

[Vermont's Interests]
We fully agree with The St. Albans Messenger and The Bennington Banner that one of the most vital questions before the people of Vermont today is the care of those poor unfortunate who are left without a home or are worse than homeless. Children who are growing up in ignorance and surrounded by influences that tend to make them anything but useful citizens if not criminals.
This great question is world wide and is demanding the most earnest consideration of the great statesmen and students of human progress in this country.
If the proper development of the human body was worthy the attention of the great statesmen of ancient Greece, how much more important it is to the future of this state and nation that not only the body but the mind be properly developed that we become a country of great men. If physical development could make a people great in history as it did the Spartans what might not the right development of mind and body do for Vermont, do for America?
If the legislature could be brought to a full realization of this tremendous question and pass a bill providing for the establishment of a great state industrial school or schools where not only the mind and body of that great class of future citizens could be trained and developed but at the same time they might be taught not the art of war as in Sparta but the arts of peace some true legislation adapted to their capabilities, it would make this session, and the members of this legislature, famous for all time to come and blaze the way to similar development of good citizenship throughout the nation.
It is too much to hope for this now. The people have not been aroused to its tremendous importance. In this state and this country, but the day will come and we trust in the not far distant future when this question will overshadow all others.
What to do now is the question of the hour.
The Vermont industrial school at Vergennes has commenced this great work and is making a tremendous success of it.
This is the testimony of legislative committees from other states, as well as this legislature, or superintendents and statesmen at home and abroad who have recently visited the institution and seen with their own eyes what is being accomplished in the physical, mental, and moral development of the boys and girls that have been committed to its care by the state.
If this school, now so badly crowded, could be enlarged at a small expense it would be in shape to furnish a great object lesson to the people of Vermont of what could be done along the lines of saving and making good citizens of a great class of boys and girls who might otherwise grow up to become a menace to the state instead of its support and strength in the years to come.
The Vermont industrial school has the right management now, that is so essential to carrying out successfully this great work.
It is today, not a penal institution but an ideal home, an ideal common school, an ideal industrial school.
There are no criminals in it as some papers, without knowledge of what the real conditions are, intimate. The good are separated from the bad and if any criminals are sent to the school who cannot be made into good students, good members of the great happy family, they are sent down to the penal institution at Rutland, the house of correction. There they are confined as in penal institutions.
There is no row of a high fence around this school, nor bars to any windows or cells with strong bolts to confine these boys and girls, as the power of love and kindness that raise here makes every boy and girl loyal to the spirit of the institution and

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