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OREGON SCHOOL NEEDS

The Oregon constitution states that "The legislative assembly shall provide by law for the establishment of a uniform and general system of common schools."

Though the fact was not generally admitted the actual use intended for this larger school income was the increase of teacher salaries and, in the opinion of many, hope for an increase in pay was the reason for the support of the measure by teacher organizations.

Certainly, adequate teacher pay is essential in any school system but it is by no means the only essential and the fact is well presented in an article, "Oregon's School District System," by Wade DeVries, in the latest issue of "Oregon Business Review."

After asserting in an opening paragraph that the public school is the most important state and local government function in Oregon Mr. DeVries quotes the school section from the constitution just as did the teachers in their argument in the voters' pamphlet.

(1) Have all boys and girls received equal educational opportunity? (2) Have the rural schools made wise and efficient use of state and local funds, and of buildings and transportation facilities? (3) Have the costs of rural schools been equitably distributed so as to have the least possible effect on the management and ownership of property?

To all three questions Mr. DeVries' answer is in the negative.

It is in the rural areas where, according to Mr. DeVries, equal educational opportunities are not provided. Out of a total of 1,898 school districts in the state (in 1943) there are 220 that have no more than 10 pupils enrolled.

There are 58 third-class districts which maintain high schools at great sacrifice; and yet most of these schools are not accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, because the accrediting officials believe that the enrollment and faculty are too small to maintain proper educational standards.

The facts presented in the article regarding the costs and efficiency of Oregon school governments are more damning than those as to educational opportunity. Here are paragraphs from the article on that subject:

With the great number of small district governments, standards in educational costs can hardly be established. The cost per child is bound to vary greatly when the number of children per voluntary teacher varies as much as from 2 to 40.

The lack of financial responsibility to local constituents is another cause of inefficiency. In 1941 there were 486 districts which did not find it necessary to levy a tax upon the property owners of the school district.

In the matter of cost distribution Mr. DeVries finds a wide variance between districts. Let us quote again: Sometimes the boundaries run back into the mountains or desert 30 or 40 miles from the schoolhouse.

Some third-class districts are 300 times as able to support a school as others.

Washington Column By Peter Edson (NEA Staff Correspondent) French people still have a number of misconceptions about the United States and the American war effort which the psychological warfare division of the army and the office of war information are trying to correct.

Part of the difficulty in France today is that the country is still a lot of isolated communities. Electric power is limited, broadcasting is limited, communication service of all kinds are limited and there is a shortage of newspaper.

Fourteen radio programs from New York, nine from London plus four more relayed by British Broadcasting Corporation, are beamed at the French in French by medium and short wave.

"Chick," a British-American Reader's Digest in French, goes out 250,000 copies a month. "Voor," an OWI Look-type picture weekly, goes out 420,000 copies a week.

Paulette Goddard and Sonny Tufts are starred in the romantic comedy, "I Love A Soldier," with Beulah Bondi and Barry Fitzgerald.

announces the annexation of the Bond Street Hotel—modern sleeping rooms with entrance through our lobby.

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