

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

Published monthly by the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Entered as second-class matter March 13, 1920, at the post office at Harrisonburg, Virginia, under the act of March 3, 1879.

James C. Johnston, Editor
Henry A. Converse, Manager

Advisory Board

John W. Wayland	Elizabeth P. Cleveland
Conrad T. Logan	Katherine M. Anthony
Mary Lancaster Smith	Annette Louise Houston
Rosa P. Heidelberg	Jo B. Warren

VII

EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The outstanding features of the annual Educational Conference, which convened in Richmond Thanksgiving week, were efforts to democratise the association and to bring the teachers who do not attend the annual meeting into more vital touch with the work of the association. This undoubtedly will be accomplished through the first resolution presented by the resolutions committee and passed by the association.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

November 26, 1920

1. *Whereas* many members of the State Teachers Association are not able to attend the annual meetings of the association and are therefore not able to express their opinions in regard to the many matters that come before it for consideration, *Be It Resolved*, that it shall be the duty of the President of this Association to determine, as far as possible, what problems and policies he will present to this body for its consideration at its regular annual meeting and to present these matters to the various local organizations that compose the State Teachers Association for their consideration at their local meetings immediately preceding the annual conference, in order that these bodies may consider these matters and may instruct their delegates, if they wish, as to their attitude in regard to them.
2. *Whereas*, many teachers of the State have not received prompt payment of their

salaries from local school boards and have thereby been caused much inconvenience and financial embarrassment:

Be It Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the State Teachers Association be instructed to request The State Board of Education to promulgate such rules and regulations and to take such further section as may be necessary to see that all teachers of the State, whether in rural districts or in cities, receive their monthly salaries on the first of the month as required by law.

3. *Whereas* the people of Virginia, by passing the amendment to section 136 of the Constitution of Virginia, have recognized the inadequacy of the financial support of our public schools and inasmuch as the solutions of nearly all the big problems connected with the further development of our public schools is impossible without increased revenue for public education, *Be It Resolved*, a. that it shall be the duty of every member of this organization to inform himself in regard to the financial needs of the schools in his community and, in co-operation with his school board and Superintendent to use his utmost effort to see that his local Board of Supervisors or City Council levy a local tax sufficiently large to meet the needs of our schools.

b. That the President of this Association appoint a committee of three whose duty it shall be to furnish teachers, trustees and division superintendents with such information as will enable them intelligently and effectively to accomplish the aforesaid purpose.

c. That the State Department of Education and the State higher institutions of learning be requested to use their efforts wherever possible and wherever desirable to see that sufficient funds are provided to give every child in Virginia a fair chance for an education and every teacher fair compensation for his services.

4. *Whereas*, the people of Virginia have expressed themselves as favorable to compulsory education and have removed the constitutional barriers to an effective compulsory attendance law, *Be It Resolved*, that the legislative committee of the State Teachers Association is hereby instructed to make a careful study of the problem of compulsory school attendance in co-operation with the State Board of Education and to report to this body at its next annual meeting the draft of an effective compulsory attendance law that this body may consistently urge for favorable consideration by the Legislature of Virginia at its next biennial session.
5. *Whereas*, a large degree of dissatisfaction is felt on the part of the principals and teachers of the State with the inequitable

contract now in force between teachers and school boards,

Be It Resolved, that the State Teachers Association direct the proper committee to work for the bringing about of a more equitable contract between the teachers of the State and their respective school boards.

6. *Whereas*, on August 2, 1920, Mallory K. Cannon, President of the State Teachers' Association died at Leesville, Bedford County, Va., after a brief illness, and, whereas the officers and directors of the State Teachers' Association realized that President Cannon was preparing plans for the growth and development of the Association, and that his leadership would have meant an era of progress in its history,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that we deeply deplore the untimely death of this efficient principal, broadminded educator, and ideal citizen.

Be It Resolved Further, that a page of the minutes of the State Teachers' Association be set apart and inscribed to his memory and that the following be recorded thereon:

To the memory of Mallory K. Cannon, Born in Norfolk, Va., July 21, 1870, son of Dr. Douglas C. Cannon and Elizabeth Mallory King Cannon, Master of Arts of the University of Virginia, 1892, Assistant Principal Norfolk High School 1895-1916, Principal Maury High School, Norfolk, Va. 1916-1920, President State Teachers' Association January 1, 1920 to August 2, 1920.

The Secretary is hereby directed to communicate this action to the bereaved widow and children.

7. *Be It Resolved*, that the hearty thanks of this Association be tendered to the City Council of Richmond, The Hotel Association, The Retail Merchants Association, for their generous entertainment of this body; to the Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis for their gracious hospitality to the delegates; to the Corley Company and the Lee Serguson Piano Co. for their much appreciated provision for a concert at the City Auditorium; to the League of Richmond Teachers for the enjoyable reception and dance; to Superintendent Hill and the Registration and Entertainment Committees of the Richmond Schools for the comfort and pleasure of all visitors, and to the press of the city for their attention and reports of our proceedings.

