

# PREDICTS SHORTAGE OF 500 TEACHERS

## Principal White of Normal School at New Britain Wants New Plant.

### SOME SCHOOLS MAY NOT OPEN IN FALL.

A shortage of 500 teachers for the public schools of Connecticut was predicted by Principal Marcus White of the State Normal School at New Britain at a hearing yesterday before the committee on education on a bill, introduced by Senator Edward W. Broder, to provide for a new school building and dormitory at the school. Mr. White said that 700 new teachers will be needed next fall and that the state normal schools will be able to furnish less than 200. He read statements from several school superintendents throughout the state to show that an alarming shortage exists and that radical measures will have to be taken to meet it.

Mr. White produced figures to show that in the past three years forty-seven towns have furnished the state with no trained teachers and thirty-two have contributed only one each. Hartford has produced forty-nine in the past three years.

Farmington, Mr. White said, has furnished only one girl to the normal schools in the past three years, while the town has engaged twenty-five new teachers this year and according to the superintendent will have trouble in securing enough teachers for next year. West Hartford has not furnished the normal schools with a single girl for the past three years and has hired thirty-six new teachers in that time. The East Hartford superintendent was quoted as "looking with dread upon the task of engaging teachers for the coming year."

"I predict, gentlemen," said Mr. White to the committee, "that many schools in the smaller towns of this state will fail to open their doors this fall, and that if they do open their doors, the schools will be conducted by teachers who are not qualified to teach. In New Britain we have many teachers who never had a day's training or experience until they walked into the school room to start work."

Mr. White painted a gloomy picture of working conditions at the New Britain Normal School and said that in his opinion an adequate plant would enable him to double the enrollment, which is now 120 or the lowest in twenty-five years, inside of three years.

#### No Cellar for Coal.

"When I go to a high school to persuade girls to come to the school in competition with representatives of business colleges and commercial offices, what have I to offer? I have a building that was built forty years ago and has not from the day of its completion been fit for teaching purposes. It has no cellar and our winter's coal supply has to be dumped outside. The lighting is so bad that you have to carry a candle to find your way to some of the recitation rooms without falling upstairs. A New Britain manufacturer told me recently, after inspecting the plant, that if he made his help work in a place like that he would be arrested and ought to be. When the girls come to New Britain they have no place to live and engage in any social life. Some of those girls are living two together in small rooms, some of them sleeping two in a bed. We have no land surrounding the building. If a girl drops a piece of paper out of the window it falls on somebody's else land. There is no room for tennis courts or any of those things that would enable us to develop a school which Connecticut girls could honestly want to attend. I am not asking for a plant as good as those in Massachusetts, New York, Indiana or other states, but I do want decent accommodations for Connecticut girls who want to enter the noblest profession on earth."

#### Can't Remodel Present Plant.

Senator Edward W. Hazen, the chairman of the committee, asked Mr. White if he considered the erection of new buildings as important from the point of view of relieving the shortage of teachers as the increase of salaries. Mr. White replied that the salaries were the most important thing of all, but that this bill provided one of a number of things that would be necessary to save the situation. Mr. White said that estimates on the improvement of the present building indicate that it would take at least \$168,000 for that and another \$240,000 for a dormitory. Mr. White thought that any idea of improving the present building should be abandoned.

#### Want Monthly Reports.

Senator Daniel J. Bailey appeared before the committee in behalf of his bill to require the authorities of state normal schools to render monthly statements to the students of their standing in the institution. Senator Bailey said that pupils are unable to find out where they stand until they are refused an appointment at the end of the year. Principal John R. Perkins of the state normal school at Danbury and Principal White appeared in opposition, saying that such a requirement would require a great deal of extra clerical work and that at present students who are deficient in their work are notified of that fact at intervals of about nine weeks. Reports on the work of all pupils are issued twice a year, Mr. Perkins said, adding that he thought such matters should be left to the state board of education and not made a state law.