

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE RULES SHOW INEQUALITY

Carleton W. Washburne of Winnetka Schools Points Out Difficulties Facing Entrants

The people of Illinois who read of the large number of students entering the University of Illinois probably have the impression that these young people come from homes equally distributed over the state, says Carleton W. Washburne, superintendent of the Winnetka schools. People know that the university is supported by taxes raised by the several counties in proportion to their assessed valuation, and this fact suggests the idea that the students are distributed in much the same way. But the Illinois State Teachers' association has found that the attendance varies from either population or support, and that the youth of some counties have much better opportunity to attend the university than do the youth of other counties.

High school education is a prerequisite to entering the university. Therefore, the chances of young people to enter the university are affected by their opportunities to get high school education. But there are great inequalities in high school opportunities in Illinois. For instance, Kane, Edwards, Ford, McHenry, DeKalb and Hancock counties have 21 or 22 per cent of their entire school enrollment in their high schools, while Pope, Wayne, Hardin, Williamson and Hamilton counties have only 4 to 9 per cent of their enrollment in their high schools.

But even if young people attend high school there may be a difference in the quality of the education and a resultant difference in their chances to

enter the university. If the high schools come up to certain standards they are accredited by the university and their graduates may enter without any other credentials of qualification than their high school diplomas. High schools that are not up to these standards are not accredited, and their graduates are required to take entrance examinations, which are difficult for graduates from such schools to pass.

In a certain group of twenty-five counties high schools are numerous and fifty-eight per cent of them are accredited. In twenty-five other counties less able to support education, there are fewer high schools in proportion to population and only 38 per cent of their schools are accredited.

The doors of the university are supposed to be open to all young people on equal terms, but in reality they are closed to those who are cut off from high school education. Therefore, if the state university is actually to function as a state institution equally available to all the youth of the state, high school opportunities must be made more equally available to the youth of the state.

The Dorcas society will meet at 8 o'clock Tuesday, September 28, in the home of Mrs. A. Petersen, 893 Willow road, Winnetka. All members are urged to come and bring friends. Miss Ragnhild Punswick will assist the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ward Butler and family, 315 Poplar street, have returned to the village after spending part of their summer in Wisconsin and part in Michigan. They went to Minocqua, Wis., for three weeks, followed by a fortnight's stay at Bay View, Mich.

Robert S. Fish of Hollywood, Cal., was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Belter of 1079 Elm street this week.

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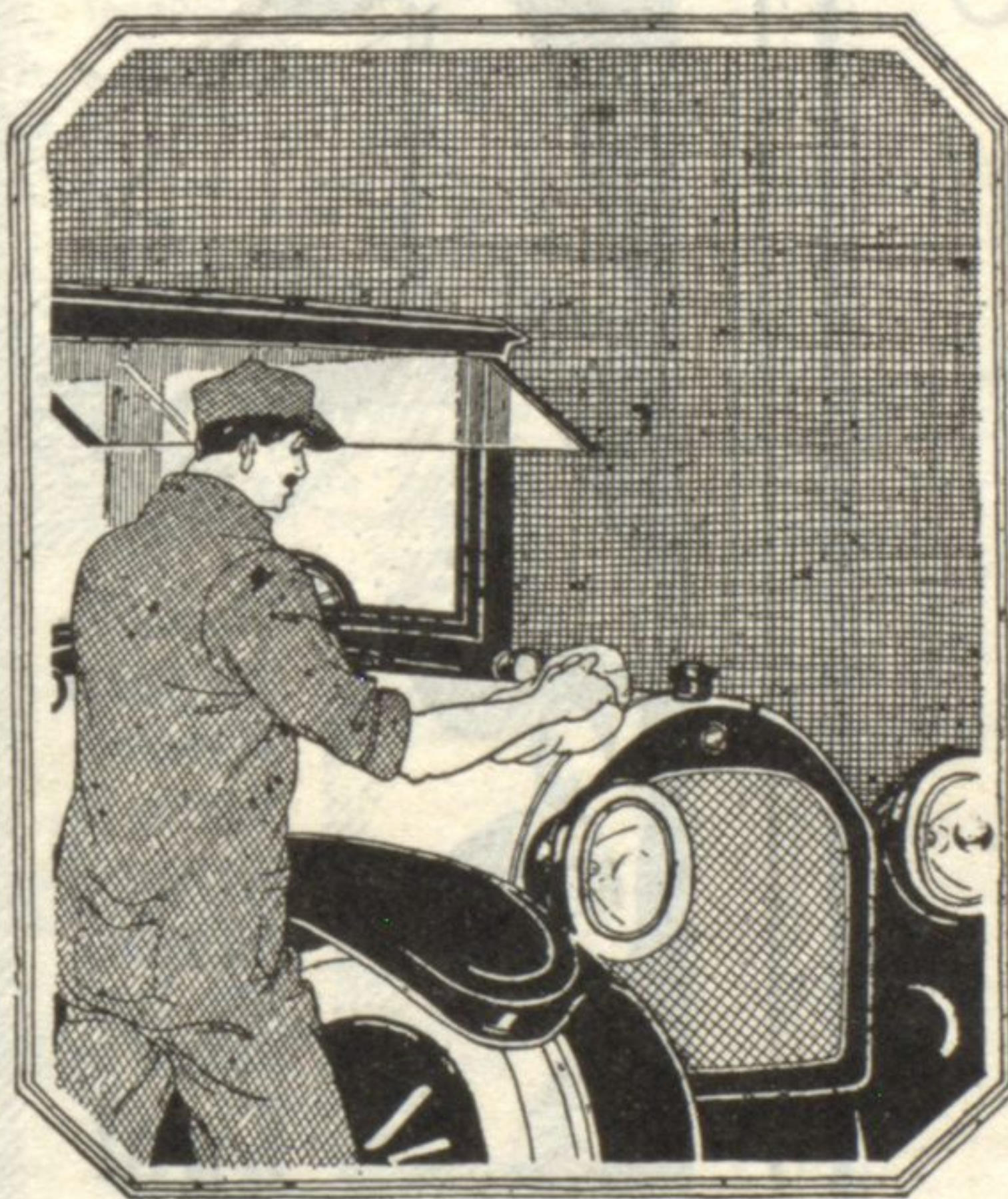


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