

file publicity

Some statements about the new curriculum seem in order.

No time limit has been set for the complete introduction of the new curriculum. Teachers are expected to follow the plan when they are ready and we much prefer that they not undertake it until thoroughly prepared. It is readily possible and much preferable that the introduction of the new curriculum be gradual. At first only a part of the day need be devoted to it. Some one or two subjects may be handled in this manner and other work taken up in the usual way.

The real reason back of the new curriculum is an honest effort to achieve more for the children. Like all new things it is meeting destructive criticism. These come from teachers, school officials, and patrons but much of this criticism is coming now from people who are little informed.

Our concern is to depart a little from teaching subjects to teach living, to depart somewhat from text books to which school children become such slaves that when freed therefrom they know not how to continue learning. We are thinking more in terms of the needs of children and less in terms of having them learn what some college professor decided should be in the text books. We are thinking that it would be better for children to know how to keep well than to know the names of all the bones in the body, better that they might have the right attitude toward their government than to know all the laws by which they are governed~~ed~~.

As a substitute for assigning so many pages to learn we are trying to arouse the children's interests to the extent that they may have certain worthwhile things they desire to learn more about. As a substitute for the cramming of facts we are trying to make children seekers of knowledge and truth.

Of course many of the old methods must be retained. There is, for example, no substitute for drill in order to learn the multiplication tables and we can find no excuse for omitting the arduous task of learning them. The mechanics of reading will need mostly be taught in old same way. Reading for comprehension or to understand what is on the printed page should however take on new interest if children are reading because they are seeking information about something that interests them rather than reading because they have been told to learn all they can that is set down on particular pages.

Our new curriculum is not new to all people. It is a plan that has been used in a highly successful manner by teachers elsewhere.

I am asking for the co-operation and sympathy of parents of children and that you give much thought to what is best for children as compared with what our fore-fathers did. We must recognize that we live in changed conditions and we have the obligation of adapting ourselves and children to these changes.