

LET OPPORTUNITY BE EQUAL

A Square Deal For the Country Boy and Girl In the Schools Of the State—Consolidated Schools the Only Chance.

"Equality of opportunity" is the general topic for today in the American education week program—equality of opportunity in education for every American boy and girl. Rural schools and city schools are to be compared as to the opportunities they afford; high schools and colleges; American institutions; with especial attention to "A square deal for the country boy and girl."

The essential distinction that exist between country schools and city schools ought not to exist. The principle was long since accepted in words, that the education of the whole child population is the common task and the common responsibility of the entire adult population.

Education ought to be utilitarian and therefore it ought to be adapted to environment and probable prospective environment. But language and mathematics and the rudiments of science are the common instruments employed in teaching and learning everything beyond them that is to be taught and learned, and regardless of whatever special direction education is eventually to take, there is much common ground that must be gone over by all the elementary schools. And whatever is taught should be taught as well to one set of children in one place as to any other set of children in any place; teaching should be of a uniform quality and equipment should be of a uniform quality.

In North Carolina, for the time being at least, the county might very well be made the absolute unit, and the whole problem of public education in the county the responsibility of one body of men and women, with one head for the entire system, and all work measured by one standard. A few years ago this was not feasible on account of physical conditions. Sparse population in some districts, bad roads; it was not possible to collect the children of great part of the territory except in small groups. With full range of school ages and instruction in all grades required in each of these small groups, to have provided the right sort of housing, the right sort of equipment, and the right sort of teaching skill to meet the needs of all, would have been of prohibitive cost.

Now in many if not most of the counties, by the use of motor transportation over good roads it is entirely feasible to group the children just about as the school authorities may wish, instead of as they must be grouped. A few years ago the convicts who built and repaired roads were scattered about over the county in camps; now they are housed in a central prison and sent out daily to wherever work is to be done. Conditions in this respect are improving constantly and rapidly, already much has been accomplished in Guilford and other counties in the way of getting the children together in such large groups that it is economical to build handsome, comfortable schoolhouses, arranged and equipped as schoolhouses ought to be, and to employ a variety of



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teaching talent. Why, in a county so situated, should the system of differentiation that has been due to restrictive conditions be continued, now that those conditions have been conquered? The ideal which all thoughtful citizens of the county interested in a real democracy of opportunity believe is attainable is that each child in the county, everywhere, shall have as good school advantages as any other child anywhere in the country. This is the ideal of democracy that shines forth more and more

as practicable, as attainable. That all men are born equal is rhetoric, has always been rhetoric, taken literally. But that all men have in common certain inalienable rights, and that among them is the right to an equal chance of development of whatever native endowments they have, is accepted as a wholly reasonable proposition. Those who hold that this high ideal of democracy is attainable should therefore, consider all means by which that attainment may be most directly accomplish-

ed. It may indeed be possible for the various communities, rural and urban, working each as a unit eventually to reach the highest level in attainment, and to abolish the gross inequalities that now exist as between groups of children; but the question that demands consideration now is, is that the best way, the most direct way? Should not the wisest counsel, the ablest executive, administrative and pedagogical talent of the entire county be equally at the service of all parts of the county? If not, why not?

Prominent Couple Wed On Danbury Route 1
Danbury, Route 1, Dec. 14.—A quiet wedding was solemnized at Mrs. R. L. Hartman's November 30 at 2:30 o'clock when her daughter, Miss Juriah Alma Hartman, became the bride of Mr. Sam Andy Amos, of Sandy Ridge, N. C. The vows were taken in the parlor room which was beautifully decorated with ferns. The bride was attired in a becoming gown of Canton cr-

with grey accessories. Immediately after the ceremony which was performed by Rev. Bud Joyce, congratulations were extended, after which all marched to the dining room where a delicious Thanksgiving dinner was served. Miss Hartman is a very popular young lady, and has been a teacher in the public schools of the county for several years. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Amos and is an excellent young farmer of Stokes county.