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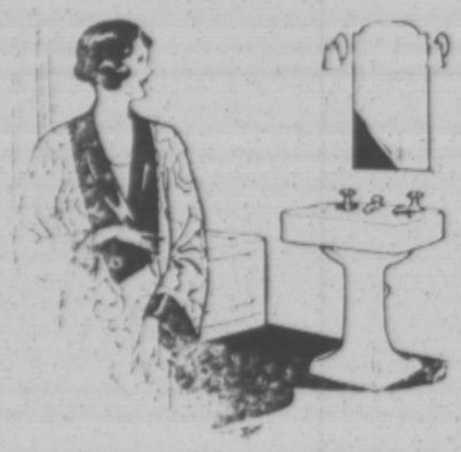

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DR. COOPER TALKS ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND HIGH SCHOOL

Commissioner of Education Tells of New Problems Facing the High School Today

"The high school is no longer a class institution in this country as it used to be. It is a part of the democratic position of this country, and it is open to everybody," said Dr. William J. Cooper, United States Commissioner of Education, who spoke on "High School and the Democracy," at the annual joint meeting of the combined P. T. A's and various clubs of this area, on Thursday evening, April 10, in the high school auditorium.

A Select Few

"In the high school from which I was graduated," said Dr. Cooper, "the principal stressed the point that those who endured the four years' hardship were the future leaders."

Dr. Cooper said that about eight per cent of any given age is required to fill the places in medicine, law, dentistry, and the higher positions, while the other ninety-two per cent fill clerical positions and labor, skilled and unskilled. The high school supposedly had the theory that it was a sieve which picked out the high eight per cent for leadership.

"There has been no change in the requirement of eight per cent," said Dr. Cooper, "and now we have a problem on our hands with the increasing number of high schools. The question is: 'What are we going to do for the rest of this crowd?'"

Employment Problem

Spending more years in school life is seen by Mr. Cooper as one way of solving the problem of not putting older people out of work by the increasing number of students coming from high schools. Modern machinery has already thrown many out of work, and there is no employment for the younger generation. This will bring on more time for leisure. The matter of what to give the students in high school is a serious problem. Keeping them in school will make them better citizens than if they were unemployed.

"It is up to the high school, then," he said, "to provide a health program, a leisure program, an educational program, and a citizenship program."

Dinner Is Given

Dinner for 200 in honor of Dr. Cooper was held in the high school cafeteria at six o'clock, at which time he gave a short speech. The main speech was given in the auditorium at eight o'clock. Mr. Ballard of the high school introduced the speaker.

Samples of Sharks from Texas Waters

A collection of various sharks found in Texas waters, including large and small species, and the kind generally feared as "man-eaters," is on view in Albert W. Harris hall at Field Museum of Natural History. The specimens were obtained by a Marshall Field expedition.

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