

TRADE COURSE AS GIVEN IN MUNICIPAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SHOPS.

Of late there has been a growing desire on the part of principals and supervisors of large intermediate school shops, which have been doing good work and producing a large number of finished articles, to place these schools on such a basis that the graduates might be awarded the regular trade-course certificate.

These teachers should stop to consider the inconsistency of classifying graduates of municipal intermediate schools giving the trade course with graduates from this course as given in the provincial trade schools, or of school shops where they have the benefit of special teachers, the use of machinery, a suitable equipment of tools, and ample supplies. It is believed that such a teacher would consider himself far more successful with his big intermediate shop than he ever could hope to be with a school shop which lacks the essentials, but still ranks its graduates as having attainments equal to those of pupils who have completed the work in a regular trade school.

For the year ending December 31, 1914, the value of articles produced in the 267 municipal school shops amounted to ₱37,894.28. Of this total six municipal intermediate schools giving the trade course to 570 pupils fabricated articles valued at approximately ₱5,000 or an average of ₱8.77 per pupil. During the same period the provincial trade schools and school shops produced articles valued at ₱111,628.02, or an average of ₱30 per pupil.

It is believed that this showing is sufficient to warrant the Bureau of Education in planning to gradually eliminate the granting of trade-course certificates from schools other than provincial trade schools or school shops. Pupils of a mechanical turn of mind should have the benefits of all that the Bureau has to offer them in trade-course work, a condition which is believed to be possible only in schools having a sufficient equipment of machinery, tools, and supplies and the services of competent teachers. Pupils who have utilized the advantages of a real trade-school course should receive certificates which are not cheapened in value on account of their being granted to pupils who have not been able to enjoy the benefits of attending a well-equipped trade school, but who have completed only the wood-working course as offered in municipal intermediate shops.