

only a lay person - a parent - concerned with the schools because our children are in school now. My views, in a comparative sort of way, are apt to be a little biased in the eyes of my readers. Therefore I want to quote this man who certainly was "in the know"

A good school is society's obligation to children for they are the reason schools exist. It must prepare them for adulthood. Whatever the needs preparatory to making them good citizens should be met by the school. This rapidly changing world certainly complicates the needs of any and all children.

Great changes have taken place in educational procedures in the last 100 years. Nationally speaking, no one had to go to school one hundred years ago. whereas, today schooling is compulsory. The changing scene between these years is great. Basically these changes can be seen quite visibly within our own school from our reviewing stand of Miner. I am not, please understand, out to take sides and give the pro and con on which is best -- the old or new. I'll leave that to each reader to debate as he sees fit according to the generation to which he belongs. However, it is interesting to note that this same question has been a blight to our educational program for many long years.

People criticize the new, do wishful thinking for the old and actually only tend to confuss the issues. We do it today, but so did people twenty-five and even fifty years ago. The problems we face are no more complex than the ones great-grandfather faced; for what is commonplace to us was brand new and rather frightening to him. For instance, the automobile today is considered by the majority as essential. To great-grandfather it was something to fear -- something to complicate living. Radio and airplane travel caused grandfather(or father) moments of speculation and anxiety wondering what good could come from them. What happened? He faced a more complicated life because of them, and so he had to be educated to live in that age of complexities. Where was he to learn to live in accordance with all the new innovations? Why in the school, of course. And now what looms ahead? Television, jet propelled plane and atomic energy appear to complicate the easy living of the "good old days" of radio, etc. So what now? There is only one answer. The children will have to learn of these things and how their lives will be affected by them. Where will they learn of these things? Again the answer is in the schools. That there will have to be changes made in the curricula is inevitable. We must keep pace with the changing world. To teach the same things in the same way as we did yesteryear would be foolhardy. Even to teach children to live today falls short of the actual needs of children. They must be taught to live tomorrow. This is the challenge of the teaching profession.

But since this is a history let us look briefly at some of the changes that have been made in the years past. To begin with, the school year of the school day hasn't changed much. Back in 1900 there were 187 actual school days in the year. The present