

VERMONT HIGHWAYS

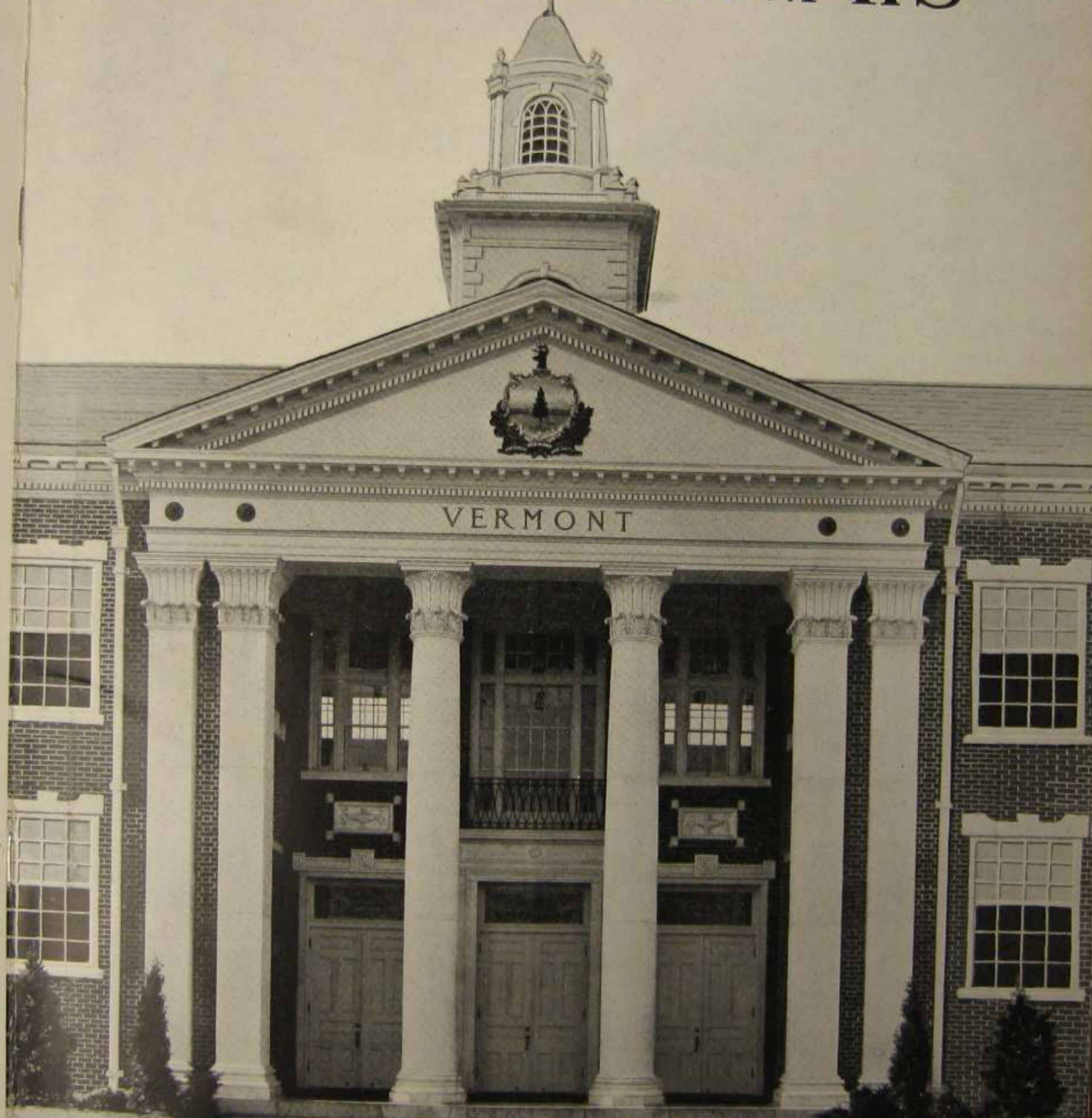


Shells

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industry.

