

Adjusting Education Urged To Meet Social Problems

By Dr. WILLIAM JOHN COOPER
Federal Commissioner of Education
(William John Cooper was born in Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 24, 1882. He is a graduate of the University of California. Until 1915 he taught history in high schools at Stockton and Berkeley, Cal. From 1915 to 1921 he was superintendent of public schools at Piedmont, Fresno and San Diego, in California. He was state director of education in California from 1921 to 1925. In the latter year he was made federal commissioner of education. He has taught summer sessions of the University of California for several years, and is a regent of that institution. His office is in the department of the interior at Washington.)

THE CHANGE in the economic position of women has brought many new problems some of which affect men as well as women. The attitude of the average man toward marriage and the home must be changed if we are to retain permanence in the home life with the economic influences now a largely a question of psychology. But what has happened to home economics courses? The standardization of the machine age has taken the millinery course out of our home economics curriculum. Standardization is also eliminating cooking and reducing the time spent in household tasks. Apparently this movement is in its infancy.

Another fundamental change that holds serious implications results from changing a rural population to an urban population.

a very short period of time. The moving of a rural population to a city environment like Pittsburgh creates a real diet problem. The shutting out of the sun and its vitamin D makes children more susceptible to rickets and lowers resistance to other diseases. They should be also a change in diet when a man changes to a sedentary life from one of hard manual labor on a farm.

Fifty years ago 70 per cent of the population of this country was rural, and only 30 per cent urban. Figures for 1920 show an opposite trend; that is, 56 per cent urban and 44 per cent rural. There are some farmers are at starvation standard for it takes less than 40 per cent of our population to feed Germany and in most other European countries the percentage is probably larger. Yet 30 per cent of Americans can produce food enough for them selves and the other 70 per cent. In our teaching we have simply failed to realize that in the last decade or two society has undergone great change. Teachers are

not alone in this. Periods of unemployment come because business men lack the vision to see and understand economic and social changes. Large-scale production and increased efficiency in all lines of industry must eventually be followed by shorter working hours, a shorter day or shorter week, or by prolonged periods of unemployment. Unless foreign trade can be developed to utilize this surplus for other goods.

It is to improve our vision and change our ideas, and not to give a specific program, that conferences are called.

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letter organized and a new campaign for members is being conducted.

Bayley said last night that the township made its regular \$12,000 payment on the gravel pit contract yesterday.

Following the township's reply to the property owners' recommendations of last week.

April 11, 1931.

Mr. Charles J. Shain, Chairman of the Property Owners' Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, and the Committee on the duties of the Township.

Mr. C. J. James, Chairman of the Township Board.

Mr. A. L. Ross, Chairman of the Township Board.

We are in receipt of your communication and recommendation of April 7, 1931, to which we wish to reply as follows.

Township Board meetings have been held in the evening until the past week, at which time they were held in the afternoon for the convenience of the members of the Township Board.

We believe that a recent bill of

the State Legislature require that two regular meetings be held each month, these meetings will be held in the evening at a time to be determined later.

SALARIES

It is the intent of the Township Board to revise the salaries of the various officers, clerks, or to extend the duties of the individuals, which is in agreement, in general, with your recommendations.

SUPERVISOR

The one of his time during the day and necessitates his attending many evening meetings. During the past year the Supervisor's salary has been reduced from \$6,000 to \$5,000 per annum. We believe that to be a sufficient cut.

CLERK

The Township Clerk has requested that his salary be reduced from \$3,800 to \$3,000 per annum, and this request has been granted.

TREASURER

The Township Treasurer has received a salary of \$1,800 per annum in the past. His duties of the Treasurer occupy her entire time for a six month period during the time tax levies are being made, and about one day per week during the other six months of the year.

We propose to make the Treasurer's job a full time one at a salary of \$2,500 per year. This plan will eliminate the need of much of the part time help and will represent a considerable saving.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

It is the feeling of the Township Board that the Highway Commissioner is underpaid and that his salary should be increased, but in view of present business conditions no increases are being granted and his salary should remain at \$2,200 per year.

