

Educators from Canada and Honduras Prefer Wisconsin County Normal Plan

The province of Saskatchewan recently commissioned two members of its Department of Education to make a five to six week survey of rural teacher training institutions covering ten to twelve states in the U. S. A. The purpose was to discover the most suitable means of preparing high school graduates in two years for teaching rural schools in Saskatchewan.

Chosen were: Dr. J. W. Tait, Director of Teacher Training and Supervision and Principal G. A. Brown, Provincial Normal School, Moose Jaw, Sas.

In Wisconsin their survey included a careful study of the County Normal School plan for preparing rural teachers. Since returning Dr. Tait writes:

“We saw nothing on our trip equal to your rural school unit in its possibility for rural practice teaching.”

In a second letter of December 19th dating, Dr. Tait says:

“I was sufficiently impressed with the excellence of your rural school unit for practice teaching purposes that we hope to set up six such units for each of our Normal Schools in this province on an experimental basis, gradually increasing the number to thirty for each school as they justify their existence.”

It is encouraging to have other countries adopt the Wisconsin plan.

Recently Dr. Angel G. Hernandez, Minister of Education in Honduras visited Wisconsin to study rural education and to confer with Wisconsin educators. With him came Dr. Lloyd H. Hughes, Program Officer, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Washington, D. C.

A visit to one of Wisconsin’s County Normal Schools was arranged for Dr. Hernandez. His reactions to Wisconsin County Normals are expressed in the following letter received from Dr. Hughes, January 18, 1945:

“It was stimulating to meet with you and the other county normal school principals, and to learn of the Wisconsin rural teacher training program. Dr. Hernandez afterwards told me that, on his return to Honduras, he hopes to introduce in that country many of the things that you are doing.

Our visit to Mr. Smith’s County Normal School at Union Grove was most interesting and Dr. Hernandez considers his experience there the highlight of his trip to the Middle West. The program of studies, the teacher training plan, and the methods of teaching used in this school so impressed the Minister that he plans to use it as a model for the new normal school in his country.

I, too, was impressed by the work that Mr. Smith is doing, and if possible, would like to work out some arrangement whereby our exchange students from the other American republics might spend time with Mr. Smith.”
Folk dancing — a popular student recreational activity