# American Union.

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America First.  Liberty Justice.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL SITUATION.

PATRONS of the Denton schools are more or less wrought up over the idea of the annual county track meet being taken away from the county seat. That is a very regrettable thing, and the citizens are to be congratulated in the effort which they have made to keep the track meet here.

The matter was left slide too long, however, to remedy the situation this year, unless a plot of ground could be rented temporarily and fitted up satisfactorily, though this would have to be done by public subscription, as the wheels of the law take too much time to turn to relieve the situation this spring.

Looking at the matter from one standpoint, it is probably best that it is so, as mistakes are frequently made when things are done in a hurry. More time should be taken in the selection of a location for a school building such as the citizens of Denton would build for the children of today and for those who will use it fifteen or twenty years from now. The matter should be weighed and the site for the new building should be thoroughly discussed not only by seventy-five or a hundred patrons of the school, but time should be given for expressions from all or at least the majority of the patrons, not only of the town of Denton but the immediate urban districts from which a large portion of the school children come who will attend the schools.

Denton has been very generous in helping the neighboring towns of the county secure new high school buildings, thinking that when the time was ripe, they would gladly join forces with her in securing for the county seat a high school building of which they, with the citizens of Denton, could well be proud to have in the official town of their county.

After a suitable site has been agreed upon by the majority of the patrons of the district and the property secured, it is then time to think of what the school building should be and the grounds around it.

When the grounds are purchased there should be at least seven or eight acres, although ten acres would not be too much. These grounds should be high enough that when a basement is dug for the building it will be perfectly dry. There should be enough room that the building could be placed some distance from any or all roads, with beautiful lawns, trees and flower beds to the front and sides. To the rear of the building there should be ample room for the playgrounds in the immediate vicinity with basket ball, tennis, soft base ball and volley ball courts or diamonds for the younger children and girls. Further back the base ball diamond for the high school nine, with the track and field sports. These grounds should not be barren land, but should be surrounded with large shade trees so that the pupils may rest in the quiet and shade rather than exhaust themselves further in the hot sun.

When we come to build the new high school building we should not think only of today, nor should we think only of the high school students. When erecting this building, plans should be made for housing the entire school system of this district, discontinuing the use of the old, out-of-date and unscientificially arranged buildings now in use. The present high school building could be sold probably or better still, given to the county for a much-needed county hospital. The frame building could be disposed of for what it was worth.

The new building, when figuring on housing all the children of the school district, should be built two stories high with basement. The basement should contain the Home Economics and Manual Training classes, indoor playground for the children in rough weather, gymnasium with locker rooms and showers attached, and a large auditorium, large enough to hold all the children who attend the building, as well as the heating plant and a set of toilets.

The first floor should contain eight or ten rooms to serve the primary and grades, the building being built according to the latest ideas regarding, light and ventilation. In using this floor for the smaller children it eliminates the use of stairs by them, making less disturbance for the older pupils.

The second floor should contain at least eight class rooms, several of which were so arranged that they could be thrown together for an assembly room for a part or all of the high school students when needed. On this floor there should also be a library and laboratory as well as the principal's office and teacher's retiring room.

Throughout the entire building the latest approved equipment should be used, such as Moulthroop chairs, instead of benches or desks. These consist of adjustable seats, under which is drawer space, and a desk, also adjustable. These chairs are not fastened to the floor as the old style desks, but are left unhampered to be moved about at will, changing the pupils to the best light, forming circles for better class work, or clearing the room for calisthenics, or anything desired.

A building such as this would of necessity have some blank walls so that light did not enter any class room from more than one side, which is the approved method of lighting schools at present. These blank walls can be beautifully panelled so that they present a pleasing appearance to the passerby.

Were Denton to go before the State Board for approval of plans for such a building and grounds, they would have the State Board's hearty approval and the next appropriation from the State Board to the local district to assist in paying better salaries, would be greatly increased.

The State Board this year is appropriating to high schools, $200,000. Of this amount $8,500 is allotted to Caroline County and to Denton $2,300 is allotted of this amount. The allottments for other school districts in the county are: Ridgely, Greensboro and Preston, each $1,400; Federalsburg, $2,000. Last year Caroline County received only $6,200.

There are only five towns on the Eastern Shore that are receiving more money from this appropriation this year than Denton, namely, Salisbury, $3,000; Pocomoke City and Crisfield, each $2,500, and Snow Hill and Easton, $2,400. It is evident from these facts that the State Board is willing to aid Denton and that if the Denton school district will do its part, the State Board will gladly co-operate with them to the fullest extent.

Let us therefore take for our motto: "The BEST High School Building and equipment, not only on the Eastern Shore, but in the whole State of Maryland."





