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organization make a definite recommendation to school administrators that a course of study in geography be fitted into the work of the seventh and eighth grades of all grammar schools, and into the curricula of every junior high school? Perhaps definite courses of instruction could be recommended.

The second question needs very careful consideration from the educational standpoint. Are not many of the teachers attempting, in our elementary schools, to teach altogether too many facts and too many phases of geography? This does not mean that too much time is given to the study of geography, but too many subjects are presented, so that mere generalizations are given to the child. Generalizations are stupid. The child wants richness of detail. Vivid pictures are needed. Are not many of the failures in the teaching of geography due to learning and reciting what to the child are meaningless generalities? In some cases the teacher may not know more than the statement that the children are required to learn, and that condition leads to a useless type of lesson. Is it more important that the children study all phases of geography and all countries, or should they know a certain amount of geography well, not just as facts to be restated, but with an appreciation of the significance of geographic conditions upon peoples, coming thereby to have a wholesome interest which may lead them to independent reading, to know more and more of other parts of the earth, and of other phases of geography than those treated in their elementary school courses?

WORK OF THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS

By MABEL C. STARK, Director

IN October, 1915, the chairman of the National Council appointed Miss Mabel C. Stark, of the Illinois State Normal University, at Normal, Illinois, as leader for the movement in Illinois. The plan and purpose of the council was presented by the chairman at the Geography Section of the High School Conference held at the University of Illinois, November 19 and 20, 1915, also at the Earth Science Section of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, which met in Chicago, November 26 and 27. The geographers present at these meetings put themselves on record as in hearty co-operation with the movement. Many problems pertinent to better geog-

raphy teaching and more efficient geographic study were discussed at these sessions.

The first regular meeting of the Illinois Council of Geography Teachers was held in Peoria, March 16, 1916. The nucleus of this meeting consisted of eighty Peoria teachers who had become thoroughly interested in and alive to the possibilities of geography through extension work carried on in that city by instructors from the Illinois State Normal University. They carried their enthusiasm to their teacher friends so successfully that a group of over 250 crowded the lecture room of the Women Teachers' Club on the evening stated.

The Council was unusually fortunate in securing as the speaker of the evening one of the greatest geographers of the United States, Professor Rollin D. Salisbury, head of the Department of Geography in the University of Chicago. Professor Salisbury set forth in his own convincing and delightful fashion his notions as to the meaning of modern geography, its scope, and educational values, and touched upon many pressing geographical problems of today. The talk was an inspiration to the keenly interested listeners.

The social hour that followed in the parlors of the Club gave an opportunity for all to meet Professor Salisbury, and to begin a social as well as professional "geographic brotherhood."

During the first summer term at the University of Chicago, in July, 1916, many students and teachers of geography from all parts of the United States had come together for advanced study. It seemed particularly fitting to hold in Rosenwald Hall a session devoted to arousing an active interest in better geography teaching and to present the matter of the National and State Councils. While the meeting was held under the auspices of the Illinois Council many interested people of other states heard for the first time of their state council and of the national movement.

This large group of university students was addressed first by Professor Salisbury, who spoke along much the same lines as he did at the Peoria meeting. Professor R. H. Whitbeck, visiting professor from the University of Wisconsin, then spoke in considerable detail of the National and State Councils of Geography Teachers. Future plans of the Councils were spoken of somewhat, and the interest felt was measured to an extent at least by the new members added to the National and Illinois Councils through this meeting.

The next meeting of the Illinois Council of Geography Teachers was held in association with the Earth Science Section

of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, which met in Chicago, December 1 and 2, 1916.

It was quite fitting to find those interested in the Earth Sciences assembled in the lecture room of Rosenwald Hall of the University of Chicago. This beautiful and adequate building houses the geography and geology departments of the University of Chicago, which is one of the leading centers in our country for the training of geographers.

Large and interested audiences heard the addresses and took part in the discussions of both sessions. On Friday afternoon it was a privilege to hear Professor Rollin D. Salisbury, head of the department of geography of the University of Chicago, discuss "The Vocational Aspects of the Earth Sciences." Frank W. DeWolf, director of the State Geological Survey, spoke on "Geological Science as Adapted to the Development of Mineral Resources (with special reference to Illinois)." Dr. DeWolf used the stereopticon to make his illustrations concrete.

These two principal speakers of the afternoon were followed by three high school teachers who spoke briefly on "Some Experiences in Schools Where the Junior-Senior High School is in Operation." Stanislaus Arseneau spoke of "Geography and General Science" in Decatur (Illinois) High School; D. G. MacMillan recounted some "Difficulties in Organizing the Science Work in the Junior High School" in Grand Rapids, Michigan; E. L. Mahaffy, of the High School of Commerce, Columbus, Ohio, discussed "Physical Geography in the Columbus Junior High Schools."

