

Moonlight Schools

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least one month in the Moonlight schools of the State. I have no doubt that if others shall be needed for the work, they too will readily respond. Such a record should make every teacher of the State prouder of his profession and should challenge the admiration, as it merits the gratitude, of every good citizen.

This is educational work the success of which is necessarily dependent mainly upon the active leadership and wise direction of superintendents and teachers. The newspapers of the State, the fraternal and civic organizations of every sort like the Farmers' Union, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Women's Clubs, have pledged their active and enthusiastic support to this commendable campaign for the reduction and elimination of illiteracy. Rally all of these agencies to your assistance in organizing and directing the Moonlight schools in your counties and school districts, and especially in interesting and enrolling in your schools the men and women who cannot read and write.

I beg to make the following suggestions.

1. Get from the census the names and addresses of all illiterates in the school district. With the aid of the school committee, and others well acquainted with the residents of the district, verify, and if necessary correct and complete list.

2. See to it that every one of them receives a sympathetic, tactful and earnest personal invitation to attend. Select the right person to give this personal invitation to each—some neighbor, some friend, some fellow-member of church or fraternal order, some one that has the confidence and friendship of the person invited and knows how to approach him.

3. Many illiterates are naturally sensitive over their inability to read and write. Respect their feelings. Let the invitations be extended, and all the other work of the schools to them be conducted in a spirit of sympathetic brotherhood, good fellowship and democratic equality. In word and act, avoid everything that may smack of condescension, pity, smug superiority. These are our brothers and fellow-citizens in the eyes of God and the State as good as we are suffering under the handicap of illiteracy, for which most of them are not responsible, because in childhood they had no opportunity to go to school, or had nobody in authority over them sufficiently appreciative of its importance to make them use the opportunity to go to school. It is our duty and our privilege to help them help themselves to remove this handicap, for their own sake and for the State's sake, before it is forever too late. In this spirit should this work for them and with them be done.

4. By resolution adopted unanimously by the North Carolina Press Convention at its recent meeting, the newspapers of the State pledged themselves to print a week in advance, the lessons in reading and arithmetic for each week and to send free to each pupil of a moonlight school in the county for a month a copy of the county paper containing these lessons. They also agreed to print weekly a brief news letter from each neighborhood in which a moonlight school is taught, containing interesting items about the school and other news of the neighborhood, expressed in words and sentences comprehensible to adult beginners in reading.

The County Superintendent and the teachers of each school should furnish the editor of the county paper the names and addresses of all pupils enrolled, and should make arrangements with some reliable person in each district to send this letter to the paper each week. The pupils should be instructed to bring the paper with them to school each night, that it may be used for reading the lessons and the news letters, and for general supplementary reading.

Bulletins containing the lessons have been printed and furnished the County Superintendent for free distribution through the teachers, upon application to each pupil of a Moonlight School; but these can not take the place of the county paper. It is important that the county paper should be placed in their hands from the first, to interest them, to stimulate their desire to learn to read, that they may read their home paper like other folks and keep up with what is going on in their county and in the world; to cultivate from the first the useful habit of reading their home paper; to furnish, as they begin to learn to read, an abundant supply each week of the best and most interesting material for supplementary reading. Most of them, as soon as they begin to acquire the

power to read, will read each week, everything in the paper that they can read. Each night extracts from the paper should be read aloud to the pupils by the teacher, and as soon as possible by the pupils themselves. Most of the pupil's learning to read will become permanent subscribers to the county paper and keep up their practice in reading, so far as I know, North Carolina is the only State in which this co-operative plan with the county newspapers in teaching illiterates to read has been suggested or in which this generous offer has been made by the papers. I am exceedingly anxious that it shall have a fair trial, because I am confident that it will contribute greatly to the success and to the permanency of this work.

5. Upon application to the State Superintendent, bulletins containing two lessons—three a week for four weeks—in reading, in arithmetic and in writing, prepared especially by the State Department of Public Instruction, with the aid and criticism of some of the most experienced and successful primary teachers of the State, some of whom had had experience in teaching adults, will be furnished County Superintendents in sufficient number to supply each pupil enrolled with one copy. Superintendents are urged to order at once the number needed, but not to order more than will be needed.

A teachers' edition of the same bulletin, containing valuable suggestions to teachers for teaching the lessons, will be furnished through the County Superintendent to each teacher of a Moonlight School. The County Superintendent is urged to order at once from the State Superintendent's office the number of teachers bulletins needed for his county, and to send at once to the teacher of each Moonlight School a copy of the teachers' bulletin and a sufficient number of the pupils' bulletins to supply each pupil with a copy.

6. Copies of the bulletin containing the lessons by weeks will also be sent to the editor of each county newspaper, but the County Superintendent is expected and urged to see the editor personally, explain the plan to him, and arrange for him separately by weeks, with the date of the publication of each, the lessons to be published each week.

7. The County Superintendent and teachers, in cooperation with the school committee, the various community organizations and other interested, are urged to arrange some social entertainments in connection with the Moonlight Schools, participated in by the pupils and by other citizens, to add to the interest and happiness of the pupils, and to afford an opportunity for all to get together and for an expression of interest and encouragement from outsiders. The pupils of these schools should be made to feel at home from the first, and also to feel that they are a part of the community in whom the other part of the community are deeply interested.

8. November has been designated as Moonlight School Month in North Carolina because that seemed to be the most convenient month for the majority of the counties of the State. If, however, some other month is more convenient for your county, and the roads are in good condition, select that month. Be sure, however, to select a month when the weather is likely to be pleasant and the roads in good condition. During November or such other month as may be selected, concentrate public interest and effort upon this work of teaching the adults of your county to read and write. Rally to the work your newspapers all organizations that have pledged their aid and all other agencies that can be enlisted for service. Have the papers full of it every week. See that they are furnished with the facts and the news about the schools. Publish before the schools open the number, but not the names, of adult illiterates by school districts. Publish each week, the number, but not the names, of those enrolled in each school. As soon as possible, for the encouragement of others, publish from week to week the number, and by their permission, the names of those who have learned to read and write and cipher. Most of this news can be supplied weekly through the news letter from each school, and should also be reported to the County Superintendent by the teacher. The Superintendent and the teachers should keep in close touch with the papers and see that the weekly material is promptly supplied.

9. Superintendents are urged to call a joint meeting of the County Superintendent, the County Farm Demonstration Agent, the Home Demonstration Agents, the President or secretary of the County Farmers' Union, editors of the county newspapers, the mayor of the county

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