

Deaf Mutes' Journal Jan 27, 1938, Page 5

Richmond, Va.

Members of the Virginia Commission for the Blind will appear before the coming session of the General

Assembly to seek an appropriation sufficient to build and operate the Virginia School for the Blind on the site purchased in 1925, ideally situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, «Just outside the city limits of Charlottesville.

Others who will stress the need of a school for the blind will be representatives of the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc., the Virginia Association of the Deaf and the Virginia Alumni Association of the Deaf, as well as numerous other organizations and individuals interested in the education of the deaf and blind. The movement to effect the separation of the schools for the deaf and blind at Staunton started in 1922 when an act providing of a separate school for the education of the white blind children of Virginia was approved in March of that year. The commission created made certain recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly in 1924, and a site for the proposed school was purchased that year. A definite policy having been established by the Assembly to educate the white blind children of the State in a separate school from that of the deaf, plans for the proposed school for the blind were designed by J. Binford Walford, Richmond architect, after a comprehensive study of the best planned and most satisfactory educational institutions for the blind in the United States.

Recent investigations showed that the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton is too crowded for safety and health. There are approximately 125 white blind children and almost as many deaf not in school because they cannot be accommodated. Everyone concedes that the Commonwealth is equally obligated to provide adequate education for this handicapped group as well as for the normal children.

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