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## RURAL DEMOCRACY THROUGH EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

### Improvement of Teachers in Service Is Pressing Problem—Good Administrative Ability Required.

[By Albert S. Cook, Statae Superintendent of Schools for Maryland.]

In view of the small percentage of trained teachers in rural schools at present and of the meager available supply in the near future, improving teachers in service is the most pressing administrative problem for State and county school systems.

Competent supervision is the best known method for improving the quality of teaching, both before and after the teacher enters the service. Supervision is a teacher-training proposition even normal schools and teacher-training schools base their practice-school work on that principle.

The supervisor's chief function is to improve the quality of teaching. This involves a very broad and thorough knowledge of subject matter and method.

The means of supervision are the various types of teachers' meetings, the course of study, conferences with individual teachers, visiting schools in and out of the system, observation lessons and critiques, etc.; the extent of teacher participation in these activities is the final test of supervisory efficiency.

The superintendents chief duty in relation to the supervisor is to see that the conditions are right for the supervisor to do her best work. This involves first-class administrative and executive ability as well as a thorough knowledge of educational principles, methods, and aims.

The superintendent and supervisor working together should determine methods and aims in the large. The supervisor should then be held responsible and be given a free hand in working out the details of subject matter and method to accomplish these aims.

All administrative matters concerning teachers' meetings and the organization of the various supervisory activities should be referred to the superintendent and have his approval. These matters should be worked out jointly by the supervisor and the superintendent. When a general policy has been decided upon no change in that policy should be made by the supervisor without consultation with the superintendent, but all activities failing under that policy should be left with the supervisor to carry out with only occasional consultation with the superintendent.

It is the superintendent's function to know the attitude of the principals and teachers in reference to all of the supervisory activities, and to consult with the supervisor in working out these activities, so that there may be as little friction as possible. The superintendent, however, must stand firm for supervision as an absolute necessity for improving the quality of teaching and for professional progress in the teaching corps. With this attitude on the part of the superintendent thoroughly established, modifications in the supervisory plans can be made from time to time to meet, so far as possible, fair criticism on the part of a teaching corps.

The superintendent, for his own professional growth and for maintaining a proper professional standing with his teachers and with the public, should share in supervision by taking a definite assignment, and should handle this assignment so as to set the pace for supervisory activities in his county. Unless a superintendent has had experience in this sort of educational leadership, he is not in a position to direct the professional activities of his supervisor or supervisors; his job becomes that of a business manager for which a salary considerably less than that required to secure real educational leadership is adequate. This statement applies with equal force to a State superintendent and to his professional assistants.

In a school system under professional leadership of the quality and character implied in the foregoing these, many of the principals and teachers themselves become leaders. They receive recognition either by promotion to positions of greater responsibility or by the professional satisfaction that comes to them by reason of their position of leadership.

They take the initiative in developing, expanding, and revising courses of study; in developing school practices and classroom procedure to conform with the best in educational experiment and research; in promulgating throughout the teaching corps ideals of professional growth and progress. In brief, such a school system as a whole—pupils, teachers, supervisors, and administrators—becomes a unit not only consciously striving to realize the aims of education in a democracy but also automatically carrying the finest type of genuine democracy in education.

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"Did you buy that ninety-dollar hat you were raving over?"

"Yes."

"What did your husband think of it?"

"Why—er—he raved over it, too."—Boston Globe.

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**An Anchor to Windward.**

"I will not be responsible for any debt contracted only by myself," advertises Mr. Barker, of Gary, Ind., who appears to have no confidence in his shopping ability—New York Illustrated News.

THE following poem by George Alfred Townsend, "Gath," in his "Tales of the Chesapeake," seems especially appropriate at this time—following the meeting of the Wilmington Conference in Crisfield. The author was the son of an Eastern Shore minister who knew the hardships and tribulations of those engaged in the Gospel Work back in the early date of Methodism in this section:

### "THE CIRCUIT PREACHER"

His thin wife's cheeks grow pinched and pale with anxiousness intense;
He sees the breathren's prayerful eyes o'er all the conference;
He hears the Bishop slowly call the long "Appointment" rolls,
Where in His vineyard God would place these gatherings of souls.

Apart, austere, the knot of grim Presiding Elders sit;
He wonders if some city "Charge" may not for him have writ?
Certes! could they his sermon hear on Paul and Luke awreck,
Then had his talent ne'er hid on Annamessex Neck!

Poor rugged heart, be still a pause, and you, worn wife, be meek!
Two years of banishment they read far down the Chesapeake!
Though Brother Bates, less eloquent, by Wilmington is wooed,
The Lord that counts the sparrows fall shall feed His little brood.

