

**"SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES" OFFERED BY COMMUNITY HIGH**

**Homer S. Dum Gives Reasons Why Everyone Should Support Educational Plan.**

Downers Grove, Ill., July 25, 1920.  
Dear Mr. Staats:

I was very glad indeed to note such an extended discussion as we were favored with in last week's issue of The Reporter. This is the biggest question that has been presented to our people, at least since I have been here, touching as it does not only the pocket books of each of us, but being as it is, in effect, an extension of our educational facilities to include, in due time, what is being termed very appropriately "The People's College," for this is precisely what is meant by an Illinois Community High School. In other words, the ordinary High School course, with its comparatively limited curriculum, was all right for its day, but in order to meet the keen competition of our times the young people whose fathers and mothers have high hopes for their success in life, and who may not feel able financially to send them off to college—they indubitably must have superior advantages here at home.

It seems to me, therefore, that those who are thinking of voting against this great forward step should give pause, and weigh well their actions: are they willing to say to the boys and girls of today, "the school we have was good enough for your older brothers and sisters, and it's plenty good enough for you"; in view of the fact that these Community High Schools are actually in operation all over our state, and, more, that the time is rapidly approaching when the greater part of Illinois will enjoy these up-to-date free colleges, the answer just given really means: "Other places can have them if they want to, but we are against it—and that's all there is to it." No, it won't be "all there is to it" either, time will come when there will be hear-aches of those who realize their inability to meet the keener competition they have to face, and such young men and women will hardly feel disposed to feel very kindly to those whose niggardly policy was responsible; and what of the fathers and mothers whose fond ambition may thus have met keenest disappointment.

Yes, it is a fact that—as Dr. Goodwin so appropriately put it Sunday in his remarks favoring the project—while it is true that the cost item in the case of those on whom Dame Fortune may have smiled may be sufficient to cause them to give the matter very searching investigation, yet for those of this class who unfortunately have no little folks or whose children are grown, the outstanding fact for them to bear in mind is that society protects them in their possessions, and their duties are and should be commensurate. I am quite sure that they would not care to live in a country where there are no taxes at all to promote public education. Well, "the world do move," and we have now come to the parting of ways: are we going forward, or do we wish to stand still—no, this is incorrect not only scientifically but practically in our case, for the simple reason that in addition to the law of nature that nothing can remain as it is—it must either progress or inevitably it will retrograde—ever and beyond this, I say, is the fact that the question is of a truth—Do we wish a High School of enlarged scope, or none at all? I believe this statement is correct, Mr. Editor.

Then there is another consideration that was emphasized by Dr. Goodwin, and which is one of major importance in the eyes of America's big schoolmen, as demanding, too, immediate attention, namely: at present we have teachers for our country boys and girls who are a product of an education that naturally causes them to lead their pupils away from the farm. This is not only "dead wrong," it is little less than a crime in these days when we are urging by might and main an increased production. Yes—and again, YES! let us have agriculture courses in our new people's college, if for nothing more than this, that we must educate back to the farm!

In conclusion, I shall content myself with merely brief mention of what in my judgment is one of the strongest reasons why we should all support this measure, because the present high prices forbid the early erection of a new building, and it will thus be probably several years before The Community Ideal in all of its fullness can be hoped for; but the modern conception of a school is the place where we can all go to discuss all manner of subjects and have a general good time—as much, if you will, for those who have no one in school as for those who do; and a Common Meeting House for those of all classes and of all faiths, where we can enjoy the privilege of getting acquainted with the splendid talent along many lines we have here

at home—a real sure enough community chorus developed, which would even get interested those of us who do not sing. Why, a lot of the fellows who are now undecided which way to vote or who are against it, those would be among the enthusiasts when we once are able wisely to accomplish what eventually it will all mean for us—as a social center for rich and poor, oldster and youngster, as well as for a place to give our boys and girls the benefit of a good college education, along any line suited to their talents or their parents' wishes, free of charge. I chance to recall one place in Illinois where they had a very determined opposition, but fortunately they won, and the interesting fact for us is that the same parties who were most bitterly opposed to it are now among the greatest boosters for it. Indeed, the Principal of the school remarked to me that if any visitors to the town wished to see their "People's College," the leader of the opposition himself is sure to be the host to show them around! And well he should, for the little town has been made locally famous because of this product of far-seeing generosity, on the part of its citizens supported by the country round about, and they all are proud of The Arcola Community High School.

Mr. Editor, are we so financially hard-up, or so lacking in ambition for our boys and girls or so utterly oblivious to community needs, if not our own selfish pleasures, that there are

enough amongst us to defeat this movement? I am from Missouri on this score, and I trust the "sober second thought" of those who may have opposed it, will change their minds—as wise men always can—and thus overwhelmingly in the vote enable us to take this great step forward. Downers Grove is one of the finest little towns to be found anywhere—one selection of a bunch of idealists of our place for their (and our Kindergarten is evidence of the high character of our people—and I am sure the country outlying is on a par. So let us have the best that's going educationally—is anything less good enough for our boys and girls?  
Yours very truly,  
Homer S. Dum.

**UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC IS POSTPONED**

At a meeting of the General Committee it was decided to postpone the Union Sunday School picnic from Saturday, August 7th, to Saturday, August 21st.

**Mistake Somewhere.**

Officer of the Range—Here you where are all your shots going? Every one has missed the mark.  
Nervous Recruit—I've been wondering about that, myself, sir. They all seem to leave here all right—American Legion Weekly.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

SUNDAYS, 10:00 A. M. LECTURES ON

**Applied Psychology**

by the Rev. E. B. Goodwin

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It's good, as sandwiches, toast, puddings, It's good wholesome food any way you take it and it's cheap.

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**Curtiss Theatre**

Saturday, July 31st

**LOCKLEAR in "The Great Air Robbery"**



FRANCELLA BILLINGTON  
"THE GREAT AIR ROBBERY"  
UNIVERSAL JEWEL DE LUXE PRODUCTION



THE SKY PAREDEVIL  
LOCKLEAR  
"THE GREAT AIR ROBBERY"  
UNIVERSAL JEWEL DE LUXE PRODUCTION

"The Great Air Robbery" marks a new epoch in photoplay achievement. The star of the production is the only man accomplishing the hair-raising feat of changing planes a mile above ground. Surrounding the exploits of this intrepid aviator is a story written and directed by Jacques Jaccard which carries a thrill in every hundred feet of film, and enacted by a company of screen favorites such as Francella Billington, Allan Forrest, Ray Ripley, Carmen Phillips and others.

Three months were spent in making this feature, and fully a half a hundred speedy biplanes were utilized in the production. A squad of daring cameramen mounted on speedy air-cruisers, and directed by wireless from the Universal aviation field were employed in making the scenes above the clouds. All pre-release reports indicate that the money and ingenuity expended on the production were well merited.



THE SKY PAREDEVIL  
LOCKLEAR  
"THE GREAT AIR ROBBERY"  
UNIVERSAL JEWEL DE LUXE PRODUCTION

Tuesday, August 3d

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TWO REEL COMEDY

Thursday, August 5th

**PEGGY HYLAND**

in  
**"FAITH"**

ALSO  
**BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUE**  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS