

TEACHING AS A PROFESSION

By Louis W. Rapeer, Professor of Education.

No one familiar with history and present day social problems can fail to realize that we are today in the midst of an educational revolution similar to that of the early Italian renaissance. The people of this country have awakened with respect to our expensive and compulsory systems of public education and are asking each other and the school authorities if education is really hitting the mark. They will not be put off with mere generalizations and opinions; they demand facts and scientific evaluations of educational results. The recent survey movement, which has spread from Maine to the Philippines and from Porto Rico to Alaska, and the remarkable increase in printed matter on educational problems, are external evidences of this questioning spirit.

Such a spirit means a new day for education. Already signs are in the sky of the time when education will be a dignified, highly efficient and remunerative profession. It is a time to inspire young men and women who wish to lead a cultured life and to contribute something definite and lasting to their times. Those with vision, courage and vigor now in the ranks as elementary or high school teachers or as administrators are getting all the factors that make for an ideal life under present conditions. They are getting a chance to do a work that gives them an opportunity to grow and to develop their powers to their fullest; they are beginning to get remuneration that will make possible the living of a dignified and efficient life; and they are getting an opportunity to be of great social service.

No one should go into the profession of teaching who does not feel in his bones that he can be happier and of more service in this work than in any other—that were he wealthy he would be willing to pay some institution liberally for the opportunity to contribute to the social welfare by building up the type of young men and women which our complex, industrial democracy so much needs.

At the present time he need not, however, do this nor like the old monks, take the vow of poverty. The people are learning to provide the means for a dignified and efficient professional life. Ten thousand dollar salaries are rapidly increasing in number, and the entire level of salaries is rising. There is plenty of room at the top. But the persons who get to the top will be those who go into the work as an opportunity to live an ideal life, not easily attainable in competitive business, and to make a permanent contribution to civilization.

The people of our country are suffering from many serious maladjustments of life which are solvable only by higher and better ideals, insight, habits and appreciations. These problems the public schools are beginning to solve by a new education. If you wish to place your shoulder to the wheel and make your life count; if you wish a work in which it is easy to work in the spirit of social service and hard to work for selfish gain; if you wish the recognition of the public such as is now given to such men as President Wilson, Brumbaugh, Wirt, Schneider, Montessori and many others from the humble rural teacher upward; and if you feel that you can be happier in this work than in any other, then elect your courses in education and go out into our high schools and serve in that highest of the professions, the profession of teaching.

Help the Starving Belgians. A Christmas Appeal.

Dear Sir,

Christmas approaches and to quote the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation "it has been vouchsafed to us to remain at peace with honor." The duty and the privilege remain of averting starvation amongst the Belgian refugees this winter and for this special purpose the Dollar Christmas Fund has been organized.

It is estimated to date that all the help subscribed in America, and it has been very liberal, including the aid of the wealthy Rockefeller Foundation, does not average more than a few cents for each destitute Belgian, enough to buy food for a few days!

The Dollar Christmas Fund has one great ambition, to see that every man, woman and child this Christmas shall have food, clothing, shelter. This great achievement is happily still possible, and to this end we are working with the Christmas Fund of London which has collected for the same purpose nearly \$400,000. The cooperation of the two organizations has many decided advantages. It provides a safeguard against waste from overlapping. It enables our Fund to enjoy the guidance of members of the Belgian Government as regards the distribution of relief. All our workers are voluntary and every cent subscribed after deducting the cost of stamps and stationery, goes direct to the Belgians.

Even if you have given to every other fund we beg you in the name of humanity to assist the Christmas gift worthy of America, a tribute of sympathy from one people to another whose needs and sorrows are immeasurable.

If you realize that millions are literally faced with starvation, that children are still crying for food,

shelterless women dragging their weary to help, that aged men are homeless and shivering, and this despite all that is being done, you will give before Christmas and give liberally.

England has received 300,000 of the refugees but there are innumerable thousands still wandering in France and Holland besides those in stricken Belgium.

