

EMPHASIZES NEEDS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Washburne, of Winnetka Schools, Outlines Aims and Purposes of National School Week

NATIONAL AID SOUGHT

Bill Now Before National Congress Looking Toward Creation of Education Department.

By C. W. Washburne.

(Supt. of Winnetka Schools.) School week was decreed by the United States Commissioner of Education as a time for everyone to focus his attention upon the outstanding needs of the public schools of the state and nation. Our schools in Winnetka are an integral part of the state school system and would be definitely affected by national legislation or the sort now before Congress.

As we in Winnetka are keenly aware, the crying need of the schools is for more funds. It is doubtful whether the people of any other community in the United States have contributed as generously to their schools on a voluntary basis as have those of Winnetka. But the situation which necessitated the building a new school by popular subscription is fundamentally wrong, and both for our own future and for the sake of other communities, a remedy for the lack of funds must be found.

Need State-National Aid

A careful study of the situation by educators and people interested in education, including in our own state the State School Board association and City Superintendents' association, as well as a large number of local organizations, have decided that the most immediately practical method of relieving the financial distress of the public schools is to get a larger measure of state aid and national aid.

In a later article the need for state aid and the method of obtaining it will be described. At present we are focusing our attention on the need for national aid.

Seek Education Department

There is a bill before Congress which will shortly be reported out of committee in both the Senate and House, called the Smith-Towner bill. This bill provides that the nation shall take as much interest in education as does in commerce, agriculture, and labor. That is, it provides that there should be a Department of Education in the United States government. At present there is no national department of education. There is a Bureau of Education in the Department of the Interior, an inadequate and powerless bureau which is able to do little more than gather statistics.

The Smith-Towner bill provides for the formation of a Department of Education, headed by a Secretary of Education in the president's cabinet, and authorizes an appropriation of \$100,000,000 to encourage and assist the states in the promotion of education, with the expressed provision that the management of the public schools shall remain exclusively under state control. The bill is backed by the National Education association, by practically every state superintendent of public instruction in the United States, by the presidents of all state teachers' colleges and state normal schools, by the city and county superintendents of schools, by hundreds of chambers of commerce, Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs and women's clubs. The following organizations are supporting the bill:

Endorse Legislation

National Education association, American Federation of Labor, American Federation of Teachers, General Federation of Women's clubs National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher association, American Library association, National Council of Jewish Women, Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Patriotic Order of Sons of America, National League of Women Voters, and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

It is strongly urged that all friends of the public schools write to their congressmen and senators urging the adoption of the Smith-Towner bill for federal aid for education in the interest of better schools in the nation, in the state, and right here in Winnetka

Attention is sometimes called to the likeness of death and taxes, in respect of certainty, but we can't put off taxes to the end of life.—Albany Journal.

DEATH OF MRS. PLUMMER

News was received here recently of the death, on November 21, of a former Winnetka resident, Mrs. Fleeta C. Plummer. Though she lived here but a few years Mrs. Plummer made many friends.

She was a member of the Winnetka Congregational church, Winnetka Woman's club and the W. C. T. U.

—Adv. T40-1tc

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