

NEW NORMAL SCHOOL IS NOW NECESSARY

So Marcus White Tells Rotarians
at Noon Luncheon

"Public Schools" was the topic of the talk given by Marcus White of the Normal school at the Rotary club luncheon at the Elks' grill this noon. As has often been said, if more people could attend the Rotary club luncheon more good for the city would probably result. Mr. White chose this subject as part of the campaign he is attempting to carry on for a new Normal school in New Britain.

That such a new school is needed in New Britain and Connecticut was shown in the talk by Mr. White. He explained that 74 years ago the Normal school was first built in this city. At that time it was one of the five Normal schools in the United States. Three others were in Massachusetts and one in New York. During these first years the state of Connecticut was a pioneer and a leader in education and other states trailed. Today this state is trailing most every other one in the union and is far from being in the lead. As a proof of this it may be noted that the lack of trained teachers in Connecticut cannot be compared to any other state, according to Mr. White.

"At the last session of the legislature money was appropriated for the new site which was purchased in the northern part of the city and the plans for the new buildings were made. The present legislature is now being asked what appropriation will be made to make the proposed school a reality. 'What will New Britain do in such a matter' is the big question today," continued Mr. White. "Senator Challenger, from Bridgeport, insists that we do something on the matter. As a result of his insistence he has called on Mayor Curtis, explained his viewpoint and the latter is now arranging a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, the school board, the common council and all citizens interested, to be held soon, at which time the question will be discussed. At the meeting of the common council last night it was voted that this organization will do its utmost to bring the new school to New Britain," he added.

In continuing his talk, Mr. White told of how the greatest question before the country today is the getting of right kind of teachers. To bring the matter home Mr. White pointed out two examples in New Britain of conditions in the schools unknown to most of the citizens.

"The majority of the people in this city as well as others are ignorant of prevailing situations which confront the school boards. Here in New Britain there is one school with 630 children registered in it. It has been proven that less than 1 per cent of these pupils come from families where English is spoken. The school authorities have also found a most peculiar case in which two children figure.

Both are 12 years of age, were born and brought up in New Britain and yet neither one of them can talk a word of English. These are the conditions confronting us today and to combat them we must have well trained teachers. It is the above mentioned kind of boys and girls that we are to bring up as American citizens," the speaker said.

"Education is in a very critical condition and when Professor Angell, the new president of Yale college, gave a recent speech he said that there were two things which would greatly aid the betterment of education. They are schools for the proper training of teachers and a revision of taxation in the various cities and states. The tax raising question in the cities today is very inadequate and there should be more means of raising money in cities than we have today. One million, five hundred dollars is needed to build the new Normal school in Stanley Quarter. This is one-twentieth the cost of building a new battleship but yet it is much easier to get a new battleship than it is a new school. It has also been said that more money is spent in the United States in one year on cosmetics, powder, etc., than for the entire educational system in the country," he said.

In concluding his talk, Mr. White asked for the support of the Rotary club in the undertaking and immediately a motion was made and passed in which the local club members stated they would back him in the propaganda for the school and anything that was in their power to do.

The hall this noon was gayly decorated in green and yellow streamers and each man as he sat down to the table received a token appropriate to Easter time. Previous to the talk by the speaker, President Leon Sprague cordially welcomed five new members of the Rotary club seated at a table bearing the sign "Baby Rotarians" while five little live chickens were cooped in a cage in the middle of the table. Mr. Sprague also announced that the next meeting of the club would be held on Thursday of next week and C. Adkinson, executive secretary of the Boys' Federation in New York, would be the speaker.