ACTIVE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

We believe that the salary of the active justices of the peace who serve on the Township Board should have their salaries reduced from \$300 per annum plus \$400 per regular meeting to \$400 per annum plus \$100 per regular meeting.

OFFICE CLERKS

We think that the salary of the chief clerk in the Township Office should be \$2,000 per annum maximum. The personnel, the duration of working period and the salary of the chief clerk should be left to the judgment of the Supervisor.

ENGINEER

Prior to the year 1925 the Township Engineering work was done on a part time basis and it was then decided that through the Township had definitely outgrown such an arrangement.

Since then more and more demands have been made which require the services of an Engineer. The activities of the office now include many jobs formerly done by the Supervisor. The title of Engineer might more appropriately be Assistant Supervisor. However, we find that a man with engineering training is especially fitted to the needs of our office.

The engineer now in our employ is qualified by education and experience for the job and we feel that we are paying the minimum salary \$2,500 per annum commensurate with his services.

ATTORNEY

We propose to retain the services of an attorney in the future at the same salary \$3,000 per year.

HEALTH OFFICER

We propose to retain the services of a Health Officer in the future at the same salary \$500 per year.

BONUSES

This is a subject which we believe has been generally misunderstood as applied to Township officers. It was the intent of the Township, in this way, to compensate for extra services rendered. However, this practice has been discontinued.

TOWNSHIP PARK

We believe that your comment on the Township Park was based on lack of information. At a recent election, the Township was authorized to levy and raise \$10,000 for the purchase of lands to be used as a Park. The balance of the \$15,000 shown as capital investment was spent by the Park Board in making the following improvement course, which included the construction of greens, and trees, improvement of fairways and necessitated the watering system with the pump and pressure tank and the underground pipe system.

1. The Club house was built and completely furnished.

2. The recreational facilities for tennis, lawn bowling, shuffle board, baseball, tobogganing and the children's playground have been provided.

3. The clearing of the pine grove, the planting of native plants and the construction of fence, drains and roads has been accomplished.

4. The swampy and unsanitary land on the south end of the Park has been covered into attractive ponds.

5. The Park Board does not contemplate making any major improvements during the coming year. The \$70,000 referred to in your communication was spent by the Park Board acting under the Park Act, in making improvements and in maintenance.

The \$15,000 shown on the Park statement is incorrectly shown as an overdraft. The funds for maintenance and improvements in the Park are raised in the General Fund as a part of the Township Budget. The Park budget money should be transferred from the General Fund to the Park Fund and should be shown as the Park Budget rather than an overdraft on the General Fund.

It is our intent to revise the operation procedure of the Park and to make a study of green fees and Club House Rental fees at the annual Park meeting. It is our hope that the operating costs

may be reduced and the revenue published. Of course, we will comply with the provisions of this Act.

CONCLUSION

There are many important problems confronting the Township and the members of the Board can readily see where your Committee and organization can be of great assistance in solving these problems. Your organization is made up largely of men dealing in real estate and should be familiar with property values in the Township. We request that you form a Committee to study the following problems:

1. The valuation of all business property in Birmingham.
 2. Become familiar with property valuations in the Township to such an extent that your organization may work with our Supervisor in checking over the valuations placed on our properties by the State Tax Commission.
- We welcome the efforts of your Committee to help us study our

GRAVEL PIT

There may be question of the legality of the right of the Township to purchase the Gravel Pit. The Township Board believed that they had a legal right to purchase the pit and this doubt can be settled by a Court decision. Should your Committee wish to determine the legality of this question, we believe they should start a friendly law suit to settle this matter.

The land contract payment which will fall due April 15th will be made unless the Township is retained from so doing by your lawyer. We wish that if such a court order is issued that be done in such a way that as much as is prevented from using gravel from the pit pending the court decision.

In the near future a detailed report will be made showing the operating costs of the Gravel Pit.

