

LOOKING ABOUT

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LOOKING ABOUT (Excerpt)

BY A. E. WINSHIP, EDITOR

DALLAS, TEXAS

Dallas had 158,976 population when the 1920 census was taken. Ten years before there were only 92,104, a fabulous gain of 72.6 per cent. But this is a mild statement of what Dallas has done.

The bank clearings in 1919 were \$1,631,376-165. Individual bank accounts in 1919 were \$1,930,526,000. The bank deposits December 31, 1919, were \$164,004,049.

These are startling figures.

Think of a city, an inland city, a city with fewer than 100,000 population ten years ago, ranking as the financial centre of the Southwest. Only one other city south of Mason and Dixon's line had more bank deposits in 1919. It is the largest inland cotton market in the world. Dallas has the largest State Fair grounds in the Union with \$2,225,000 invested in grounds and buildings.

THE SCHOOLS.

But none of these remarkable statements really interest us as the schools do. Dr. J. F. Kimball has the highest salary of any city superintendent in the South; \$72,000 and automobile service. His associates in the supervisory office have a better financial recognition than do these officers in any other southern city-- \$6,000 and \$5,000 respectively. We could give figures by the yard, but these are adequate.

A STATE LEADER.

Miss Lila Lee Williams, a grade teacher, is not only the leader, official and actual, of the City Grade Teachers' Association, but she is the president of the State Teachers' Association, which is of almost national proportions. So efficient is Miss Williams in leadership and in platform power that she was given extended leave of absence to take a leading part in the famous state campaign conducted by State Superintendent Annie Webb Blanton, which led to the success of the famous bond issue.

MUSICAL LEADERSHIP.

But Dallas has famous team work as well as great individual plays. We know of no other city that has any such record of achievement in demonstrated musical appreciation. Miss Sudie Williams, who has supervised the study of music in the city for six years, has attained national reputation as a supervisor, having taught with Hollis Dann at Cornell University Summer School of Music. Her great achievement is in **music memory**. Each year there is a **music memory contest** such as is nowhere else so far as we learn.

Last year there were 250 contestants. They had to learn to recognize from instrumental rendering fifty masterpieces that have not been used in any previous contest. A committee of experts select fifteen from the fifty.

Several cash prizes were given, one first, several second and third. Last year of the 250 contestants, 177 were letter-perfect, i. e., 177 won the first prize. The problem was solved by giving the 177 students a gold button which admits them to practically all concerts in the city under any auspices.

It is now fully realized that no group of fifty masterpieces can be selected that will not be completely mastered by about 200 high school students.