Signed:

Samuel P. Duke, Chairman
W. D. Ellis
Lula D. Metz
A. B. Bristow

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED FROM THE FLOOR AND PASSED

WHEREAS: The recent addition of large new groups to our electorate has increased the need for more thorough and extended Citizenship education, be it therefore

RESOLVED: That this Association hereby recommends the introduction of fuller instruction in citizenship and practical government, not only into a greater number of schools, but in those clubs and community organizations with which its members may be connected.

BE IT RESOLVED: (a) That the State Teachers Association reaffirm its belief that the Smith-Towner bill is essential to the proper development of education in the United States and in Virginia.

(b) That a copy of this resolution be sent to our Representatives and Senators with the request that they use their efforts and influence toward the passage of this bill.

AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

The State Association enacted a most important piece of legislation when it provided at its last session for a full time Executive Secretary who should in addition to his duties as organizer and secretary for the Association act as Editor and Business Manager of the *Virginia Journal of Education*, which the Association had formally taken over. This Executive Secretary will be paid a salary not to exceed \$3500.00 per annum and it is the hope of the Association that a most capable person may be found to do this work. The Executive Secretary should take up his new duties on July 1st, at which time the present editors of the *Journal* relinquish control. This action necessitated an increase of the state membership dues to fifty cents, which we believe will meet with the approval of the teachers at large throughout the state. We expect to see the *Journal* enter a new era of usefulness under this arrangement.

AFFILIATION WITH THE N. E. A.

The State Teachers Association is now definitely affiliated with the National Education Association and becomes an integral

part of the representative assembly of this powerful organization. This one step has furnished the connecting link between the individual teacher in the class room and this national organization through the medium of his local association and the State Association. Virginia is entitled to six delegates to this national meeting and the motion accepting the conditions of affiliation stipulated that the President of the State Association must be included as one of the delegates.

SELECTIVENESS

It is encouraging to note that Superintendent Hart in a recent letter to the Division Superintendents not only urged them to do what they could to increased local levies sufficiently to produce a reasonable amount for teachers' salaries, but also urged that this fund should be distributed in such a way as to encourage trained teachers to take up the work in rural schools. Further on Superintendent Hart suggests in regard to recruiting teachers for the educational institutions and particularly for the University, William and Mary, and the four Normal Schools that:

"Heretofore many of us have been driven to the rather unwholesome practice of attempting to induce almost everybody to enter the teaching profession. By making an earlier start I sincerely trust that we will find sufficient latitude to really undertake the process of selection. Having selected a number of individuals, the attractiveness of teaching ought to be held out to them primarily. Few of them will find a happier chance for helpful and pleasant public service. In addition, the financial remuneration will next year be more encouraging."

I believe that the community's duty to education is its paramount moral duty. By law and punishment, by social agitation and discussion, society can regulate and form itself in a more or less haphazard and chance way. But through education society can formulate its own purposes, can organize its own means and resources, and thus shape itself with definiteness and economy in the direction in which it wishes to move.—John Dewey.

VIII

A READING LIST FROM THE MONTH'S MAGAZINES

"The Nation's Supreme Task", by Edwin A. Alderman. *The World's Work*.

Education as the Nation's supreme duty—but a practical education, spiritually as well as materially.

"The New Ignorance," by Lothrop Stoddard. *Scribner's Magazine*.

A call to the constructive minds of the world to combat the threat of the New Ignorance which has wrought havoc in the realm of ideas by shattering the world's intellectual life through the recent war.

"Robert Louis Stevenson's Contributions to Life and Literature," by Lauchlan McLean Watt. *Scribner's Magazine*.

A tenderly sympathetic presentation of the things of the spirit that enabled Stevenson to go bravely on amidst the many handicaps of his life until, like a few other rare souls like him, he "saw God's face looking straight at him."

"Helping Children to Write Christmas Stories," by Elizabeth M. Durkin. *Normal Instructor and Primary Plans*.

An abundantly illustrated presentation of plans and materials, having as an aim the development of interest enough to keep a class awake without constant resort to the gavel.

"Wanted: Three Billions a Year for Schools," by Louis Graves. *The World's Work*.

A frank discussion of Dr. P. P. Claxton's claims of our educational needs.

"Educational Elephantiasis," by Burges Johnson. *The World's Work*.

A note of warning to educational institutions as to making their claims and aims mere size.

"Social Relations in Children's Books," by Alice M. Jordan. *The Survey*.

An inquiry concerning itself with the examination of the ideas of social relations obtained from a number of recent books intended for boys and girls.