

RADICAL CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS URGED BY DR. DOWNES

(Continued From First Page) gone into thoroughly and at the close of the report Dr. Downes recom-

expensive, under our present plan of organization, than any other scheme that might be proposed, it is at present not sufficiently close and effective.

Cost of Administration The study of supervisory cost, included an investigation of the costs of administration in the same group of cities.

Supervisors' Duties Declaring that the time of a supervisor of special subjects such as music and drawing, should be devoted largely to control and oversight, rather than actual classroom teaching.

Scope of Supervision "Every system of schools should also be so organized that there is functional unity in it. There should also be continuity throughout in aid in accomplishing these ends.

When High Schools Are Built "Supervisor of Manual Training—When the high schools are established there will be need of a supervisor of manual training.

Weakness Pointed Out Superintendent Downes pointed out the weakness of this plan as follows: "The cost of supervision (less than 40 per cent. of the above) is insufficient to meet modern educational needs."

Cost of Supervision Statistics in the report show that the amount of money expended per capita in Harrisburg for supervision is far below that spent in most cities.

Above the Average Here Harrisburg is the only city of the fifty-six replying to the questionnaire of the University of Pennsylvania.

Chief Supervisor District or group supervision will be the most economical method which can be used in Harrisburg, Dr. Downes continued.

For Future Development "It should be understood that the plan proposed has been evolved with a view to future development.

Principals Unchanged "High School Principals—The duties of these two officials will be unchanged under the proposed plan.

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More Power For Principals "School principals," the report continued, "should have authority both to direct classroom teaching and to deal with discipline. They should have wide power in handling all the varied executive problems that arise."

No Conflicting Duties "As a brief discussion of the duties of various officials under the new plan itself, I shall now devote a few minutes to this phase of the question, taking up each official in order."

Will Direct Work "Elementary Principals—Contrary to present practice these principals will do no regular teaching. They will organize, direct and supervise the work in their respective districts and perform the customary administrative duties incident to their positions."

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Special Supervisor "Supervisor of Special Activities—The duties of this official would include the organization, development and supervision of evening schools, the organization, development and supervision of social center activities, including parent-teacher meetings, and the supervision of open-air school, school for the blind, the continuation school, detention schools are other special schools.

one who can give his entire time to the work. Public sentiment has been crystallizing for a number of years on the social center idea, but the best expert opinion advises us that any general movement along this line to be fully successful requires paid direction and supervision.



DR. F. E. DOWNES.



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