

Front Lines in Education

Henry Harap, Editor

Postwar Curriculum. The manuscript of the 1945 Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education on the Postwar Curriculum is now in the hands of the editor. Ralph W. Tyler of the University of Chicago is the chairman of the Yearbook Committee. A partial list of topics and contributors follows: pre-school children, Ruth Andrus, New York State Department of Education; returning war-workers, Horace T. Morse, University of Minnesota; community education, Maurice Seay, University of Kentucky; guiding principles, Hilda Taba, University of Chicago; international understanding, Howard Wilson, Harvard University; health, Ruth Strang, Columbia University; procedures in curriculum development, Prudence Cutright, Minneapolis Public Schools; adult education, Muriel Brown, U. S. Office of Education; conservation, George F. Gant, Tennessee Valley Authority.

School Lunches. Congress has appropriated 50 million dollars for the continuation of the school lunch program. Funds are available to schools and child-care centers in the states, principally on the basis of state school enrollment and the financial need of the school. The federal government will pay part of the food cost but the equipment, labor, and supervision must be furnished by state and local agencies or civic groups. The buying of food will be done locally by the sponsors. They will then submit monthly claims and reports of operations and be reimbursed by the Office of Distribution of the War Food Administration. The sponsors may be school authorities, parent-teacher associations, local women's clubs, or other civic and service non-profit groups.

New Appointments at Long Beach. Douglas A. Newcomb, formerly director of elementary schools, has been appointed deputy superintendent of schools. He replaces Will

French who served two years as deputy superintendent and has now returned to Columbia University for the fall quarter. Lavone Hanna, from the School of Education at Stanford University, has been appointed supervisor of curriculum and educational research. Neva Hagaman, formerly general supervisor in San Bernardino County, has been appointed acting departmental assistant in the elementary office. Her major responsibility will be in the field of primary education. Gladys L. Potter, formerly supervisor of kindergarten-primary education in Long Beach, has been appointed acting director of elementary schools.

Conference on Rural Education. A conference on rural education was held at the White House on October 4 and 5. It was planned by three divisions of the National Education Association: Rural Service, Legislative and Federal Relations, and Field Service. Two hundred leaders in rural education were invited to participate. The conference considered the reports of ten committees dealing with the basic problems of public education in rural communities. The proceedings of the meetings will be published. Charl O. Williams of the National Education Association was the executive chairman of the conference.

Educational Cooperation Among Nations. A proposed constitution for a United Nations Organization for Educational and Cultural Reconstruction was adopted by the London conference of ministers of education of twenty members of the United Nations and is now before the State Department for consideration. It will also be submitted for approval of Congressional Committees. Its seven sections described an agreed-upon United Nations program of assistance in restocking educational facilities, providing training opportunities, re-estab-

lishing libraries, restoring educational facilities and looted material in Axis-devastated countries.

Parents Help Plan Curriculum Changes. As a result of board action, the Ferndale (Mich.) Public Schools are considering curriculum adjustments to meet changing conditions. A committee has been appointed which includes two teachers representing kindergarten, two representing the first six grades, two representing seventh and eighth grades, seven representing the high school, two counselors from the high school, and nine principals; one member of each P.T.A. (there are nine of these), one parent to be appointed for each school not a member of P.T.A.; and three members of the Board of Education. The Ferndale school system does not have supervisors and has not had any for about fifteen years. It is felt that the principal should be able to help the teacher to do the best work of which she is capable and that the best teacher comes through the teacher's opportunity to develop and carry out her ideas in her own way.

—Edgar F. Down, *Superintendent*.

The Instructional Program in San Diego. In 1938, the San Diego City School System began a long-term curriculum revision program which was finished on schedule in the summer of 1943. The war made necessary more rapid and drastic changes in courses, such as mathematics, science, aviation, and industrial arts. The Curriculum Division is looking forward to the necessary adjustments that must be made in the postwar era. Instruction at every level of the school system will be made as practical and as useful to the pupil as it can possibly be. The fundamental tool skills of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic will be emphasized throughout the entire twelve years of elementary and secondary education. An effort will be made to bring the many courses closer together through a more unified program.

Vocational Education Extended. For several years, courses in part-time cooperative training have been offered in the Tyler (Tex.) High School. While this is a learning rather than an earning program, it is estimated that the students in this work have earned more

than \$30,000 on part-time jobs during the past three years. For the next year, the Board of Education of the Tyler Public Schools has approved the extension of the vocational work in the schools. Courses in machine shop and general building trades will be offered to the students in the junior college and high school. Equipment valued at approximately \$40,000 has been purchased.

