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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

EDUCATION RALLY OF DISTRICT "H" IN CULPEPER

Interesting programs were presented at each session of the Teachers Conference held at Culpeper. Beginning with the first day the morning session was given to meeting the teachers, escorting them to the Fairfax for registration and assigning them to homes in which they were to be entertained.

Luncheon was served at 12 o'clock at the High School Building, where a committee of high school teachers received the visitors and spent the social hour with them.

The program for Thursday afternoon started promptly at one o'clock. Mr. R. C. Hayden, chairman of District H. Conference, introduced the speakers, Dr. Smithey, of the Department of Education of the University of Virginia, and Supt. R. C. Bowton, of the public schools of Alexandria, the key note of the addresses of the afternoon pertaining to the problems of school administration. The reports from the leagues of the co-operative association were also heard during this meeting.

The program on Thursday evening was called the Inspirational Program and was precluded by several musical numbers by the Culpeper Band, followed by an address of welcome by Rev. T. W. Hooper. Dr. William A. Wilbur, of Georgetown University, Washington, whose lecture, "Educational Values in Shakespeare," was greatly enjoyed, and Dr. W. T. Sanger, Secretary of State Board of Education, on "Job Analysis Applied to Education," were the speakers of the evening.

On Friday morning following the business meeting the program embraced addresses and papers pertaining to Health Education, Dr. Theodore Hough giving a most instructive lecture. Other speakers of the afternoon were

Miss Agnes Randolph of the State Department of Public Health and Miss Lulu Metz, President of the District Association, and a number of others.

The occasion of the Teachers Conference in Culpeper may be said to have been successfully staged without a hitch in the arrangements. While not as many came as were expected, it is estimated that more than four hundred were in attendance, although only about half of these registered, due possibly to those teachers who returned to their homes for the night not deeming registration necessary.

Miss M. Frieda Koontz, the League Secretary, presided over the league section and made an interesting address; she complimented the league on its good work for the past year.

Among some of the prominent visitors present were Dr. C. J. Heatwole, of the Virginia State Teachers' Association, and the Virginia Journal of Education, Miss Coleman, Field Secretary of the Red Cross, Miss Hattie Bell Gresham, of the Crippled Children's Hospital in Richmond.

CHARLOTTESVILLE ORGANIZES LEAGUE

The citizens of Charlottesville met in the McGuffey's public school and heard interesting addresses by Mrs. B. B. Munford, president of the Co-operative Education Association, and Dr. E. A. Alderman, president of the University of Virginia. Dr. James G. Johnson, superintendent of schools of Charlottesville, made the opening address, expressing his unqualified endorsement of this great work and turned the meeting over to Judge John A. Fishburne, who presided during the remainder of the session.

Mrs. Munford in her address spoke of the growth of this citizenship movement and traced its development from a few struggling school leagues to something like eighteen hundred organizations in the State working for the betterment of the educational, health, highway and social life of the Commonwealth. Mrs. Munford illustrated her address, by presenting a large map covered with stars showing the location of Community and Junior Community Leagues of the State.

Dr. Alderman in his address said, "There is no educational agency operating now in Virginia of more genuine value to the Commonwealth than the Co-operative Education Association. It touches and stimulates the life of the people, and should be substantially encouraged."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mr. E. C. Caruthers, president; Mrs. Firth, first vice-president; Judge John G. Fishburne, second vice-president; Mrs. H. P. Porter, secretary; Mr. F. H. Quarles, treas-

urer. A special committee on constitution and by-laws was selected. There were one hundred and twenty-five citizens present, nearly all of whom joined the Co-operative Education Association.

At a meeting held last week Dr. Roy K. Flannagan, of the State Health Department, addressed the citizens. Dr. Flannagan spoke in highest terms of the work of the organization and summed up his appreciation of it by saying that it was the condition of all other efforts for betterment of community life, and that it served as a clearing house for numerous organizations such as civic clubs.

Dr. J. G. Johnson, superintendent of city schools, was also called on, and expressed his very great pleasure in the formation of the local League, saying that among the many things of value in the broad scope of its usefulness were to be found an increased interest on the part of the parents, in better preparation of the pupils in their homes for the duties at school, and a stimulus to enlarged resources for athletics.

Dr. Johnson invited visitation of the schools on special days, by parents, and solicited encouragement of the teachers in the problems that perplex them in the matter of handling the pupil entrusted to their care.

REPORT OF JUNIOR LEAGUE CONFERENCE

The Educational Conference of District "G" of Virginia State Teachers' Association met in Harrisonburg March 21st and 22nd. During the last part of this conference on March 22nd, a meeting of the League workers was called by Miss Frieda Koontz.

By the meeting together of the leagues we could hear the reports of the organizations in other counties. We were also able to hear inspiring talks made by the league workers of the State.

In an address by Miss Koontz some main ideas dealing with the league work were emphasized. The Junior League has been organized for the purpose of better work, better health, better homes, better agriculture, patriotism, character building, and a better knowledge to live the fuller life through self-activity.

Mrs. W. W. King of Staunton, our District League Secretary, presided over the meeting held in the after-lunch session. In a few remarks she told us that the big thing in the school league is intelligent co-operation. Co-operation between the home and the school was urged. Through co-operation many leagues of other counties have raised large sums of money for the construction of buildings, for the placing of libraries, for athletic associa-

tions and for aiding the sick and needy. Why shouldn't the leagues of our county do more for benefiting the community? In connection with the leagues, the schools are offered a handsome prize for the best essay on some county in the Shenandoah Valley, other than the one in which they are situated. This is for the purpose of the Shenandoah Valley Booster's Campaign.

The Highway Commission also offers prizes to the Junior Leagues for the best essay on "good roads."

In order to keep before us the five-fold purpose of the League, perhaps it would be well to name them. 1—Citizenship. 2—School Spirit. 3—Health Objectives. 4—Athletics and Recreation. 5.—Self Improvement.

CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS SHOULD CHOOSE THEIR OWN READING

The enforced study of the classics of literature should be eliminated from the schools is the edict of Dr. Clifford Smythe's editorial in the *May International Book Review*.

"It is the tyranny of the classic," he states, "this enforced dominance of a set of names and standards inherited from the past, that each generation in turn needs to be freed from in order to bequeath unhampered its own full legacy of original achievement to the future, and it is in the schools that this classical dominance is most firmly entrenched.

"If the practical educator could devise some method by which boys and girls in the literary classes of our schools would select their own reading and at the same time not be wasting their studies over worthless matters, we would be a long way on the road toward that literary emancipation that must underlie all true appreciation and love of books.

"Insist that a boy or girl shall read and analyze a novel of Dickens, Scott or Thackeray, and the chances are that he will derive very little profit from the process, and will cherish a smouldering hatred for any or all of these authors after his painful and enforced experience with them.

"Let him choose for himself, however, and it is not at all unlikely that he will go to one of these very classics of literature, but with a freedom of mind that will give zest to all he may absorb from his reading.

"Under such system, difficult though it may be, at first, to carry out, there would be an end to the educational tyranny, at all events, of the classics—and in its place there might well spring up a discriminating love of the world's greatest literature such as our schools have never had before."