"Cheer up! my girl, here Brother Riggs our circuit knows 'twill please.
He raised three hundred dollars there, besides the marriage fees.
What! tears from us! who preached the word these thirty years or so?
Two years on barren Chincoteague, and two in Tuckahoe?

"The schools are good, the brethren say, and our church holds the wheel;
The Presbyterians lost their house; the Baptists lost their zeal.
The parsonage is clean and dry; the town has friendly folk,—
Not half as dull as Murderkill, nor proud like Pocomoke.

"Oh! Thy just will, our Lord, be done, through these eight seasons more,
We see our augue-crippled boys pine on the Eastern Shore,
While we, Thy stewards, journey out our dedicated years
Midst forests of Nanticoke, or fisherman of Tangiers!

"Yea! some must serve on God's frontiers, and I shall fail, perforce,
To sow upon some better ground my most select discourse;
At Sassafras, or Smyrna preach my augment on 'Drink,'
My series on the Pentateuch, at Appoquinimink.

"Gray am I, brethren, in the work, though tough to bear my part;
It is these drooping little ones that sometimes wring my heart,
And cheat me with the vain conceit the cleverness is mine
To fill the churches of the Elk, and pass the Brandywine.

"These hairs were brown, when, full of hope, ent'ring these holy lists,
Proud of my Order as a knight—the shouting Methodists—
I made the pine woods ring with my hymns, with prayer the night-winds shook,
And preached from Assawaman Light far north as Bombay Hook.

"My nag was gray, my gig was new; fast went the sandy miles;
The eldest Trustees gave me praise, the fairest sisters smiles;
Still I recall how Elder Smith of Worten Heights averred.
My Apostolic Parallels the best he ever heard.

"All winter long I road the snows, rejoicing on my way,
At midnight our revival hymns rolled o'er the sobbing bay;
Three Sabbath sermons, every week, should tire a man of brass—
And still our fervent membership must have their extra class!

"Aggressive with the zeal of youth, in many a warm requite
I terrified Immersionists, and scourged the Millerite;
But larger, tendered charities such vain debates supplant,
When the dear wife, saved by my zeal, loved the Itenerant.

"No cooing dove of storm afeared, she shared my life's distress,
A singing Miriam, always, in God's poor wilderness;
The wretched at her foottsteps smiled, the frivilous were still;
A bright path marked her pilgrimage, from Blackbird to Snowhill.

"A new face in the parsonage, at church a double pride—
Like the Madonna and her babe they filled the 'Amen-side'—
Crouched at my feet in the old gig, my boy, so fair and frank,
Naswongo's darkest marshes cheerer, and sluices of Choptank.

"My cloth drew close; too fruitful love my fruitless life outran;
The townfolk marvelled, when we moved, at such a caravan!
I wonder not my lads grew wild, when, bright, without the door
Spread the ripe, luring, wanton world—and we, within, so poor.—

"For, down the silent cypress aisles came shades even me to scout,
Mocking the lean flanks of my mare, my boy's patched roundabout,
And saying: 'Have there starveling boors, thy congregation, souls,
That on their dull heads Heaven and thou pour forth such iiving coals?

"Then prayer brought hopes, half secular, like seers by Endor's witch;
Beyond our barren Maryland God's folks were wise and rich;
Where climbing spires and easy pews showed how the preacher thrived,
And all old brethren paid their rents, and many young ones wived!

"I saw the ships Henlopen pass with captains fat and sleek;
From Bishopshead with fancy's sails I crossed the Chesapeake;
In velvet pulpits of the North said my best sermons o'er—
And that on Paul to Patmos driven, drew tears to Baltimore.

"Well! well! my brethren, it is true we should not preach for pelf—
(I would my sermon on Saint Paul the Bishop heard himself!)
But this crushed wife—these boys—these hairs! they cut me to the core;
Is it not hard, year after year, to ride the Eastern Shore?

"Next year? Yet! yes, I thank you much! Then my reward may fall!
(That is a downright fair discourse on Patmos and St. Paul!)
So Brother Rigs, once more my voice shall ring in the old lists,—
Cheer up, sick heart, who would not die among these Methodists?"

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**Too Much Knowledge.**

"He knows all the best people in town."

"Then why doesn't he associate with them?"

"They know him."—Boston Transcript.

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### A CARD.

After due consideration, and at the solicitation of many friends in the County, I hereby announce my candidacy for the Republican Nomination for the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, respectfully asking the support of the people. I am fully mindful and aware of the constant care used and needed in handling in a systematic way our County Records and I herewith pledge myself, if nominated and elected, to give my undivided attention to administering personally the affairs of this important office of public trust throughout the entire term.

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