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P. T. A. Presents Another Argument For High School

The following is the fourth of the series of articles sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association of Chestertown High School in an attempt to answer arguments advanced against the improvement of school facilities for Chestertown High School Pupils.

ARGUMENT NO. 4.—THAT IT WOULD BE ECONOMIC TO CONTINUE CHESTERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL IN THE PRESENT CRAMPED QUARTERS.

The term economic includes more than that which pertains to the financial side of the argument. Webster in defining the term "economic" states in part,—

"Pertaining to the management of the affairs of government or community with references to its source of income, its expenditures, the development of its natural resources."

Unquestionably schools are related to the affairs of government and to the community in relation to source of income, expenditures, and development of natural resources, hence it is with this aspect of the definition of "economic" in relation to the present educational situation that we are concerned.

Boys and girls constitute the principal resource of any community, and in so far as they fail to secure a sufficient amount or the right type of education in good school facilities with adequate equipment, the community has failed to develop its resources. In a very small high school or in a crowded high school it is impossible to provide adequately for the needs of all pupils of varying capacities and abilities, hence pupils are not likely to continue in high school to graduation if the school fails to meet their needs. Comparison of Kent County High Schools with other counties in the State of Maryland shows that the high schools of Kent County rank 20th among the counties of the state in the number of white boys in high school for every one hundred white girls who were in school for the school year ending in 1933. The percentage of white boys in school in proportion to the white girls has ranged from 68 percent to 79 percent in different years in the past decade. In every instance Kent County has ranked below seventy-five percent of the counties of Maryland. It is not likely that the population of high school age in Kent County contains a smaller percentage of boys of high school age than other counties, leaving the only other conclusion to be drawn, namely, that the high schools of Kent County are not holding boys in school. The question can be raised why the high schools of Kent County are not holding the boys, and can readily be answerel by pointing out that the present high schools do not present a curriculum offering, nor do they possess school facilities that are sufficiently challenging to the needs of boys of high school age to keep them in high school. Since Chestertown High School enrolls three-fifths of the high school population of Kent County, the failure rests primarily at the doors of Chestertown High School. As long as Chestertown High School is forced to continue in the present cramped quarters with limited facilities for education, Kent County will continue to suffer a loss in the development of a trained and well educated citizenry, men and women who will be the citizens of Kent County tomorrow.

To continue the present curriculum plan of providing college preparatory, general academic, and commercial courses is not meeting the needs of all the boys and girls of Kent County of high school age. The county is distinctively an agricultural county, yet not a single course in agriculture is to be found in any of the Kent County high schools. Queen Anne's County and Worcester County to the south make provision for the teaching of agriculture in the majority of their high schools. As long as Chestertown High School is destined to continue in the present cramped quarters no additions can be made to the enrichment of the high school program with agriculture or any of the related vocational subjects. It would appear that the largest high school in an agricultural county should give consideration to the outstanding occupation of the county in view of the fact that most of the graduates will continue as agriculturists in the county.

In like manner, more adequate provision should be made in the vocational field for boys and girls. At present Chestertown High School is the only high school in the county that gives commercial work. Chestertown's only effort to meet vocational needs, other than commercial, is the work in industrial arts and home economics. All three of the vocational departments are handicapped for want of adequate space and equipment, and cannot attain maximum efficiency under present conditions. To employ specialists to teach high school boys and girls, and then to fail to provide adequate space for work and adequate equipment is not economical in any sense of the word, regardless whether the principle is applied to a high school or to an industry. The same applies equally well to the academic teachers and academic departments.

Finally, it would appear that Kent County has real natural resources in her boys and girls, resources that should be developed to their fullest capacity. The educational authorities of the county have provided a group of well trained men and women who are specialists in their respective fields. The one lack is adequate educational facilities. It would appear that economy would demand that to secure the best results for Kent County's boys and girls, tomorrow's citizens, that adequate facilities and equipment are essential if Chestertown High School, or any other high school, is to be conducted and administered along lines of real economy.

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E. S. ADKINS EMPLOYEES GATHER AT EASTON

Through torrential downpours more than sixty contractors and building supply men gathered at Easton Friday, September 14th, at the call of E. Dale Adkins, of Adkins and Company. Fired by patriotism, these men came from Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent counties. They brought along a couple of bankers, architects and nine representatives of other Eastern Shore counties. All were the guests at dinner of Mr. Adkins at the Hotel Avon. The idea, the plan and and the call were all his. For more than three hours the Better Housing Program of the Government was discussed.

