

Graduation Speaker Warns of Teacher Shortage

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and telling the graduates that they "are the slender reserves and the meagre replacements of a depleted profession," with the outlook for the immediate future, "far from bright." He offered as suggestions for meeting the threat: the offering of higher salaries for teachers; enlisting the interest of the public; the displaying of more enthusiasm by teachers about their own career; less rigid regulation by school authorities of the social, economic and religious life of the teachers they employ; and glamorizing the teaching profession and entering into a program of recruitment, "using the legitimate devices which have been called to our attention by other organizations," such as the military forces.

"Surely no graduates from any of our higher institutions of learning will be more highly acclaimed and more warmly received this year than those who come from our state teachers college," he pointed out to the graduates. "You are the slender reserves and the meagre replacements of a depleted profession. The era of shortages through which we have been passing, covering the period of the war and afterwards, has exacted a disproportionate toll of education. Your numbers are pitifully too few to fill the gap, while your superior training will do little to offset the sub-standard qualifications of thousands of teachers who must be employed again next year to fill the classrooms of America."

Leave Profession

"Since the beginning of the war, we are told, fully a quarter of a million of the 885,000 public school teachers in America have left the teaching profession, a defection far too great for the teacher training institutions of the nation to overcome in many years. The outlook for the immediate future is far from bright, with the enrollments of teacher training institutions ranging from 30 to 65 per cent below normal. In our high schools at the present time, hardly a corporal's guard of pupils is thinking of taking up teaching."

"The extensive abdication in the teaching forces of the nation, and the failure of young people in sizeable numbers to elect teaching as a career, is an educational tragedy about which the public until very recently has been too little concerned, and the profession itself too apathetic, complacent and indifferent. Today, however, the recruitment of the profession looms as its Number One Problem and may no longer be ignored. Otherwise, teaching will deteriorate into what it has too often been, a depression job, a marginal occupation, a confession of inability to do something to which society awards its honors and emoluments. Teachers will be recruited as Ben Franklin once unfortunately advised, 'from the lesser sort.' It is unnecessary to dwell here on the all importance of education. Almost everything that can be said on this subject has been set down endlessly. Perhaps that's why En-

Degrees were conferred upon 94 young women of the Class of 1947, at the 108th annual baccalaureate-commencement exercises of the Framingham State Teachers college—oldest public normal school in America—Sunday afternoon, in Nevins auditorium, Memorial building, before a large audience of friends and relatives of the graduates, and alumnae of the college, who journeyed here from all parts of the state for the impressive event despite the rain.

William R. Peck, superintendent laureate-commencement address, of schools of Holyoke, one of the most highly respected educators in New England, delivered the baccalaureate address.

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It's ominous that the word education has been so cold, so helpless a sound. A treatise on education, a convention on education, affects us with a slight paralysis and a certain yawning of the jaws. Yet is incontestably true that without a strong and effective school system, it will be utterly impossible to solve the problems of the future or to attain those goals which our enterprise of democracy might reasonably be expected to achieve. Better education is not an option, it is a compulsion."

President Martin F. O'Connor conferred the degree of bachelor of science in education on 51 graduates of the Household Arts department, 37 graduates of the Elementary department, and six graduates of the Vocational Household Arts department.

The exercises opened with the graduating class marching into the hall in caps and gowns, as Miss Frances C. Bellantoni, of Medford, graduating from the Household Arts department, played the piano professional, "Pomp and Circumstance," by Elgar.

The robed Chapel Choir, directed by Edward F. Gilday, seated on the stage, rendered for its opening selection, "Praise Ye the Name of the Lord," by Tcherépnin. Rev. Charles A. Parmiter, Jr., rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, delivered the invocation. Miss Mary E. Hussey of Dedham, spoke for the graduating class. The Chapel choir rendered "Ave Maria Stella" by Grieg, and the graduating class sang their class hymn, composed and written by Miss Bellantoni and Miss Josephine F. O'Connor of Lowell, graduating from the Household Arts department.

The benediction was rendered by Rev. Edward F. Sweeney of St. Bridget's parish, Framingham Centre, and the graduates marched from the auditorium as Miss Bellantoni played as the recessional, Verdi's March from "Aida."

The exercises were followed by a faculty reception in Peirce hall at the college, to the members of the graduating class and their friends and relatives. In the receiving line were President and Mrs. O'Connor, Dean Dorothy Larned, Mr. and Mrs. Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Gilday, Rev. Fr. Sweeney, and Miss Barbara M. Sample of the Vocational Household Arts department, president of the graduating class.

Class Night Program

Class night was held Saturday evening on Horace Mann terrace with more than 1000 parents and friends attending. The traditional daisy chain was followed by a group of selections by the Glee club under the direction of Edward F. Gilday.

A colorful and touching ceremony was the forming of the friendship circle with all the seniors in long white dresses. As the lawn and terrace were lighted with colored lamps and flares, the seniors sang a number of songs including "Framingham," "Auld Lang Syne,"