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RURAL SCHOOL IS SERIOUS PROBLEM

IS NEVER EFFECTIVE

Should Be Utilized Only Where Better Accommodation Is Impracticable, Says Bureau Report

For 80 years or more educators have known and pointed out that the little one-room school, even at its best, is an ineffective instrument and should exist only where it is impractical to provide anything else, says the bulletin "Consolidation of Schools and Transportation of Pupils," just issued by the department of the interior through the bureau of education.

The rural school project of continental United States consists in educating over 18 millions of young people between the ages of 5 and 20 who live in small towns and villages or in the open country. The 300,000 or more schools classified as rural enrolled nearly 12½ millions of pupils in 1920. Two years ago at least one-fourth of the rural school enrollment and 45 per cent of the teaching force were in 187,951 one-room schools, nearly all of these schools being in the open country. A hopeful sign for the future is set forth by the bulletin in the statement that in 1920, 389,783 pupils were enrolled in about 12,000 consolidated schools.

Equalize Opportunity

Consolidated schools equalize educational opportunities by concentrating the wealth and energy of large areas, thus securing better teachers, more artistic and adequate school buildings, better attendance, and healthy and happy children. The playgrounds equipped for athletic meets, baseball, basketball, and tennis, the gymnasiums with shower baths and swimming pools, put the children on a par with their city cousins. Consolidated schools may have modern class rooms and heating plants; they may maintain laboratories where science, agriculture, and cooking are taught, and they may have garden plots, small fields and livestock.

With the big, comfortable busses to transport the pupils, distance is practically annihilated, and no matter how poor the family, or how isolated the farm, the children in a typical consolidated school district have the privilege of an accredited four-year high school course after they have finished the grades. In many sections the consolidated schools are used as community houses, thus bringing wider interests to old and young alike.

CITIES ABANDONING MUNICIPAL PLANTS

More Than 600 Light Systems Owned by Towns Prove Unsuccessful

Something is to be done about the dearth of bananas explained with syncopated variations in theater and cabaret. The vociferous refrain of song pluggers has borne fruit. Nearly every one down in the El Hule district of Oaxaca, Mexico is growing bananas. Considering the large number of trees planted, it is estimated that production should increase to from 200,000 to 300,000 tons of fruit in the next few years, says our commercial attache at Mexico City.

The banana, it seems, is delicate and easily discouraged with life in this world. In its impressionable youth it is exposed to thielavia-basicola, and things like that. If the thielavia-basicola gets a good grip, it's all up with the banana. But diseases with hard names do not deter the growers, and they are fighting the fungus enemies of the fruit with fire. By their works we shall know the fruit of their victory. An army with bananas! There'd be a sight to make those song writers change their tune.

URGING NATIONAL LAW BARRING FRAUD

Secretary of State Commends Plan of Congressmen on "Blue Sky" Fight

In a letter to Congressman E. L. Dennison, Louis L. Emmerson, secretary of state commends the Illinois congressman's determination to urge the passage of the national blue sky bill in the present session of congress.

The bill, which was passed by the house during the last session but died in committee in the senate, was strongly supported by Secretary Emmerson at that time. He declares national legislation necessary if the sky legislation of Illinois and other states is to be wholly effective.

"The Illinois securities law has barred from the state more than \$350,000,000 in fraudulent or questionable securities during the four years of its operation," Secretary Emmerson said. "We have found, however, that companies not given permission to sell their securities in the state often establish offices outside of the state and flood prospective investors in Illinois with their literature. We are powerless to prevent this."

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