

I. INTRODUCTION

1. For Whom This Pamphlet Is Intended

This pamphlet is intended for the use of all persons in Wisconsin directly interested in the training of country teachers. It is hoped that it will be read by men and women who, though not responsible for school courses, are interested in improving country life through country schools.

2. The Aim in View in Its Publication

Its aim is to give publicity to the good work which has been done and to offer concrete suggestions which may lead to better work in the future. It is hoped that it may contribute towards the solution of some of the problems which have puzzled training teachers and superintendents.

It is not proposed to offer suggestions concerning the teaching of academic high school subjects, although students preparing to become country teachers need the fundamentals of a secondary education as well as professional training. Teachers of these academic branches should consult frequently the Manual of the Free High Schools of Wisconsin issued by the Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction. The books on the State Teachers' Reading Circle List especially adapted for high schools should be studied.

II. BASIS FOR SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

1. Reports of State Supervisors

The supervisors in the state department have made numerous visits during the past few years to schools training country teachers and also to country schools themselves. The conferences of county superintendents, of supervising teachers, and of training school teachers held during the past few years have proven very suggestive.

2. The Manual and Other Publications

Ranking almost equal in importance with these first-hand observations has been a study of the 1916 edition of the Manual of the Elementary Course of Study for the Common Schools of Wisconsin issued by the state department and of the catalogs published by county training schools and state normal schools. Many recent books and pamphlets by experts on country schools have been consulted. The United States Bureau of Education bulletins have proven especially helpful. Some of the addresses heard at national rural conferences have furnished suggestions.