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SECTION I.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE FEDERAL BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION UNDER THE SMITH-HUGHES ACT.

JAMES P. MUNROE
Vice-Chairman, Federal Board for Vocational Education.

Many of those who have been closely associated with the development of the Smith-Hughes Law are now in the fortunate position of being associated with its administration. As agents for carrying out the plans of those interested in this forward movement in education, they have a grave responsibility, increased, for the time being, by the fact that they are charged also with much important work in connection with the war.

It was an extraordinary chance which brought this legislation to fruition just before the entrance of the United States into the great war. For the machinery which it had been necessary to set up in the States for the peaceful purpose of promoting vocational education, is proving an essential factor in the performance of the task of training mechanics and technicians for war service which is now being undertaken and which is so essential to military success.

With the passage of much of the war legislation, and especially with the passing, by a Democratic Senate and House, of such a bill as that for National prohibition, it may be said that the Democracy of Jefferson has come definitely to an end, and that this country is now committed to the experiment of carrying on a republic with such centralization of authority as Hamilton and Washington would not have dared to imagine. The Smith-Hughes Law is one of the first steps in the federalization of education, and, as such, has the responsibility not only of setting a good example, but of so dealing with this principle of centralization that it will be of good rather than of harm to the Nation.