

Why St. John Ought To Continue The Evening Vocational Classes

Table with columns: CITY OF ST. JOHN, AGE GRADE TABLE, YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1919. Rows include Age, I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, Total, P. C.

NOTE—High School students from Fairville and other points throughout the county attend St. John High. The above table therefore shows a larger high school enrollment than the St. John grades really produce.

As pointed out above, the national government and the provincial government have taken practical steps to aid workers who do not have training when vocational training.

As to money value, data collected by the Washington Government shows that a boy who attends school from 14 to 18, taking courses suited to his ability and aims, has, as an advantage of \$600 in yearly income as compared with the boy who left school and went to work at 14.

The I. C. S. recently took a census of 200 of their graduates. This revealed that the average income of these 1,000 men had been advanced from less than \$60 per month to more than \$180, as a direct result from the courses they had taken.

In the soldiers' training work, men have been taught new jobs and in eight months enabled to earn on an average 50 per cent more than they could at their former occupations. Instances might be multiplied.

Perhaps the greatest value of vocational education is its citizenship training. It is not only a means of raising living standards, but it is also a means of raising the moral and civic standards of the citizen.

The cost of vocational education will be about double that of our classical high school courses because of the equipment, etc., required for the practical work. As government grants cover half the cost, however, the price of this training will not be greater than the community is accustomed to pay per pupil.

The above refers to day classes. The per pupil cost of evening classes is very small, being confined practically to the salaries of teachers. The building and equipment provided for day classes can be utilized for evening work, thus effecting an economy.

But whatever be the money cost it is small compared with the values produced. That no state or community can afford to deny vocational training opportunities to its citizens.

The war has given vocational education a great impetus. It demonstrated the need for greater efficiency in the rank and file of our citizenship. England planned and passed the Fisher Education Bill while struggling with Germany.

This compels all children to stay in school till 16 and part time till 18. It provides vocational training for those adapted to it. In introducing his bill Mr. Fisher pointed out that unless the rising generation were properly trained it would not be able to compete after the war.

In 1917 the United States passed a Federal Vocational Act, which has brought about the organization of vocational education service in every state in the Union.

In 1919 Canada passed the Technical Education Act giving aid to the Provinces in this branch of education avowedly as a reconstruction measure.

From the standpoint of the state, vocational training is a necessity as a help in surviving the tremendously competitive era into which we are entering. The nation must have well trained citizens to make democracy safe, and efficient workers to develop our great natural resources. The present enormous wastage must be ended.

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RESIN PROFITABLE Vancouver, Feb. 7.—Resin harvesting in the forests of British Columbia will provide a large number of men with permanent employment, according to E. S. Oliver, a prominent research chemist.

HUDSON BAY FELLOWSHIP Winnipeg, Feb. 7.—Miss Irene Mounce is announced as first appointee under the Hudson Bay Company Research Fellowship, which was established last spring on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the company.

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