DOCTOR, VERMONT
MARBLE



September 1930



THE VERMONT BUILDING

on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield was formally opened by Governor Weeks on Tuesday of exposition week last year. The building was designed by W. H. McLean, architect, of Boston and constructed by the Loucks and Clarke Corporation of Wallingford, Conn. Architecture is of Georgian type; foundation of Barre granite; pillars, heads, sills etc. of white marble from quarries of Vermont Marble Co.; roof and walks of Vermont variegated slate. The woodwork is of mill construction using Ascutney mountain spruce. A hard water-struck brick with white mortar joints harmonizes with the granite and marble.

The dimensions of the building are 85 ft. frontage and 143 ft. depth. The interior contains forty-two exhibition spaces. Total cost was \$59,524.44.

The commission appointed by Gov. Weeks, having charge of building and its erection, were Senator Guy H. Boyce of Proctor, Chairman, E. H. Jones, Commissioner of Agriculture, of Montpelier, Senator Walter H. Crockett of Burlington, Representatives Morton F. Downing of Bellows Falls, Secretary, and James A. Stacey of Windsor.

There follows a list of this year's exhibitors.

State Dept. of Agriculture		Granite City Creamery Inc.	Barre
State Dept. of Highways		Windham County Fruit Growers	Brattleboro
State Dept. of Fish & Game		Dairy Association	Lyndonville
State Dept. of Publicity		Aiken Nurseries	Putney
State Dept. of Forestry		Vermont 4 H Club	Burlington
Vermont Maple Products	So. Royalton	Central Vermont Public Service	
Vermont Marble Co.	Proctor		131 State St., Boston, Mass.
University of Vermont	Burlington	Vermont Structural Slate Co.	Fair Haven
Rock of Ages Corp.	Barre	New England Power Assoc.	Boston, Mass.
Vermont Natives Industries	Bridgewater	Stoware Inc.	Stowe, Vt.
American Fork & Hoe Co.	Wallingford	G. H. Grimm Co.	Rutland
Wizard Oil Burner	Barre		

BUFFALO-SPR

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NEW ENGLAND SALES A

11 Carleton St., Cambridge, Ma

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THE BRANDON STATE SCHOOL

By TRUMAN J. ALLEN, M. D.
Superintendent

PREVIOUS to 1912 there was no provision in Vermont for the training of mentally defective children except for a relatively small group who were sent to schools in other states. People throughout the country were becoming generally awakened to the needs of sub-normal children and increased opportunities for their care and training were being made by enabling legislation in various states. The legislature of 1912 established the Vermont State School for Feeble-Minded Children for the care, training and education of mentally defective children, and enacted further legislation relating to the administration of such an institution. For a few years a Board of Trustees had charge and made early developments; but this Board was superseded by the Director of State Institutions in 1917. This office was in turn merged in the Department of Public Welfare in 1923 and since that time this Department, headed by a Commissioner has administered the School. Dr. Frederick J. Russell was the first Superintendent, and was succeeded by Dr. T. J. Allen, the present incumbent in August, 1918. The original act provided for admission upon proper commitment by the probate courts of children between the ages of five and twenty-one years. Act No. 60, laws of 1919 legalized the commitment of women between twenty-one and forty-five years with the approval of the Governor. A few such women have been received. The name was changed from the Vermont State School for Feeble-Minded Children to the Brandon State

School in 1929. The power of discharge of pupils is vested with the Commissioner of Public Welfare. The first children were admitted December 11, 1915 and for a year and a half or more, with a few exceptions, all admissions were Vermont children transferred from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts institutions and from the Vermont Industrial School. To August 1, 1930 there have been 440 individuals admitted.



TRUMAN J. ALLEN, M. D.
Superintendent

Development of Property
and Plans

The first tangible development was the purchase of a three-hundred acre farm of the I. N. Chase Estate formerly known as the Forest Park Farm and owned by H. R. C. Watson, located 1 1/4 miles north of Brandon village. Later an adjoining farm of 80 acres, "the Barnard Place" was acquired by purchase and the "Powers Farm", also adjoining, leased. The site for buildings was chosen in a maple grove west of the farm buildings, a dormitory was built, water supply from the Brandon Fire District was obtained, and a main sewer laid to a stream emptying into the Otter Creek. Plans were made for the proposed plant providing accommodations for approximately five hundred and a building program according to such plans has been in operation for several years.

