TELLS OF WORK OF STATE EDUCATION DEPT.

The State Department of Education is now trying to give students more practical training which will fit them for positions after leaving school, without going through an adjustment period of several years, Mr. John Seidel said this week. Mr. Seidel is connected with the vocational department.

It has been found, through studies made during the depression years, that very few skilled mechanics were out of employment during that time. Those who suffered most through loss of work were the ones employed in the mass production factories where the worker is almost part of the machine. During recent years, the speaker declared, through perfection of mass production technique, the machine actually works the human, instead of the person operating the machine.

Mr. Seidel said that, theoretically, education should be divided into two separate parts. The first would prepare the student to live, that is, to enjoy and get the most out of living. He placed under this division an appreciation of the arts and drama, of sports and outdoor activities in which the person will have the diversions which are necessary to make his life worth while.

The second part of education would prepare the student to earn a living in such a manner that he might be able to enjoy life. Statistics gathered by the Department indicate that, as a rule, there is greater security of employment, and longer employment, among the highly skilled trades than in any other group. In these latter groups the average age of workers is in the fifties, and often individuals work as late as the seventies, whereas in the mass production groups employment averages show almost a complete stoppage at 45 years. This early unemployment is caused by a slowing down of the worker in the forties, at which time he no longer can keep up with the machine. With the highly skilled mechanic, speed is not as essential as craftsmanship and general knowledge and so the skilled person is in demand as long as he is able to work.

The talk was graphically illustrated by charts the speaker drew as the talk advanced.

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