

RURAL SCHOOL FAILS TO KEEP MODERN PACE

Only Feature of Country Life That Does Not Compare Favorably With City Advantages

It is apparent to all keen observers that the rural school is not keeping pace with other features of country life, according to Carleton W. Washburne, superintendent of Winnetka schools.

A well-known school man of Illinois recently visited the neighborhood where he taught his first school thirty years ago. He remembered the little one-room schoolhouse reached by deep and sticky mud roads, his thirty-eight pupils from 6 to 20 years of age, and the farmers cut off from the world except when they drove their teams through miles of mud as they made weekly or less frequent visits to the county seat to get their mail, to market their products and to purchase groceries, clothing and other necessities. He had unpleasant memories of the drudgery, loneliness and social isolation of all the people in the neighborhood.

All Modern Conveniences

But now he is able to ride into the heart of the neighborhood on a splendid state hard road. He finds every household with an automobile, daily mail service, telephone, and most of them with radio receivers. He stopped to visit an old friend who does much of his farm work with a tractor and other gasoline power machinery. One of the larger boys "turned in" and received the news of a world series ball game, play by play, and seemed to have a personal acquaintance with each player. Daily papers, monthly magazines, and weekly farm journals were strewn upon the sitting-room table. After supper the young people took the automobile, ran down the hard road several miles to a movie show at the county seat and got home by 11 o'clock without going through a bit of mud, although it had rained almost continuously for a week. On Sunday the family considered it no task to step on the gas, go to church at the county seat and get back home for dinner. In fact these people seem to have all the benefits of both country and city life.

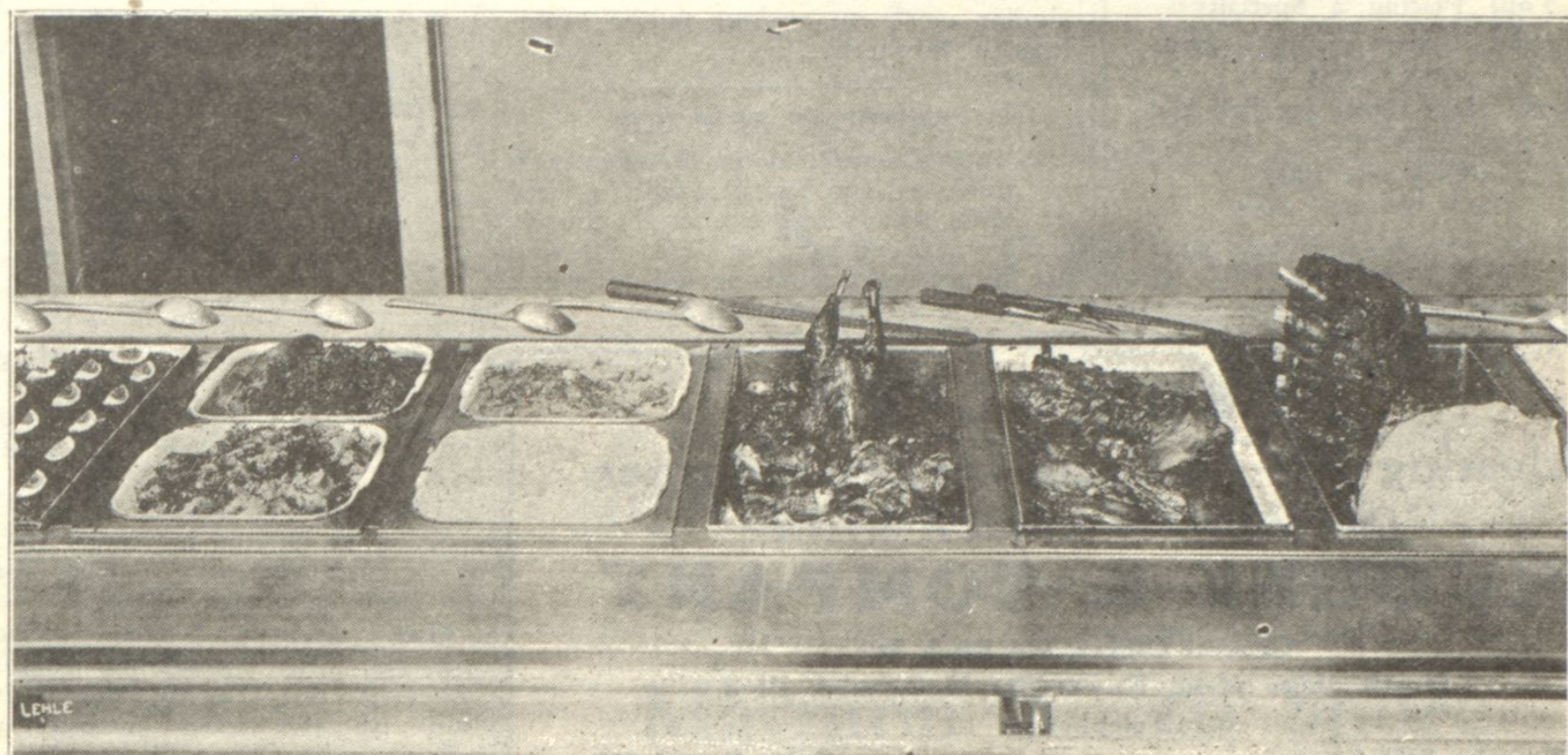
Incompetent Teachers

But, no there is one thing that has changed but little. There beside the highway stands the same little one-room country school, except that there are only half as many pupils as thirty years ago and they are younger. The teacher is young, untrained and inexperienced. She lives in the county seat, boards at home, drives back and forth in her Ford, takes little interest in the neighborhood, and longs for the time when her experience and a little training at a teachers' college will admit her to a teaching position in a city or village. The only new educational advantage these country children have is that they may attend a township high school at the county seat if they ever get sufficient elementary training to be admitted; and then they usually find that their elementary training has not been as thorough as that received by their high school classmates who attended the graded schools of city or village.

This is not an imaginary situation. It is a true story of a typical condition. So the question arises: Why cannot the same progress be made in rural education as is being made in other phases of country life?

RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS

A common service will be held at Winnetka Congregational church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, at which time a number of new members will be formally admitted to the church.



A Picture with Something Left Out

THIS is an accurate photographic study of a part of the Central Cafeteria steam tables. Yet it is decidedly lacking in several important respects.

It leaves largely to your imagination the tempting appearance of the viands and vegetables it shows. The inviting aroma of well-prepared food is left out. The spic and span surroundings cannot be portrayed properly.

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