POOR FUND

The Supervisor acts as agent for the County Poor Commission when he gives orders for temporary relief. All the people who are on our list for help have been investigated after they have received relief orders. This investigation is continuous, especially in the fall, when work is sometimes hard to get. To make the necessary reports, whose time for the next few months will be wholly occupied in making assessments for the relief of the Village of Birmingham.

We hope that the Village of Birmingham, who do the relieving in the Village and the results of her work turned to the Township Office where the relief orders are issued by the Acting Supervisor. Mr. Benning has endeavored to relieve all the people who are getting relief and it would not add much to her duties to forward to the Township Office the necessary reports. She has a lot of reports to make in her office as Health Nurse and to compensate the Village for the time spent on the Welfare Work. We are sure that these reports by the use of our stenographer, the time spent by each about equal.

The question of whether the County take care of the relief work for all the townships and cities, or each township or city take care of its own was brought up by the County Board of Supervisors last Fall. It was voted down largely because funds were appropriated by the County, and no funds were available by the County, Townships and Cities, and also because the year was about half through. Two lines of argument were brought into the discussion, one, by the Townships in the rural part of the County, who had small need for relief who claimed that they should not be called upon to pay the expense of the urban part of the County; the other, the urban portion claimed that all of the Townships traded with the County and that relief was not a local, but was nearly a county problem.

The question of administration, Birmingham Village, that was Troy Township. Our leader will show the address of all the recipients of these orders. However, the relief work through different agencies such as hospitalization, welfare work by the county physician, orphan children boarding in private homes, mothers pension, etc. does not go through our office and the cost is absolutely unknown to us.

Should the County see fit to turn this work back to the townships, we could more thoroughly use a number of men through this department. The County has many schools, library and village work of many kinds, than we are now doing. Even under the present system, there is no reason why the Village and the Township cannot take care of this relief work. This arrangement seems to have been perfectly agreeable to the County Board Commission. The word mean that the same individual will not work continuously, but will have a few days of his time taken by others who are more infrequent. This does not lead to the most efficient work, but, on the other hand, we are receiving money and what return we get is all net savings.

FINAL

The base fixing the office space occupied by the Township in the Municipal Building has expired. Should a new base be executed between the Village and Township, we are agreeing to renting only the space occupied by the Township, excluding that occupied by the Justice of the Peace, if the needs with the approval of your Committee.

Prior to 1925 the Township meetings were held annually and no records of them exist. Since that time our records have been kept in an orderly manner and are open to the public. We understand that a recent law passed by the Legislature makes it mandatory that meetings be held twice each month.

problems of Township Government. It is our desire that we may work together to the end that Birmingham Township will remain the best place in which to live.

Very truly yours,
A. VAUGHAN,
Supervisor.
JAMES V. BAYLEY,
Clerk.
MALCOLM HUNT,
Justice of the Peace.
R. J. COVERT,
Justice of the Peace.

54.37 PER CENT OF TAX COLLECTED, IS REPORT

Of the 1930 tax roll, 54.37 per cent has been collected and 44.27 per cent returned as compared with 69 per cent collected and 31 per cent returned in 1929. Mr. R. Margaret Thomas, Bloomfield Township Treasurer, reports. Of personal and bank stock taxes, 1.13 per cent remain uncollected

and 33 per cent of the taxes were cancelled. Absence of incorrect assessment, Mrs. Thomas says.

FINED AS DISORDERLY

Two men were fined yesterday morning by Justice Floyd S. Buck when they were found guilty of being disorderly Tuesday night on Woodward avenue in Bloomfield Hills. Sgt. Delos Anderson and Patrolman Stanley Keever of the Bloomfield Hills police department told the court the men had stalled their automobile on the wrong side of Woodward. One of the men, Charles Lewis, 18 Midland avenue, Highland Park, was given the option of a \$50 fine or 30 days in jail. His companion, of the same address was given the option of a \$25 fine or 15 days in jail.

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