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Education to Meet New and Changing Conditions.

The civilization of yesterday has been shot out of existence. The civilization of to-day is changing with every hour of time and what tomorrow has in store for the world no man can see. The old order of things has been done away with. The present order is confusion, the future order is in the hands of an Infinite Father and no living being can foretell what it is to be.

America to-day occupies a peculiar place among the nations of the world. Washington is the World's capitol. Many distinguished representatives from many of the great nations of the world are coming to our capitol for conferences with our national officials. During the short space of time that this terrible world war has been waged our nation has become the money center of the world. We are the world's bankers; we are the world's financiers. The political ideals of this nation radiate out from Washington to many of the great nations of the earth. There will soon come a time when Protestant and Catholic will unite as christians. Religious creeds will be supplanted by the spirit of the lowly Nazarene. The world's supply of food is dependent more largely upon America than upon any other nation of the world. In the short space of three years America has in a peculiar sense become the center of the nations of the world. When this war is over, we are going to live in a new world. Political conditions will be changed. The social order of mankind will be different,- public finance will be on a new basis and the religious life of our people will be different.

Had one prophesied fifty years ago that in 1917 we would have many of the things we commonly seen in our daily routine, such

as the flying machine, automobile, submarine, the common use of the telephone, etc. he would have been called a dreamer of dreams or a fit subject for an insane asylum. Had one prophesied twenty years ago that all of the leading nations of the world would be engaged in the most destructive war the world has ever seen, he also would have been classified as a fit subject for a mad house. To-day we are all willing to admit that in the near future there is to be a different order of live for all the people of this world.

With our nation occupying the peculiar place it does occupy in the brotherhood of nations, the responsibility that rests upon the public schools of our nation cannot be fully grasped nor adequately shown, but it is clear to all right thinking men that the civilization of the future is to be determined in a large measure by the work of the public schools. It should be the purpose of the schools of this country to prepare the coming generation to meet the responsibilities of live as they are to be found in the new order of living. For a number of years education was considered as a purely mental process. There has been growing up in our country an idea in education opposed to the doctirine of formal discipline. This idea has found expression in what is known as vocational training. To-day in every leading educational institution in this country there is a conflict going on between these two ideas. The one advocating pure learning as the main object in education, the other advocating the ability to do things as the sole purpose of education. It is true that the world of to-day is calling for men and women who are able to do things. We no longer look for intellectual dreamers but we want men who know and who are willing to do. The new education that must come will take out of the old idea all of the good there is and will discard from

the new idea much of the useless rubbish. It will realize that men must know before they can do with intelligence. It will also recognize that doing without knowing is an educational blunder.

When the civil war closed, we found in a few years that this South Land of ours had reared one generation of boys and girls with a gap in their educational development. Many a man of to-day is seriously handicapped in life's battles because he was deprived of the opportunity of attending school when he was a child. I believe as firmly as any loyal American citizen believes that it is our duty to send help to the allies in Europe, to spend freely of our money in the support of a large army, to sacrifice all that need be sacrificed in money and material but I also believe that it is just as important, even more important, to keep the schools of America running and to keep these schools supplied with well trained and efficient teachers. The present generation of men and women will spend the remaining years of their life getting over the terribly effects of this great war.

The future civilization of the world is dependent upon the importance now given to the children of the coming generation. It should be the function of the schools, therefore, to see to it that these children are so taught that they may carry over into their lives the best there is in the civilization of to-day and carry with it the opportunity to adjust themselves to the new order of things that must follow. The school teacher must teach children and not books. The school teacher must see with a clear vision that the next generation is to live in an entirely different environment from that that surrounds the present generation. There must be a spirit of co-operation, such as we have never seen before.

There must be a spirit of universal brotherhood, such as does not exist to-day anywhere. The man with means must realize that he as a captain of industry, is not superior to the man of ability, who is capable of directing large industrial operations - in other words the president of a large corporation must realize that the foreman on his job is no less a man because he has been blessed with a smaller proportion of this world's goods. The honest citizen, engaged in whatever industry, is to be the future ruler in this new order that will shortly come. There must be a breaking down of the old social lines and the honest men of this world will grasp hands with each other on equal terms. It must be the function of the schools to so train the children that they will realize this universal brotherhood of mankind.

This is not Socialism but it is making real worth count in whatever position it may be found. The labor of the school teacher is tremendous. May she rise to her opportunities.