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The Nation's Capital City, in Itself an Education, Is Likewise the Country's Storehouse of Art, Literature, and Science

MUST PREPARE FOR FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN, SAYS CLAXTON

By PHILANDER F. CLAXTON,
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(Written for The Times Educational Number.)

For us as a people there are now just two tasks of supreme importance: To win the war for freedom and democracy and to fit ourselves and our children for life and citizenship in the new world which the war is bringing in. All the issues of the future depend upon the accomplishment of these two tasks, and all other tasks are for the present of only secondary importance. Other tasks may be postponed; these cannot. For their accomplishment we must bend all our energies, pay the full price, and make whatever sacrifices may be necessary.

Without permanent loss or injury we may practice stringent economy in food, clothing, and fuel; we may deprive ourselves of many luxuries which have come to be regarded as necessities of life; we may refrain from unnecessary travel; we may dispense with desirable personal services; we may postpone new business enterprises, and the erection of public and private buildings; we may suspend temporarily many forms of business not essential to the winning of the war or to the strength of the nation and the health and happiness of the people. But things necessary for success in war and for the support of our schools and other agencies of education we may not withhold except at the peril of permanent loss and irreparable injury.

Never before has the importance of maintaining our schools at their highest possible efficiency and of giving to every child the best possible opportunity for education been so apparent.

Need Teachers.
While the war continues there will be constant need for larger numbers of men and women of the highest and most thorough training for war service in military, naval, and college, universities, and technical schools must supply these in increasingly larger numbers, not only for ourselves alone, but for our allies as well; engineers, chemists, skilled mechanics, physicians, nurses.

The supply of men to fight in the trenches is practically inexhaustible, and the ranks may be filled from year to year, however long the war may continue. The supply of men and women with the knowledge and training and skill necessary to produce munitions, provide transportation, care for the health of the soldiers, and direct their energies so that they may be most effective is not only not inexhaustible but is in some lines so very limited that the preparation of a larger supply is already felt as one of the most pressing military needs.

This is so fully and clearly set forth in the report of the committee of prominent citizens invited by the Secretary of the Interior to advise him as to what policy the department should pursue in advising young men and women in regard to taking up and continuing college and university courses during the war, that the report is given here almost in full:

Scientific and Industrial Training in the War Emergency.

"The time has come when we must place before the country in definite and unmistakable terms the task which confronts us in providing men and women with the needed scientific, technical, mechanical, and agricultural knowledge and skill requisite for winning the war, and bring such pressure to bear that immediate and salutary action will result.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of engineering knowledge and skill, in the broadest sense, not only directly in the conduct of military operations, but indirectly in the essential war industries. A high type of agriculture, to insure an unflinching food supply is equally indispensable.

"The engineering problems confronting the United States are indefinitely greater than those of any other of the great nations. For an average distance of more than 4,500 miles, across the continents and the seas, we must transport all of the men, munitions, and supplies which are to represent us in this great struggle. Furthermore, the central powers prepared themselves for this conflict over a long period of years, and by this means determined its character to their own advantage in large measure.

"The loss by our allies of men of highly specialized training in the early stages of the war, and the difficulties in the way of recovery, leave this nation in the position of trustee of the principal remaining sources of supply.

"To accomplish these ends an adequate supply of trained teachers in scientific and technical subjects is absolutely indispensable.

"The people of the United States are called upon to make a sacrifice of the highest order. The people of the United States are called upon to make a sacrifice of the highest order. The people of the United States are called upon to make a sacrifice of the highest order.

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"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"

Here is the greatest single force in the world today. One-time school teacher. Today world teacher on whom all civilization depends for the solving of the greatest of all problems since the beginning of man.

This man obtained all the knowledge at his command. His opportunities in this respect were large. He made the most of them and brought to the office of first importance in the land the most highly developed mind that ever guided the destiny of a nation—a mind destined to exercise its power—power for good—for the benefit of all mankind.

The greatest thing that can be said of this man is that he MADE THE MOST of his opportunities. His is a character that, had he lived in Lincoln's time and circumstances, would still have MADE THE MOST of his opportunities, even as Lincoln did.

Lincoln used the back of a shovel and a piece of charcoal for the simple reason that they, with his few books, were all the school equipment at his command. If Wilson with his greater opportunities had turned to such crude equipment it would have indicated a mind more inclined for a masquerade than to master the needs of his time.

Opportunities for the development of the mind—especially here in the Nation's Capital City—are as greatly increased over Wilson's school days as the President's opportunities were greater than Lincoln's. Young men and young women with right-thinking minds will realize this fact. Also the fact that this is the age of the trained specialist. And will see to it that they are fitted for the business of life according to the standards of the time in which they live—doctor, lawyer, architect, man or woman of business—any of the many callings that bring rich rewards for the time spent in mastering them.



The Nation's Capital is the Nation's reservoir of knowledge. No city in the country, no city in the world today, offers so many attractions to the seeker after knowledge.

The city itself, with its broad avenues, its magnificent buildings, its beautiful statuary, its parks and shade trees breathes an atmosphere of culture and learning not found in cities where manufacturing and business interests predominate. Merely to live in Washington, even for so brief a period as is necessary to visit the various points of interest, is in itself an intellectual treat to the student. To live and study in one of Washington's numerous halls of learning is indeed to achieve a liberal education.

Washington schools not only cover every branch of learning, but the Government itself has gathered in the Capital City a wealth of data bearing on every subject that is at the disposal of the student at his call.

The Congressional Library contains volumes bearing upon every imaginable subject. If you are interested in medieval volumes that were contemporary with the birth of the printing press down to the latest popular seller right off the press—every subject is covered from every angle and these volumes are accessible to the public.

The Library building itself is a work of art that commands the attention and compels admiration. In itself it affords much of interest to the student. Built on a colossal scale it is one of the most imposing pieces of architectural splendor in the world. Interiorly it dazzles the eye. There is a wealth of splendor in beautiful marble, intricate mosaics, delicate mural decorations, massive bronze decorations and a blaze of light. Each corridor is treated differently—different color schemes, different architectural designs are featured in each one. No building in the country surpasses it.

The Capitol building—that massive pile that rears its proud head as the symbol of democracy triumphant—not only interests the student from the standpoint of its own beauty, but also because of the mighty works being performed in it. Today the Capitol is the scene of the enactment of legislation that is shaping the destiny of all nations and all peoples. Here the laws that rule our land are not dry-as-dust abstruse ideas, but actualities dealing with actual conditions. The debates of Congress and the Senate mold the manner of living of the United States and, today, of the entire world.

The Agricultural Department houses laboratories, and research departments. Here is recorded the vast fund of information that results from patient experimenting and investigation by some of the world's greatest scientists have produced. The vast store of knowledge is at the command of the student of the most important science of agriculture.

And so on—every branch of learning that has to do with the welfare of the Nation, physical and mental, has a fountain head of knowledge located in Washington.

Amid such surroundings and with such a wealth of material to supplement textbooks it is small wonder that the schools of the Capital are ranked among the best of the country. And they teach as varied courses as there are varied vocations. Law, medicine, theology, pedagogy, Art, music, literature, business. Whether your natural bent is toward the esthetic or the practical Washington offers you unlimited opportunities to develop quickly and fully. You can learn to be a

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