

SUDLERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL—DEDICATION

May 11, 1942

Sudlersville

THERE is a two-fold reason for the gratification we derive from attendance at these exercises. Firstly, there is dedicated your new high school, signaling another step forward in the advancement of education. Secondly, there is being graduated a class of students who have successfully completed the course at this institution of which Queen Anne's County and the State of Maryland are proud.

Such an occasion brings illustration of the American purpose to maintain education on the highest possible level. Herein lies the distinction between our conception of education's high estate and the attitude of the enemies of Democracy concerning the training of their youth.

Our unchangeable belief is that the educational system must not be influenced by any outside consideration. Maryland has afforded, and will continue to afford, the kind of education based upon the sole consideration of the welfare of the student. We know that if a course of training in the schools develops the mind of the future citizen to think for himself and to strive for the better things in life, then civilization and society are vastly improved.

When we note the fact that youth in the enemy country is being regimented for no other purpose than to follow blindly the mandates of a dictator, there is all the more reason for us to strengthen and to support our educational system so that the sons and daughters of free America may appreciate the value of their citizenship. There can be no doubt that if they understand the real nature and distinction of their citizenship, they will treasure it and unite it for future generations.

Much of the daily routine of our life is being gradually changed, but one of the oldest satisfactions is still with us. Graduation Day has come for you. It is a day that all of us earnestly hope will continue to be kept in spite of the many alterations that may have to be made in matters educational. The speed-up of industry is making its way into high school and colleges. Three semesters, instead of the customary two, are, in many institutions, being crowded into one year. Students and teachers will have to do with fewer holidays and work more strenuously than in the past.

Graduation Day has come to you—a day that may often have seemed as far off as the moon, and one more likely to be dreamed about as what might have been than enjoyed as an actual event. The day, however, is here, and now the diploma is yours. You have merited it, and you have every right to be happy about it. I congratulate you. This is a day to remember for the rest of your lives. You may have other graduation days, but I dare say that none will have the thrill of this graduation from high school.