

## ISSUE CATECHISM ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FACTS

### C. W. Washburne Calls Attention of Those Interested in Schools to New Publication

A "Public School Catechism for Illinois" has just been issued by the Illinois State Teachers association, according to C. W. Washburne, Winnetka school superintendent. It is a sixteen page pamphlet of fifty-eight questions and answers prepared by the research department from official reports in the office of the superintendent of public instruction and other equally authentic sources. Its purposes are to furnish correct information concerning the common schools, to promote an understanding of their problems, and to create an interest in the solution of those problems.

Secretary Robert C. Moore in the foreword says:

"Our common school system is a public institution, supported by taxation, governed by laws enacted by the legislature, and administered by officials elected by the people. The changes and improvements necessary to adapt it to changing social, economic and industrial conditions to new facts and principles learned by experience developed through the study of education must be made or be approved by the people.

"Therefore the public should be kept well informed concerning the public school system. The better informed our citizens are, the more helpful, constructive and enduring will be the improvements made. We need a more

general diffusion of education upon the subject of education.

Here are a few samples of the questions and answers given:

Q. How many pupils in the Illinois public common schools?

A. Kindergartens 54,787  
Elementary schools, 1,054,961  
High schools, 233,682

Total enrollment (1925) 1,343,430

Q. Is the school enrollment increasing?

A. Yes. The enrollment in 1905 was 985,134; in 1915, 1,064,221; in 1925, 1,343,430.

Q. How rapidly is high school enrollment increasing?

A. During the last 25 years, high school enrollment has increased 503% although the population of the State has increased but 44%. The high school enrollment in 1900 was 38,758; in 1915, 87,831; and in 1925, 233,682.

Q. How long are the schools open each year?

A. In a few districts the regular session is 10 months; several districts can offer but a 7 months term.

The 1924-25 average for the entire state was 183 days. For only the high schools, the average was 191 days. For the rural schools it was 162 days.

Q. How many districts are there?

A. Illinois has 123 consolidated districts; nearly 500 township and community high schools; 158 three-year high schools; 110 two-year high schools; 673 four-year high schools; 10,123 one-room country schools; total number of districts, unit system and otherwise, 11,956. Illinois has more school buildings, more districts and more one-room schools than any other state in the Union.

This catechism will be found useful by Parent-Teacher associations, Woman's clubs and other organizations interested in the public schools, and several thousand copies have already been requested for use by such organizations, Mr. Washburne states.

The Threshold Players of Glencoe will meet on Tuesday evening, September 21, at the home of Rutheda L. Pretzel, 1035 Bluff road. Those who are interested in dramatics are invited to become members.



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