

Alumni in The News

Teaching Standards And Oliver Hodge

BY PAT LANCE

This much-hashed matter of teaching standards and payment in Oklahoma public schools is a matchbox item for Dr. Oliver Hodge, '33ma, '37 ph.d., state superintendent of public instruction.

"I want to see the day when every teacher in Oklahoma has a minimum of a B.A. degree," was the administrator's emphatic statement.

Present standards specify a minimum of 60 hours college credit for teaching the elementary grades and 90 hours for high school instructors. In 1938, the State Board of Education passed a regulation, to become effective in 1942, that all teachers in accredited high school districts must have a B.A. degree. Like many other items, this was "put off until tomorrow"—tomorrow being designated as 1945. In '45, it was re-postponed until 1948. The rule was then rescinded because of a lack of qualified teachers. When it is feasible to do so, Dr. Hodge added, it will be set up again.

In February of 1947, a Commission on Teachers' Education and Certification, under the sponsorship of the state department of education and the Oklahoma Educational Association, was established, with Dr. J. E. Fellows, University dean of admissions and records, as chairman. The objectives included a two-year program for studying and revamping the education of teachers and their certification. One of Dr. Hodge's aims is to establish rules for certification for school administrators, both on the level of principals and superintendents.

But, to raise the standards comes the old bugaboo of compensation. In one year, 1946-47, Oklahoma lost 1,469 teachers, 452 of them going to the greener side of the fence in other states. There are not enough new ones to take care of this terrific turnover. That, Dr. Hodge laments, is the situation today.

One of the things he is fighting for is more money for Oklahoma teachers. The National Education Association recommends a minimum salary of \$2,400 for those with a B.A. degree, with an increase graduated according to experience (\$100 for each year up to five). In Oklahoma, the minimum for a teacher with a B.A. degree is \$1,500.

"This is a direct influence on the tremendous number of teachers moving away from Oklahoma," Dr. Hodge declared.

The federal aid-bill for public schools, now pending in Congress, has Dr. Hodge's definite approval. This would mean a \$9,000,000 appropriation for this state's public schools and, according to federal stipulations, would have to be used for current expense items. This would be enough to raise the standards and wages of the Oklahoma educational setup to a more suitable, if not ideal, level.

Audio-visual education, inaugurated this year, is "here to stay at all levels of education," Dr. Hodge stated. However, to be most effective, it must be, and is, used in co-ordination with text material. It supplements, rather than replaces.

With a \$125,000 grant from the state legislature, the State Board of Education has established eight film libraries, one at the University, one at Oklahoma A. and M., and one at each of the six state colleges. Forty thousand dollars went for the purchase of films, supplementing the ones already in the college collections, which are checked out by the public schools from the depository which is in their district.

The remainder of the allocation goes for "matching"—any school or county may go together and the state board will match their money up to \$1,000 for a local library. Films placed in the local schools are chosen by that institution for its own needs.



DR. OLIVER HODGE, '33M.ED., '37PH.D.

An improved and diversified curriculum is another of Dr. Hodge's goals for Oklahoma secondary schools. The added courses would aid in the achievement of his philosophy of education, that "schools have a dual responsibility."

"Not only should they teach our young people how to make a living," he stated, "but they should also teach them how to live a better life."

In working toward this aim, summer workshops have been established at O. U. and at Oklahoma A. and M. Those for elementary instructors will be held at the University, those for secondary education at the agricultural school.

These eight-week sessions will be devoted to study in curriculum improvement. Scholarships will be given to those attending. On a smaller scale, similar seminars will be held at various state colleges. These will last two weeks and will be purely voluntary, expenses not being paid.

Sessions of this nature have been held previously in other states, Dr. Hodge noted, but he believes that, as much as possible, they should be carried on in Oklahoma. This, in his opinion, will give greater opportunity to the leadership which the Sooner state has.

However, the new curriculum improvements will not include anything so radical as a strictly vocational high school, such as is established in larger industrial areas. The educational director sees no chance for such a high school in Oklahoma within the next five years. According to Dr. Hodge, it is just as vital to teach people "how to live a better life" as it is to teach them to make a living.

Plans for extending mental and physical hygiene departments in Oklahoma high schools were abruptly halted when the legislature curtailed the education board's budget. Dr. Hodge hopes that later appropriations will make this possible.

Vitally interested in education and the development of the state school system, Dr. Hodge previously served as superintendent of Tulsa County schools. He has taught at Collinsville and holds the Bachelor's degree from Tulsa University. His wife, the former Faye Hall, also holds the Master's from O. U. They reside in Edmond.

As state superintendent of education, Dr. Hodge also acts as president of the Oklahoma State Board of Education. Other members of the Board are W. T. Doyel, vice-president; R. L. McLean, '38m.ed, Anadarko; Hugh A. Carroll, '05, Oklahoma City; Elbert L. Costner, '29ba, '34ma, Poteau; Loyd J. Anderson, Garber; Joe N. Croom, Okmulgee, and Roy Craig, Leedey.

Dr. Ralph Bienfang, professor of pharmacy, is author of *The Subtle Sense*, a book dealing with the study and classification of odors.

Brown Gets High Masonic Job

Lowell C. Brown, '37m.ed, who was for eight years a member of the University faculty, has been appointed membership representative for the Masonic Masters of Indian Consistory.

Brown, is a 32 degree Mason from Muskogee, Oklahoma. In his new post he will spend most of his time out in the state furthering the growth of the Consistory.

Being a certificate lecturer, he is considered a very able speaker. His services are available to any Masonic group applying for such. His headquarters are at the Masonic Temple in McAlester.

Born in Earlsboro, Oklahoma, August 7, 1903, Brown is well known throughout the state. In addition to having taught school in the state, he was for two years regional director of the National Safety Council, and for the last year the owner and operator of a soft drinks beverage plant in Muskogee.

He and Mrs. Brown served three years as superintendents of the Scottish Rite Masonic Dormitory in Norman.

Miss Shanklin Has New Position

Brunette Shanklin, '30ba, administrative secretary in the office of the University vice-presidents, was appointed director of the O. U. Extension Division lecture and entertainment department at an April meeting of the Board of Regents.

Clee Fitzgerald, University law student from Caddo, will continue as student assistant and manager of the University Celebrity Series. The entertainment department books faculty speakers and student groups for appearances over the state.

Miss Shanklin, who has served as secretary in the Dean of Men's office, has also held the post of administrative secretary in the state civilian program of vocational rehabilitation in Oklahoma City.

New Title Given Dr. Swearingen

Dr. Lloyd E. Swearingen, '20bs, '21ms, professor of chemistry and director of the University of Oklahoma Research Institute, was appointed a research professor by the Board of Regents recently. His appointment is effective September 1.

Created by the Regents in 1943, the chair of research professor is awarded to a person who "shall have made distinguished contribution to knowledge, and who must have demonstrated over a period of years to the learned world his vigorous leadership in his field."

Swearingen received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1926. Before coming to the University in 1923 as assistant professor, he had served as chairman of the department of physical sciences at Southwestern State Teachers College, Weatherford.

He served as a colonel in the chemical warfare service in the war and was released from duty in March, 1946. He participated in the battles of Normandy, Central France, the Rhineland and others.

Best known for his research in the field of colloidal chemistry, Swearingen is the author of numerous papers on the subject.

He is past president of the University chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi and former president of the Oklahoma section of the American Chemical Society. He is also a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, Gamma Alpha, Phi Delta Chi and Acacia.

The word "got" and its derivations has more meanings to children than any other in the English language, according to Dr. Henry D. Rinsland, '20ba, '24ma, professor of education.