NEWS OF SOME OF VIRGINIA’S HIGH SCHOOLS

Commencement exercises marking the close of a most successful year of the Harrisonburg City Schools, began with the baccalaureate service Sunday, May 23, at the Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. H. M. Canter, the pastor, spoke on “Playing the Game.” Thursday, May 27, Class Day was held in Assembly Hall, when there were numbers by the Glee Club, and the class prophecy, class diagnosis, and class picture, and a play which took its name from the class motto: “Non Palma Sine Labora.”

Friday evening’s program included, in addition to an address on “Creative Unrest” by Professor A. M. Dobie, of the University of Virginia, the salutatory by Emily Bryan Zirkle, an essay, “Some Legends Concerning Massanutten Mountain,” by Mary Pasco Conrad, an oration, “What We Can Do in the Fight Against Bolshevism,” by George William Hess, and the valedictory by Daniel Orville Dechert, Jr.

There were twenty-five graduates in the class of 1920, sixteen of whom are girls. The award of diplomas to these graduates was made by W. H. Keister, Superintendent of city schools in Harrisonburg.

Jarrat, Sussex county, enjoys an accredited high school, of which W. O. Tune is the principal. Just now there is considerable discussion in the community of the need of a new school building, and the spirit of the community is such that the “felt need” is likely to develop into an actuality.

The Linville-Edom consolidated school will next year become an accredited high school. The principal is L. S. Fletcher, a graduate of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. There were four young ladies this year who had completed the three-year course of study.

Edinburg, an accredited high school, under the principalship of M. C. Hollingsworth, is doing superior work. The people of the entire community are interested in higher education, and a number of the school’s graduates are now attending colleges and universities. There were four graduates at Edinburg in June.

Eagle Rock High School, with six graduates, is doing splendid work in Botetourt county. Miss Charlotte Persinger is the principal. Practically all of the graduates of 1920 will go on to higher institutions next fall.

At McDowell, Highland County, there is now agitation for improved high school facilities and a four-year accredited high school. Six students this year completed the three-years work. The principal is Miss Jones.

Boyce Agricultural High School, under the principalship of M. A. Smith, celebrated its commencement exercises the evening of June 1. There were five girls and four boys in the graduating class, and the patrons of the school are very happy over the excellent things being accomplished by the school.

John Marshall High School, Richmond, honored its sons who lost their lives in the Great War by unveiling a bronze memorial tablet on the morning of May 31. The ceremonies included an address by John Stewart Bryan, of Richmond, and a poem, “Filii Fideles,” by the genial principal of John Marshall, James C. Harwood. The poem follows:

**Fili Fideles**

Furled are the flags and the rifles stacked;
Hushed is the cannon’s roar;
The fleet is home and the transport docked,
And the war drums beat no more.

“Count me my sons, if the army’s home,
And see that you miss not one.
Five times a hundred, I sent them forth.
What have my brave lads done?”

“Alma Mater, the lists are checked;
You may hear with a mother’s pride
That they kept the faith in that distant land,
As they did at thy patient side.

“They are home again—but, alas, not all:
Some sleep where the sward is green,
One rests in the deep. And the tally shows,
Alma Mater, we’ve lost sixteen!”

“Write me their names on a tablet, then,
And place where all may see.
Let it say they died for a sacred cause—
That the whole world might be free.”

“Mother, ’tis done; and we oft shall come
And stand with uncovered head,
Inspired for the tasks that are ours to do
By the deeds of thy sainted dead.”