The buildings, (except one stucco dormitory) are of brick, and are of fire proof construction. The plant is entirely modern in every respect, but the institution is yet in the process of development, and there is a considerable building program

Handicapped

VERMONT HIGHWAYS



THE FOUR
MAIN
DORMITORIES
OF THE
INSTITUTION



ahead. There are accommodations now for practically three hundred. The permanent buildings now consist of the following: Dormitories A, C, D and E, Central Heating Plant, Laundry, and Service Building. (Dormitory B was made over from a barn and serves the farm boys). In addition to these structures there are the original farm buildings now used temporarily for administrative and housing as well as farm purposes. Also a new institution shop has been built as well as tool house, piggery and other accessory buildings.

Applications and Commitments

When the admission of a child is desired, the parents or any interested per-

son, preferably in cooperation with the parents, should write to the school for the necessary history blanks to enable them to prepare a complete history of the child and family. This is the only way an application can be properly made. Such an application furnishes the data enabling the School to judge as to acceptance. It also supplies the facts required to study and help the child. If accepted, the one making the application is notified accordingly and given certain instruction as to procedure.

All cases are committed by the probate courts upon an application brought by the parents, guardian, selectmen or Department of Public



TOP TO
BOTTOM—
DORMITORIES
"A" "C",
"D" AND "E"



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Welfare. Two physicians certify that the child is a proper subject for commitment and other necessary evidence is introduced at the hearing. Commitment is made at the full expense of the State or at the expense of relatives in full or part depending on the evidence presented as to the financial ability of the family. In all cases the town where the child resides must execute a bond providing for clothing.



THE DAY-ROOM DORMITORY AND ONE OF THE SCHOOLROOMS

Concepts of the Problem

In 1912 when the School was established by law and for some years thereafter the country was in the throes of a general eugenic alarm relative to mental deficiency. Goddard and other pioneers had brought to light the worst type, the "museum cases" such as the Kallikaks and their kind—families that by reason of transmitted deficiency had for generations been public liabilities. The bad side was known, the more hopeful was not appreciated. They were all regarded as

bad, low grade, hopeless, uneducable and defective from hereditary causes. All the ills that "flesh is heir to" were attributed to mental deficiency. Doubtless this attitude was timely and contributed in no small way to a hastening of more adequate provision for their needs. However, since then, experience has quite revolutionized our concepts of the whole problem.

Consequently, whereas formerly the keynote was sterilization or life-long segregation, hoping to largely eliminate mental deficiency by one fell stroke, now the objective of any sensible program is concerned with early specialized training and later supervision of as many as possible, and their restoration to community life under suitable conditions. No longer do we search for a panacea for there is none. No longer is our major concern with the smaller number of low grade helpless subjects, but rather efforts are directed in behalf of the morons who constitute the great mass of mentally defective individuals.

Purposes and Activities

An institution then, plays a somewhat different though more useful role than formerly. It is becoming less custodial and more educational. It serves two purposes, (1) eugenic, limiting the reproduction of defectives by segregation, (2) humanitarian or social, referring to the care, training and rehabilitation of those committed to its charge, seeking to make them social assets rather than social burdens. The activities of such an institution are necessarily more directly related to the latter object. It is assumed that so far as possible it should be a school and not a "home" or "asylum"; It is furthermore assumed that each child must be carefully studied and understood if it is to be helped. Therefore, the work becomes at once both medical or psychiatric and educational. In the belief that such a policy is basic, each child is given particular individual study—a study that is comprehensive and includes the entire family and personal historical background together with careful psychometric and

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THE SERVICE BUILDING

physical examinations and continued observation. It is no small task to become entirely familiar with each pupil, but rather requires an exhaustive and individualized study. The importance of such a study cannot be over-estimated. The only way a pupil can be known and understood is by a very little constructive work undertaken.