The committee appointed to propose a geography course for the re-organized (Junior-Senior) High School made a report of progress and were instructed to continue their study through this year. James H. Smith, Austin High School, Chicago, is chairman of this committee.

Charles R. Dryer, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for many years a prominent thinker and writer along geographic lines, gave the principal address Saturday morning, "The Scope and Method of High School Geography." Dr. Dryer's address sparkled with pertinent contrasts between the old and the new geography. We have much to hope for from the coming geographers of our state if we may judge from the notions presented by Robert G. Buzzard in his discussion of "Geography and Boys," given from his experience in the Harvard School for Boys, Chicago.

The session closed with an informal discussion of the "Earth Sciences in the Elementary and High Schools of Tomorrow" led by Illinois Normal School Teachers of Geography.

At the recent meeting of the Illinois State Teachers' Association which meets annually in Springfield the last of December, the Illinois Council of Geography Teachers was granted the privilege of becoming a section of the association. A strong geography program will be planned for this Springfield meeting in December, 1917.

In order that teachers of Illinois may keep closely in touch with various phases of professional geography it has seemed highly desirable to issue a bulletin devoted to the discussion of such problems as confront us daily. Six bulletins have been issued up to date. Among them we make special mention of the October number, "The Illinois Centennial and the Study of Illinois" by Douglas C. Ridgley; the November number, "Geography's High School Problem" by William E. Andrews; the December number, "The Need of a General School Atlas" by J. Paul Goode; and the February number, "The Use of Local Geographic Material Illustrated by Southern Illinois Types," by Clarence Bonnell.

So many encouraging comments on the Illinois bulletin idea have reached us that the chairman hopes to make a bigger thing of this publication. Mr. Charles C. Colby of the department of geography in the University of Chicago, has promised substantial assistance in editing the bulletin, so we hope for its future.

The Illinois Council is fortunate in having an Advisory Board made up of people thoroughly interested in the advancement of geography. Professor Rollin D. Salisbury, of the University of Chicago, Professor John L. Rich, of the University of Illinois, Principal W. E. Andrews, of the Pana Township High School, and Principal Ruth Shield, of the Longfellow School, Peoria, serve in this capacity. It will be observed that grade, high school, and university geography interests are represented in the personnel of the Advisory Board.

A membership fee is necessary in order to finance the correspondence associated with the council, to publish and distribute the bulletin, and to maintain the meetings of the council. The annual fee is placed low in order that the membership may be large.

Three membership possibilities are open in the Illinois Council: (1) a fee of 25 cents for membership in the Illinois Council only, including receipt of the bulletin of the council and admission to all meetings of the council; (2) a fee of \$1.25 for membership in the Illinois Council, with privileges previously stated, plus membership in the National Council which includes a year's subscription to the Journal of Geography; (3) a sustain-

ing fee, \$5 or more, which places the member on the Sustaining Membership list and stamps him as a special advocate of the geography movement.

The Illinois Council of Geography Teachers has met with cordial approval from many teachers, from those in rural schools to University professors. The work is hardly begun however, and all can help promote the cause of geography in the great commonwealth of Illinois.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES IN NEBRASKA

By N. A. BENGTON, Director

THE Nebraska Chapter of the National Council of Geography Teachers is carrying on work along three definite lines,—(1) Seeking to strengthen geography programs at state and district teachers' meetings; (2) Emphasizing the use of available geographic publications; (3) Through standing committees, studying seriously the problem of improving the geography courses in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools.

The council provides the organization essential to make our needs for geography talent at educational meetings felt. For some years geography has been neglected on the programs of important associations because no definite demand for representation was expressed. The officers of such associations are in nearly all cases anxious to furnish the programs desired by the teachers, but inasmuch as they are not mind readers, they must judge the desires by the preferences positively stated. In response to such expression Professor Whitbeck was secured for the State Teachers' Association meeting of 1916, and by using him at four section sessions about fifteen hundred teachers were reached. The Geography section, attended by over four hundred teachers especially interested in geography, was a memorable success. Next year through the influence of the Council the Executive Committee of the State Teachers' Association has invited Professor Brigham, so we are looking forward to another great meeting. At district association meetings this spring, Professor Miller of Mankato, Minnesota, was on the program at the Northeast Section at Wayne; Miss Rose Clark of the Peru Normal at the Southeast Section at Nebraska City, and Miss Nelson of the University Teachers College at the Central Association at Hastings and the Southwest Association at Holdrege. From all these meetings very gratifying reports have been received. The Council is now also planning a two days' state