A fresh inspiration to our own peaceful Christmas in America will be lent if we relieve now the sufferings of innocent little children, unoffending women and aged men and you may rest assured that no man's Christmas Day will be the less happy because in some cases the gift may entail some measure of personal sacrifice.

Let us remember at this crisis that "to pity distress is but human; to relieve it is Godlike."

All contributions entrusted to me as Treasurer will be promptly and thankfully acknowledged. Send along your dollar, more if you can.

Yours very truly,

Henry Clews

Treasurer, Dollar Christmas Fund for Homeless Belgians, Broad Street, New York.

Road Supervisors Assembly

There will be a road supervisors assembly at State from December 28 to January 2. Among the topics considered will be those bearing upon the improvement of roads so situated with respect to traffic and other local conditions as not to warrant expensive improvements.

A supervisors round table will be held on the evening of December 30. This will be especially devoted to the discussion of matters relating to the work of the township road supervisor.

R. McDonald, ex '15, of Scranton, Pa., is now a regular guard on the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute varsity basketball team.

Educational Exhibit.

The State Teachers' Association will hold their annual meeting at Harrisburg on the last three days of this month. State College will be represented by Dr. Sparks, Dr. Rapeer, Dr. Smith, Professor Ernesti, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Gorham and Mr. Spahr. Several of the local delegation will give addresses.

In connection with the meeting an educational exhibit will be held in the old flag room of the Capital Building. Photographs, charts, models, students handiwork and paintings will be shown and the whole exhibit will remain in the flag room until after the inauguration of the governor. Professor Ernesti, head of the Industrial Art department of this college will contribute a painting to the exhibition and various other articles will be sent down from here.

Free Lecture Course.

For many years the college has supplied a free lecture course during the winter on Saturday nights. The aim is to widen the information and interest of the average student by taking him into fields remote from his own specialty. Illustrated lectures are generally offered because the mind receives better impressions when the ear is aided by the eye. No man or woman who wishes to lay claim to being educated can afford to omit the value of these free lectures.

The first free lecture of the season will be given in the Auditorium on Saturday evening, December 19 at 8 o'clock. The subject is "From Ocean to Ocean" and the lecturer J. E. MacDougall, of the Bureau of Commercial Economics of Philadelphia. The lecture will be illustrated by many slides and moving picture films.

The programs for Farmers' week are being distributed.



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Practical Gifts

The Sim Shop is ready with choice practical Christmas giving things. Gifts men and young men will find the greatest delight and pleasure in.

We've some of the most choice wearables made. Clever new innovations shown here in advance of the usual stores showing them, for we're specialists in men's dress, constantly in touch with the markets and best makers of clothes and no store is better equipped to offer things of such good style or taste.

A partial list is given below, but there are many other suitable gift things here.

Start the list with one of our Suits or Overcoats. Nothing could be better.

Fur lined and fur trimmed Overcoats. Full Dress Clothes

Men's Neckwear in all wanted styles. A gorgeous showing

Mufflers. Silk, knitted and angora

Gloves. For dress, motoring, wolen gloves, fur gloves. Dent's make

Men's Jewelry. Pins, Cuff Buttons, Stud Sets

Shirts of all styles. Madras, percale, soisette, silk, plain and plaited bosoms. \$1.00 up.

Angora Vests

Pajamas. Domet flannel, madras, crepe, soisette, silk

Handkerchiefs. Plain and initial, linen and silk

Sweaters with or without collars. All weaves and colors. Harvard & Blauvelt makes

Leather Goods. Famous Likely Bags and Suit Cases

Smoking Jackets

Lounging Robes. Madras and silk mixtures. Woolen fabric and silk

Bath Robes. An immense showing. Terry and Blanket Robes \$3.50 up

Mackinaws. Men's, Boy's and Girl's. \$5 to \$15

Walking Sticks and Umbrellas

Hosiery. Lisle and Silk. Hole-proof hose

Knit Coats. Tyrolleon Coats

Should sizes be incorrect or gifts duplicated. We'll be glad to exchange or refund the money. That's part of our service