The Institution a School. The entire institution and every department and activity is in the larger sense a school, whether it be a farm, shop, kitchen, laundry, sewing room or other work. Perhaps nothing contributes so much to the general welfare of the pupils than the manual training and ethical discipline and guidance. School manual training classes are most successfully maintained and of course are of fundamental importance. Organized and directed play is not forgotten and a central playground is of great importance especially during the summer vacation. The social and community life of the school is maintained by means of parties, dances, moving picture shows and programs in which the pupils take part. Religious services are held in charge of the Board of Clergy. In short, efforts are directed to make the pupils better and happier; to develop them ethically and industrially; to promote their physical well-being and to provide them with school opportunities suited to their needs.

Mobility of Population Important Problem

An effort is made to make the population mobile as possible through parole, and this

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Mobility of Population Important Problem

An effort is made to make the population as mobile as possible through parole, and this work

is to be extended and further developed. The appointment of a social service worker and parole agent will help in greater accomplishments along these lines. To effect the desirable movement of population is perhaps the most important problem that confronts the administration of a state institution. Success in so doing depends in no small way upon the degree of community cooperation such a program receives, as well as the development of adequate parole facilities connected therewith. The results of such a parole policy in this and similar institutions over many years amply justify its continuance. Anyhow, there is no alternative. Permanent segregation is largely out of the question for economic if for no other reasons. Moreover it is eminently unfair to the individual, for a time arrives when an institution ceases to be of further service to many of its members.



GOOD FOOD IS NOT MORE ESSENTIAL THAN A GOOD PLACE TO EAT IT

Detached Colonies.—Two colonies detached from the parent institution are operated—one for girls in Rutland, where they are employed as domestics, and the other a farm colony for boys located about three miles south of Brandon. The Rutland colony was started in 1925 and the Farm Colony in 1928. These colonies furnish a means of parole for girls and boys and prove of benefit to the majority. From the colonies certain ones are discharged as circumstances permit. The per capita cost for maintenance is far lower than at the institution and a more normal life is provided

(Continued on page 23)

Finally, the American spirit must express itself in mass production. Every bit of highway is part of some route Atlantic to the Pacific, from Canada to And so it was inevitable that a few in Athens, Ohio, a trans-continental aviation made the effulgent promise that point of view of highway beautification the "most delightful route" across the May Heaven speed the day!

at Night

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R. C. D.

(Continued from page 19)

for them after they have ceased to need the close supervision at the School.



THE LAUNDRY BUILDING, WITHIN AND WITHOUT



In addition to the paroles at the Colonies, several are on parole in working homes. The total population July 1, 1930 was 272, of whom 40 were on parole in the colonies and working homes. Many of these boys and girls are saving money and in some instances have several hundred dollars in the bank.

Mental Deficiency

"Feeble-mindedness" is not an entity, but it is rather a term loosely applied to cover a great diversity of conditions arising from different and quite unrelated causes; sometimes hereditary, sometimes accidental or acquired, again both inherited and acquired. Like the term "insanity" it may have legal significance but to it can be attached little of scientific or biological import. One defective individual differs from another in the same ways that normals differ one from another. The great need is to know more relative to the causes and nature of the many kinds of defect ordinarily congregated under the term "feeble-mindedness."



PLAY IS MOST ESSENTIAL

Need of a Statewide Program.—A state as a whole is intimately concerned with mental deficiency, so any program to be effective must be statewide in every sense. Space does not permit of an extended discussion of such a program, but an outline follows. Before this is given, it should be emphasized that an institution is the pivot about which should revolve all other machinery. It is basic to any statewide endeavor and is the first but not the final step in any rational attempt to control the problem. Vermont has made commendable progress so far as its institution is concerned and has given it admirable support. Yet after all, the control of mental defectives is in no small way an extra-mural problem and because of its very size, if for no other reason must remain such. Not all can or should be institutionalized.



A COOK'S PARADISE

Program Outline.—Aside from institutional development Vermont has done little in a statewide sense to meet the needs of those handicapped by lowered intelligence.

