

takings successfully, men of vision, integrity, ability and training will be needed.

Where are we to get agents capable of such development if not from the schools? And as more than half the population live on farms the leaders of the future must come from the little rural schools. It is clearly manifest then that our responsibility to these

schools is very great. New ideals must be printed above the lintels of the school-house door and a new enthusiasm injected into its arteries. The hour for rural school advancement has come. If great demands are to be made there must be proportionate preparation, and the place to start is the elementary school, the foundation upon which all super-structures are based; and the time is now.

## History for Grade XI

### GRADE XI MATRICULATION—GENERAL HISTORY

#### The Netherlands

The Netherlands was the mill-stone round the neck of Spain. But for Charles V's folly in leaving the Netherlands to him, Philip might have had a very successful reign. The passionate loyalty of his Spanish subjects, his foresight, and his strict if tardy attention to business, would have formed an excellent foundation for an era of prosperity, perhaps of greatness, for Spain. But Philip was not the man to sacrifice willingly any fraction of his dignities and possessions, and to give up the Netherlands would have required a breadth of view and a far-seeing statesmanship that Philip did not possess. His attempt to reduce these possessions to the level of a Spanish province, and the disasters that overtook him in wars forced upon him by the union of the Netherlands with Spain, contributed more than any other single cause to his failure.

The Burgundian inheritance (called indifferently the Netherlands, the Low Countries, or Flanders), consisted of two groups of provinces, the northern or Dutch group, mainly Protestant, and the southern or Flemish group, mainly Catholic.

It was clear from Philip's first visit to the Netherlands that there was a lack of sympathy between the sober, abstemious, reticent Spanish king and his free-drinking, hearty-eating, rough-spoken northern subjects. The cleavage soon began to take on a threaten-

ing aspect as the result of Philip's absolutist tendencies. The nobles were discontented at being deprived of all share in the government which was carried on mainly by Spaniards; the wealthy and independent burghers resented the persistent undermining of jealously-guarded rights which Philip himself had sworn to maintain; while the appearance of the dreaded Spanish inquisition caused general indignation and alarm. Many were the protests sent to Spain. Margaret of Parma, Philip's viceroy, confessed her inability to enforce his commands. The ruthless Alva, the first Spanish soldier of the day, was sent to supersede her in 1567. He stamped underground every sign of discontent in an unparalleled orgy of blood, sparing neither high nor low. His one omission was to get William the Silent, Prince of Orange, his most formidable opponent, into his hands. With troops mutinous for lack of pay, Alva imposed a series of financial measures that spelt ruin to an industrial community like the Netherlands. His excise of 10% on every sale of movable property, the most important of his measures, proved quite impracticable; indeed the revenue from the whole series was trifling in amount, and by no means an adequate compensation for the storm of anti-Spanish feeling caused by the attempt to enforce such foolish measures. Philip could not supply Alva with the men and money necessary to crush the widespread disaffection, so Alva was recalled and a