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CLIFTON L. JARRELL

THE NEWS WISHES ALL OF ITS READERS A HEALTHY, HEARTY, HAPPY, CHRISTMAS.

EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

BY J. A. G.

My object is not to discuss the value of associations as that is so obvious it needs verification. It is the multiplicity of them with which I wish to deal. There appears to be a disposition on the part of some of our profession to organize an association for each individual department of school work; such as: Kindergarten, Primary, Grammar school, High school and Manual Training Association. If these branches were complete within themselves there might be some excuse for their existance, but the thoroughness of the one promotes advancement in the other. A method used in the lower grades can be successively used in the higher. Each department is so closely related that to make an association of one branch would result in loss to both pupil and teacher and require a frequent suspension of school. Could we expect the co-operation of the public? Never in our history have the public become so interested, so liberal and so willing to contribute to the schools as now. Then it behooves us to pursue that course which will produce the best results; to put forth an earnest endeavor to meet their expectations. Will an association for each of the above departments meet our patrons requirements? I think not. I am a sincere believer in consolidation and believe in "union there is strength." Therefore a separate organization for each, would tend to so concentrate the forces and produce weakness. The time, not to say anything of the expense, would be better utilized in the school room. The fewer associations the better it is for teacher and pupil. The more varid the exercises of an association the greater the scope of instruction. In proof of this, take proceedings of our last Teacher's Association, while the paper reflected credit to the writer and very instructive to primary teachers, had it been divided into three parts, other discussions interspersed between, more would have been accomplished.

Take the exercises of our Annua Institute the teacher of each department carried away profitable ideas for their work. Then consolidate the above Associations. Let there be a committee representing each branch: to these assign questions relative to branches. Then we will all be benefited.

Since writing the above I've received a copy of the address by our Supt. Prof. Jos. Peterson, before the Association in Baltimore and was surprised that he too, advocated consolidation of these Associations. Every suggestion in it meets my approval, am glad that I am not alone.

The paramount object of the meeting of the High School Association last week was to discuss the feasibility of increasing the No. of grades, some wanted twelve, others eleven and others wished it to remain at ten. After much discussion a compromise on eleven was suggested which latter will no doubt be adopted at their next meeting in July next. Who better than the State Association can regulate this? Who is better acquainted with the needs than this S. A.? Prof. Murdoch advises us "to go slow", suggests ten grades as the proper number and thinks these side issues (H. S. A.) are unnecessary adjuncts.

I think in the matter of organizations the fewer we have to take us from our duties and the broader the scope represented by our associations the better will we meet the approval of the public. We also would do well to scrutinize the "writing on the wall" for the public are expectant, they will require and demand results.

Let us be content and give more attention to the details of our work and less to organization, more to the advancement of our pupils than to association frolics.

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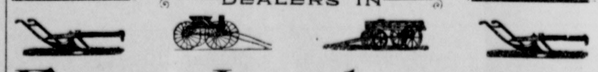
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