

# N. BRITAIN NORMAL SCHOOL IS UNSAFE

**So Charges State Education  
Board, Asking Legislature  
For Money.**

## **NEW PLANT NEEDED TO YIELD TEACHERS**

**Conn. Said to Ignore Its  
Pressing Need of Trained  
Instructors.**

On the ground that the present plant is inadequate, superannuated and unsafe, the state board of education is waging a campaign before the General Assembly to bring about favorable action for an appropriation with which to construct new buildings for the New Britain State Normal School. In a pamphlet issued yesterday the board charges that the present buildings would be condemned if used for factory purposes and that a new plant was needed to assure the state a sufficient number of trained teachers.

### **Will Need 800 Teachers.**

The board says further:—

The number of new teachers that will be needed by the schools of Connecticut next September will probably be over 800. The number that will be graduated at the state's normal schools will be about 200 and there will be, for the most part, teachers for the lower elementary grades. All attempts to increase the efficiency of our schools by increasing teachers' salaries, by tenure of employment, by liberal pensions and generous state grants, will end in failure if an adequate supply of well trained teachers is not provided. An increase in the salaries of those teachers who are now at work will be a good thing but it will not increase the supply of trained teachers, and the lure of higher salaries will be of no avail unless the state is prepared to train those who wish to become teachers. This it cannot do at present in anything like a proper proportion to its needs. The state normal school at New Britain was established in 1819.

### **Only 25 Towns Represented.**

"Twenty years ago sixty towns in the state were represented in the attendance of the school. This year only twenty-five towns are represented. The present normal school building is about forty years old and was erected at a time when the needs of a normal school were very imperfectly known and the attendance was very small. It is today totally inadequate for the training of teachers, being inferior in its facilities and equipment to any other normal school plant now in existence in this country.

"Concerning the need of dormitories there is no need to speak in these days. The influence of dormitory life upon school spirit, upon the character and health of the students, upon the enthusiasm and effectiveness of alumni associations cannot be exaggerated. At the present time it is simply impossible to find suitable boarding places in private families for more than a very few who desire them and these few are compelled to pay from 25 to 50 per cent. more for board than the more fortunate students in neighboring states where dormitories are provided. Furthermore, those who commute are paying nearly twice as much as they paid a few years ago.

### **State Ignores Situation.**

"At present the state of Connecticut is training teachers only for the elementary grades below the grammar school or junior high school. There is a great demand at present for well-trained teachers for junior high schools, for teachers of rooms providing for defective and abnormal children, for teachers of evening schools and Americanization classes, as well as for teachers of special departments like art, music, etc. These needs the state at present completely ignores. Furthermore, the state should provide a continuous year for teacher training in order that those who are teaching during the regular school year may carry on studies during the summer session, thereby increasing their worth to the state. The central situation of New Britain and the comprehensiveness of the proposed new plant both in buildings and grounds would make this school the ideal school of the state for the activities just mentioned.

"The Legislature of 1919 was convinced of the soundness of these arguments and appropriated money for purchasing land and providing plans for a new plant. A beautiful tract of land about twenty-five acres in extent has been purchased and the plans are now ready."