

County Rural School Notes

Another New Year has begun. One of the greatest years in World history. The struggle to win either democracy or autocracy as the ruling power of the earth has come to its final issue, and has shaken the very foundation of civilization. I quote from a prominent educator who says: "We are face to face with a new world: not only physical and economic, but intellectual and spiritual. The problem now confronting us is not so much one of military success but one of preparation; that we may have the intelligence and spiritual poise necessary to bring order out of chaos and so plan and re-construct that humanity may profit by the terrible experience through which we are passing. The burden of physical victory, for liberty, rests upon our trained army; but the burden of the intellectual and spiritual victory, which is more important, rests upon our system of education and training of the young."

The school people of this country are face to face with a responsibility and opportunity—the greatest in the annals of human history; and I would that each educator, great and small, could have a real and true conception of the vastness and importance of the school business of the present time. Always fundamental, but more important now than ever before.

AMERICA, the Hope of the World and the Schools the Hope of America! Will she measure up to the gravity of the situation? Our people have always met and overcome difficulties with credit to themselves and glory of the creator. Now is the educator's greatest opportunity; and every citizen should rally to the heartiest and most sympathetic cooperation with the teachers, to solve this problem of facing the new era successfully.

It will take patience, consecration and sacrifice of both talents and means, to have the coming generation so skilled in head, heart and hand that they may successfully grapple with and solve momentous problems that will come to them by reason of experience through which humanity now passes—but the teachers of America are equal to the task. We must give our teachers support and encouragement."

It is gratifying to hear each week of new ways in which the school officers are helping to make the teachers' efforts successful. New equipment has been added in a great number of schools this year. New text books, of which there was such urgent need, have been furnished. A number of school districts are making an effort to standardize all of their schools if possible. The following are the requirements for standardization:

SCHOOL TERM:

1st and 2nd class—a nine-months term.

3rd class—eight months' term.

ATTENDANCE:

Actual percent of attendance not less than 75; each child of school age, seven to seventeen, must have an average of 90 per cent except when excused under the law.

TEACHERS:

1st class—Must be Normal graduate or have completed one year above four-year high school course; have professional certificate.

2nd class—Must have completed four years above eighth grade, and hold at least third grade elementary certificate.

3rd class—Must hold at least fourth grade certificate and have completed four years above eighth grade.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS:

Must be suitable for school purposes, clean and well kept. Must be at least 12 square feet of floor space and 200 cubic feet of air space for each pupil.

EQUIPMENT:

Each school must be provided with: a. Modern set of encyclopedias of at least four volumes. b. Must have Webster's New International Dictionary. c. Not less than five abridged dictionaries. d. In addition to regular basic readers, must have at least two sets of supplement-