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Article, "A Fifteen Year Achievement"

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JOURNAL of EDUCATION

A. E. WINSHIP and A. W. BELDING, EDITORS

ISOBEL R. LAY, MANAGING EDITOR

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EDITORIALS

Rural Schools in Texas

THIS is the noblest educational age the United States has ever known. We get a glorious educational thrill in every state in the Union, and we have functioned in many more than half the states this year, and on more than one educational tour in more than half of these.

This is especially a rural school age, and it is a Texas school age in everything. We are led to say that because in Texas, two weeks after the recent election, County Superintendent J. F. Ward of Fort Bend County christened the most recent born child of rural school progress in the New World.

Superintendent Ward was assisted by State Superintendent S. M. N. Marrs, Superintendent E. E. Oberholtzer of Houston, and Superintendent H. E. Scott of Richmond, the county seat. Rev. H. T. Morgan, pastor of the largest church in the county, officiated religiously.

The occasion was the installation of a three thousand five hundred dollar radio station owned by the thirty-five rural schools of the county, each

of which had an adequate amplifier for all occasions, and the station which these thirty-five rural schools own can tune in on any and all broadcasting occasions from San Francisco to New York.

On November 19, when the Rev. H. T. Morgan rose to return thanks for the occasion, he said: "Let's all stand," and everyone in the thirty-five rural schoolhouses stood reverently while the prayer was offered.

Then the county superintendent had a heart-to-heart talk with every child and every patron in those thirty-five rural school districts. The state superintendent gave his blessing with the professional unction for which he is noted. The superintendent of Houston eloquently voiced national appreciation of the glorious age in which the children of today are educated, and the superintendent of the county seat welcomed the thirty-five rural schools to fellowship with their official city.

The Radio Supply Company, in appreciation of the significance of this famous educational crea-

tion, reduced the cost of the entire installation from \$6,000 to \$3,500.

Each of the thirty-five districts provided one hundred dollars. There is no language that can appropriately express what Fort Bend County, Texas, has instituted in rural schools and community activity.

Educational Cheer Leader

SUPERINTENDENT JOHN O. CHEWNING, of Evansville, Indiana, dares to preach and practice helping pupils when needed. He has demonstrated on many occasions the glory of preventing heartaches and toning up the physical, mental, and spiritual life for years by stimulating hope and cheer in all pupils and students.

Superintendent Chewning believes every teacher and principal should be a cheer leader with as much spirit and go as with the cheer leader the day before a football game.

What would happen to a cheer leader if on the day before a critical football game he should say: "Now, fellows, it is important that you go on the gridiron tomorrow in first-class condition, so I am telling you that the fullback failed in his English examination, and the halfback's intelligence test was very low."

Superintendent Chewning practices what he preaches. He is the cheer leader of public appreciation of the schools, of his supervisors, of the principals, of the teachers, and of the pupils and students.

He sets a noble example for those antiques who think it is soft pedagogy to do anything but goad the children with a sharp tongue.

Safety First

WE HAVE said editorially over and over again that teachers should never jeopardize their savings by listening to schemers who promise great dividends. There should be safety first.

On November 17, 1928, in court proceedings in Chicago, a school principal testified that he had lost \$22,500, the entire savings of himself and wife, in a worthless investment. Several other principals and teachers joined in the suit, their total loss being \$175,000. It appeared in the testimony that they had been tempted by promise of big profits by men whose promises were worthless. Investigate before you invest. Safety first!

A Fifteen Year Achievement

IT HAS been my good fortune to know the evolution of teacher-training institutions for sixty-five years as probably no one else has known it. It would be impossible to have any one

appreciate why most of the 180 State Normal Schools, and State Teachers Colleges into which many of them have blossomed, have a distinct personality, but as memory films this moving picture it is increasingly interesting.

Our recollection of the fire that penalized the wee bit of a school at Pittsburg, Kansas, by destroying in a few minutes Russ Hall, its only real pretense to a materialized institution, has led to magnifying the fifteen years since then.

In these fifteen years a marvelous Teacher Training Campus has been created with eleven architecturally beautiful and academically dignified college buildings inclosing it. The state has invested a million-and-a-half dollars (\$1,450,000) in buildings, and the present legislative appropriation for the institution is \$1,274,259 for the biennium.

In the fifteen years the enrollment of different individuals has increased 3,700 in number, and scholastically the number of graduates receiving college degrees has increased from 13 in 1913 to 246 in 1928. The faculty has increased from 43 to 136, and there are eleven of the faculty with a doctor's degree. Only one had such recognition in 1913. What is more significant is the fact that ten of the faculty of 1928 are on leave this year, studying for higher academic recognition.

All this has little significance as it appears in cold black type, but to one who has seen the frail institution with its fire-devastated building, with a faculty with several varieties of professional visions, with a state sentiment that could change without notice, evolve into a noble professional college with a distinct educational personality there is a thrill as memory traces the experiences of the president through superintendencies in Iowa and Oklahoma into leadership of this remarkable evolution of professional and scholastic creation.

Gasoline from bituminous coal is much more reasonable than is the making of lily white aspirin therefrom. These are great times in which to be alive, especially if one owns an automobile or an airplane.

Frank and Fearless

MRS. JAMES N. DOWNEY of Detroit, who has played politics more or less successfully for six years, has abandoned the game because women in politics are not interested in the candidate or political party. "They oppose one another because they do not like others' clothes, or husbands, or friends." It will be interesting to see reasons teachers give for not supporting a woman candidate for the presidency of the National Education Association. It is not likely to be dislike of her husband. It may be her political associates. Can it possibly be clothes?