Such activities include:

1. Identification
2. Examination of backward school children
3. Clinics
4. Special Classes in the public schools
5. Community supervision and responsibility
6. Adequate marriage laws with enforcement
7. Sterilization

Explanatory of the first four, it may be stated that a system similar to the Massachusetts plan

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whereby backward school children are examined in clinics held for the purpose would identify all defective children of school age and thereby largely define our problem. Such examinations repeated each year would furnish a continuing census. Identification having been made, the



MUCH GRUNTING, BUT ONLY AT THE PIGGERY

next duty is individual study and classification. There should be available for this purpose competent psychiatric and psychological service. This would lead to the development of special classes in the public schools for many and the institutionalizing of others. The special class would provide instruction suited to the needs of many children who are unable to do the work of their grades according to a prescribed curriculum and as a result of failure become rebellious to school work. Such children naturally develop an overwhelming sense of personal inferiority and compensate for it by bad behavior and delinquency. They become social outcasts.

By community supervision is meant the help that a community can afford its defectives, who for one reason or another are not in institutions.



THE INSTITUTION HERD

Such community work is best accomplished under the direction of a central state department, but the immediate responsibility is local. A town can care for certain strictly custodial subjects, it can

guide others in an occupational way, it can support special classes and aid in case history investigation and parole supervision. The towns can also be of invaluable assistance in the general guidance of cases discharged from an institution, for frequently all such individuals need is a certain amount of help and guardianship.

Marriage Laws.—To legally sanction and solemnize the marriage of mental defectives capable of bearing children is a serious matter. The present marriage laws are hopelessly inadequate to correct this evil. It is a subject well worthy of careful legislative study in the attempt to effect operable marriage laws that would prevent the marriage of conspicuously defective individuals who would perpetuate their decadent stock.

Sterilization.—Between 1907 and 1926, twenty-three states passed sterilization laws. The constitutionality of such legislation was established by the United States Supreme Court in 1927 by an opinion on the Virginia statute given by Mr.



THE SHOP

Justice Holmes. Sterilization is not recommended as a panacea, or as a substitute for the other methods heretofore mentioned. It has limited rather than general application. It can never supplant the service that must be rendered through the institutions, public schools and community supervision, but it can supplement in a very definite way the work of all of these, as the experiences of other states bear witness. It is recommended for the following reasons—(1) As supplementary to the work of an institution, enabling the safe discharge of many inoffensive adults, as well as many individuals socially adequate except from the eugenic standpoint, thereby making room for the admission of others for purposes of training. (2) It would justify the marriage of certain in-

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dividuals suitable for it if they could be prevented from having children. In many such cases marriage brings about a satisfactory adjustment. (3) Many defectives are unsuited for parenthood for other reasons than those strictly eugenic. (4) Such legislation would be applicable to conspicuously subnormal married women whose children are being committed to an institution while



COURT HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, VT.
Where Declaration of Independence

an occupational way, it can support and aid in case history investigation and supervision. The towns can also be of assistance in the general guidance of children from an institution, for frequently such children need a certain amount of supervision.

Laws.—To legally sanction and regulate marriage of mental defectives and their children is a serious matter. The present laws are hopelessly inadequate to the task. It is a subject well worthy of study in the attempt to effect better laws that would prevent the perpetuation of defectives and thus protect their decadent stock.

—Between 1907 and 1926, twenty-seven states passed sterilization laws. The Connecticut legislation was established by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1927 by an opinion written by Mr. Justice Brandeis.



THE SHOP

Sterilization is not recommended as a substitute for the other methods mentioned. It has limited general application. It can never replace the care that must be rendered through the home, public schools and community centers. It can supplement in a very definite way all of these, as the experiences of other states bear witness. It is recommended for the following reasons—(1) As supplementary to the care of children in an institution, enabling the safe care of any inoffensive adults, as well as of children socially adequate except from the standpoint, thereby making room for the care of others for purposes of training. (2) To justify the marriage of certain in-

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the mother remains at home to rear others. Often this is her only social misdemeanor.

Such a statewide program is not of sudden growth. It is, however, a goal toward which a state can direct and combine its efforts. Vermont has a vital need for such a definite policy on a large scale to meet in anything like an adequate way one of its major social problems.



COURT HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, VERMONT, SCENE OF MASSACRE, 1775
Where Declaration of Independence was declared, January 15, 1777.