes the amendment was defeated. You can't beat the Texans though. They came back this time by thoroughly organizing the state and with the most aggressive and vigorous campaign that the state perhaps has ever seen won the chance to build better schools by a vote of 2 to 1, even in face of the fact that the price of cotton had fallen below the cost of production and the state was economically despondent. Hats off to Texas!

THE WAY OUT

The state of North Carolina has just issued the report of the Educational Commission, appointed to study the needs of its public schools. The Commission reports that "the way to improve our schools is clearly through better administration, better trained teachers, and better financial support."

In the State Department of Education it suggests in addition to the Superintendent and his clerical staff, a division of school-house planning, a division of teachers' certificates, division of supervision, with at least five supervisors, division of school extension, and a division of state school funds and records.

In regard to the county superintendent the report says "The office of county superintendent must be placed on a strictly professional basis, that is, such professional preparation and experience should be required of all incumbents and future aspirants as will safeguard efficiency and eliminate all who rely for appointment on other than professional qualifications."

To get and hold well trained teachers the Commission suggests that "Their tenure must be secure, their salaries attractive, and appropriate teacher training institutions must be readily accessible."

In regard to better financial support the report says "One thing is certain—it will require more than three times the present amount even to bring present expenditures

up to the country-wide average, and there is no reason to suppose that good schools can be maintained more cheaply in North Carolina than elsewhere."

LATIN IN THIRD PLACE

School and Society, of December 25 says "According to the enrollment in foreign language classes in the high schools of New York City taken October 15, there were only sixty students taking German, and those were students in the sixth, seventh and eighth terms who elected to study German before the war ban was placed on it. The enrollment figures show that Spanish is the most popular language with the pupils now entering high school, there being 9,961 so enrolled among the first year pupils. In other languages the first term enrollment is as follows: French, 5,428; Latin, 4,654; Italian, 72; Greek, 48."

THE STATUS OF THE URBAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

In a study of Junior High School in cities of 5,000 or more population, *School Life* for December 1 reports that such schools are found in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Kansas, Minnesota and New Jersey have each 16 Urban Junior High Schools; Illinois has 18; Indiana and New York 19 each; Michigan 21; Massachusetts 24; Pennsylvania 31 and Ohio 38. The Junior High School is undoubtedly with us to stay.

VIRGINIA'S NEW RURAL SCHOOL

Supt. Harris Hart with the aid of Supervisor R. V. Long has worked out plans for a very attractive type of inexpensive rural school that may be built of brick, stucco or frame construction. The building plans call for one story of eight rooms and an auditorium. The lighting is improved by skylights and each room has an exit to the outside. The absence of heavy timbers makes the building comparatively inexpensive and undoubtedly this type of building will find its way into many rural communities. Plans and specifications may be obtained from the State Department in Richmond.

MILLIONS FOR NEW BUILDINGS

Richmond is to have a bond issue of \$1,500,000. for new school buildings; Norfolk an issue of \$2,000,000. or more for the same purpose; Lynchburg is to issue \$2,000,000. worth of bonds to provide among other things for new school buildings; and the little town of Martinsville, which has already two excellent buildings, is to issue \$250,000. worth of bonds for a building of the most improved type. Let the good work go on.

S. P. D.

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A READING LIST FROM THE JANUARY MAGAZINES

"On the Mystification of Children," by Laura Spencer Portor. *The Century*.

An account of the author's experiences with her elders, with a mild protest at the makeshifts and substitutes offered the child in the place of realities.

"What the Pilgrim Fathers Accomplished," by William Elliot Griffis. *The North American Review*.

An ordered arrangement of the achievements and contributions to civilization and human progress made by the Pilgrims, whose spirit has animated a nation and its example leavened all our national history.

"Nationalism in Our Literature," by Earl L. Bradsher. *The North American Review*.

The presentation of the noteworthy American literary contributions that resulted in throwing off the chains of intellectual subserviency which bound us to Europe.

"The Schoolma'am of Sandy Ridge," by Irene Hudson. *The Atlantic Monthly*.

A mission-school story, with its scene laid in Virginia.

"Religio Magistri," by Henry Noble MacCracken. *The Atlantic Monthly*.

A vigorous protest against conditions which furnish the baffling barriers to the