Arthur E. Hungerford, State Director for the Better Housing Division, National Emergency Council, C. Alvin Riebling, of the Equitable Trust Cofpany, Assistant Bank Liaison Officer in Maryland, presented the program of the Government, explained the plan and showed bank support, and gave details of the movement for a house-to-house canvass in behalf of Better Housing. The two bankers, Richard T. E. Formam, Executive Vice President, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Easton, Md., and Nelson J.Brown, Cashier, Church Hill Bank, Church Hill, Md., spoke briefly, telling of bank cooperation. Mr. Adkins presided.

Most of those present expressed a determination to at once enlist all communities in their respective towns, or districts, in a house-to-house canvass, with the idea to get building repairs under way at once, so that men will be put to work, supplies will be needed, and so the wheels of Recovery will begin to move more swiftly.

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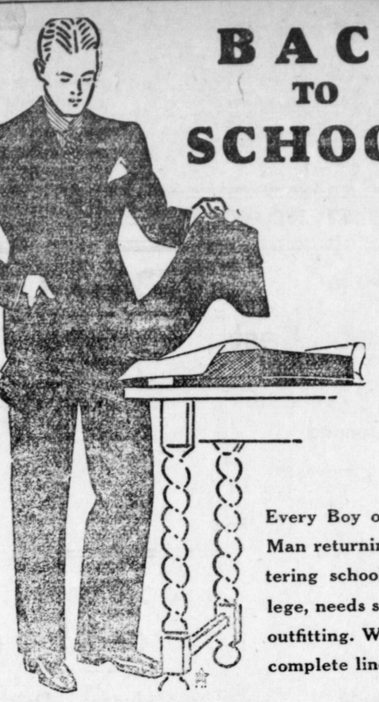
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UNDULANT FEVER MORE PREVALENT IN STATE

Undulant fever is becoming more prevalent in Delaware or more cases are being recognized and reported, Dr. C. A. Sargent, Dover, in charge of the communicable disease division of the State Board of Health, writes in the current issue of the Delaware State Medical Journal.

This fever has not been common in this area, but Dr. Sargent reports that there have been seven cases reported in Delaware up to July 1, while there were only two cases reported in 1931, two in 1932 and six in 1933.

"In view of the fact that undulant fever appears to be more prevalent," Dr. Sargent reports, "the State Board of Health is undertaking a thorough investigation of the situation and milk from all dairies, the products of which are consumed in this State, has been analyzed and approximately forty per cent have shown positive agglutination for crucella abortus (the undulant fever germ).

Of the seven cases reported to July 1, this year, Dr. Sargent reports, five were from Kent county, located in Dover and the area north to the New Castle County line. Two cases were reported in Sussex County.

"One significant feature," Dr. Sargent states, "is that no cases have been reported among individuals using pasteurized milk. The most frequent source of infection with brucella organisms is from milk and dairy products of cattle or goats.

"A positive blood test of an animal," Dr. Sargent writes, "indicate infection but does not necessariiy signify that the brucella organisms are being driven off in the milk. To determine whether an animal is producing infected milk, it is necessary to do agglutination tests on milk."

Dr. Sargent reveals that surveys in various areas of the nation indicated from 25 to 30 per cent of dairy herds are infected.

There are three types of the undulant fever all characterized by an incubation period of from six to fourteen days, onset with chills, malaise, headache, loss of appetite and frequently acute sciatic pains.

"The most characteristic feature" Dr. Sargent writes, "is the step-like rise in temperature, reaching 104 or 105 degrees by the fourth or fifth day and continuing for twelve and fifteen days without much variation. In two or three weeks there is a relapse with a repetition of the fever. This condition may continue for three or four months, and in some cases as long as two years.

"The malignant variety may stimulate typhoid fever and it frequently terminates fatally in a short time.

"The intermittent variety is characterized by intermittent fever over a period of several weeks or months.

"The ambulatory type of the disease is one in which the symptoms are almost entirely absent and the patient may be acting as a carrier."

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