Teachers Study Community. An interesting in-service education project in community study and planning is being conducted by Margaret Koopman of Central Michigan College of Education. It is based on the assumption that the quality of living in a community can be raised through community-centered education. The project has been planned jointly by the college, the county school system, and the Ogemaw Rural Teachers Club.

Florida Resources Project. The Florida State Department of Education in cooperation with other institutions will sponsor a three-year project, the purpose of which is to contribute to a better utilization of the human and natural resources of the state as related to those of the southern region and the nation. The Courses of Study Committee decided that this should represent one of the major projects of Florida curriculum revision during coming years.

Field Service in Oklahoma. For the past three years the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater has cooperated with several counties in a program of in-service education for rural teachers. From 1939 to 1942 the work was carried on for all teachers. The cooperative arrangement was undertaken in 1938 in response to an invitation from a school superintendent and was carried on by Vera Jones of the School of Education. Meredith Darlington directed the program from the fall of 1941 to the fall of 1942 at which time he entered the armed services. The work was then adjusted to help those teachers who were granted war emergency certificates. The college consultant made one visit a month to each teacher. Each teacher selected what seemed to her to be the most pressing problem. Reference material was furnished from

the college library and a monthly circular letter was sent to each teacher. Due to the scarcity of gasoline and tires it was not possible to hold as many group meetings as in previous years. During the last year, there were two meetings of the teachers enrolled in the program, one at the beginning of the year and another at the middle of the year.—Vera Jones, *Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College*.

Revision of Language Arts. In 1943 the elementary schools of Hutchinson, Kans., undertook a revision of the language arts course of study. Its purpose was to provide guides for procedure in an integrated program in social studies. On the basis of use of these outlines for the school year 1943-44, certain revisions and developments are being recommended. Last summer a coordinator directed the work of a new group which attended the language arts workshop at the University of Wisconsin.—R. C. Woodard, *Supervisor of Elementary Education*.

Home Economics in the Junior College. At the request of the American Association of Junior Colleges, a committee headed by Ivol Spafford recently prepared a statement concerning home economics in the junior college to be used as a guide for administrators, curriculum workers, and teachers. The treatment emphasizes curriculum development and considers all the factors which affect the curriculum: the needs of the student, the home and community, the learning experiences, and the learning environment.

Workshop for Educational Organization. A workshop to provide interested educators an opportunity to develop materials and procedures for use in promoting the organization of local education associations and in helping such organizations establish good programs was held on the University of Nebraska campus. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Nebraska State Education Association, the State Department of Public Instruction, and the University. The following problems were selected and studied during the week: (1) Why have local education associations? (2) How may local associations be organized? (3) What shall be the program of activities of local associations? The

group developed guides in the areas of public relations, teacher welfare, professional cooperation, and the equalization of educational opportunities.

In Brief. L. P. Black, formerly supervisor of secondary education, is now deputy superintendent of public instruction in the Nebraska State Department of Education. . . . Hoyt M. Brock has been appointed supervisor of instruction in the Alabama State Department of Education. . . . Francis Brown of New York University will make a study of the financial status of colleges for the Committee on Education of the House of Representatives.

The Missouri legislature has enacted a law which increases the educational requirements of county superintendents to 120 hours of college work, with at least 15 of the 120 hours in the field of education and one-third of the 15 in school supervision and administration. . . . The U. S. Office of Education is conducting a program which includes ten inter-American demonstration centers in elementary and secondary schools and teachers colleges; inter-American curriculum workrooms in six teachers colleges; and centers to improve the quality of instruction in six communities in the Southwest having large numbers of Spanish-speaking children.

The Youngstown (Ohio) Public Schools recently completed a course of study in social studies and in nutrition. . . . The San Diego City Schools recently issued revised courses of study in art, home economics, music, and social studies. Some of these were developed during the summer at the Curriculum Development Center. . . . Representatives from twenty counties attended a meeting of curriculum workers called by the Division of Secondary Education of the State Department of Education at the University of California last summer. . . . The Division of Elementary Education of the New York State Education Department has added two associate supervisors in the Bureau of Instructional Supervision. The new appointees are Walter A. Le Baron and Elizabeth B. Carey. . . . Pennsylvania State College announces a seminar on reading disabilities to be held from January 29 to February 2, 1945. Inquiries should be addressed to Emmett A. Betts, director of the Reading Clinic.

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