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Endorsement by City Principals

The Chicago Principals, at their regular monthly meeting in February, passed resolutions, without dissent, heartily endorsing the action taken by the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, expressing the hope that the Board of Directors would comply with both requests, and asking the Illinois member of that Board to vote and work for both measures. The Chicago Teachers' Federation passed the same resolutions. Tho the time was very short the matter was taken up by many cities, and by the time of the Atlanta meeting, Feb. 23, similar action, by superintendents and principals jointly, urging the granting of both requests, was authoritatively reported from each of the following cities:

OHIO.		MICHIGAN.	
Cleveland, E. F. Moulton,	Supt.	Traverse City, J. B. Gilbert,	Supt.
Cincinnati, F. B. Dyer,	"	West Bay City, E. D. Palmer,	"
Columbus, J. A. Shawan,	"	Adrian, P. J. Willson,	"
Youngstown, N. H. Chaney,	"	Calumet, H. E. Kratz,	"
Canton, J. M. Sarver,	"	Ironwood, L. L. Wright,	"
Hamilton, Darrell Joyce,	"	Iron Mountain, L. E. Amidon,	"
Akron, H. V. Hotchkiss,	"	Jackson, L. S. Norton,	"
Steubenville, Edward M. VanCleve,	"	Saginaw (W. Side), Phil. Huber,	"
Warren, C. E. Carey,	"	Sault Ste. Marie, E. E. Ferguson,	"
Marion, H. L. Frank,	"	IOWA.	
Mansfield, C. L. VanCleve,	"	Waterloo, F. H. Bloodgood,	Supt.
Marietta, J. V. McMillan,	"	Marshalltown, Wm. I. Crane,	"
Xenia, Edwin B. Cox,	"	Cedar Rapids, J. J. McConnell,	"
Elyria, W. R. Comings,	"	Burlington, F. M. Fultz,	"
Middletown, Arthur Powell,	"	Mason City, L. D. Ellis,	"
Troy, Ralph M. Brown,	"	MINNESOTA.	
St. Marys, J. D. Simpkins,	"	Duluth, R. E. Denfeld,	Supt.
Zanesville, W. D. Lash,	"	Faribault, Geo. A. Franklin,	"
Dayton, Edwin N. Brown,	"	Winona, Chas. R. Frazier,	"
Lancaster, H. A. Cassidy,	"	WISCONSIN.	
Springfield, John S. Weaver,	"	Superior, B. B. Jackson,	Supt.
Toledo, W. W. Chalmers,	"	Fond du Lac, Wm. Wilson,	"
ILLINOIS.		Chippewa Falls, S. B. Tobey,	"
Cairo, T. C. Clendenen,	Supt.	Wausau, Karl Mathie,	"
Berwyn, R. K. Row,	"	NEW YORK.	
Centralia, S. H. Bohn,	"	Batavia, John Kennedy,	Supt.
East St. Louis, John Richeson,	"	Cohoes, E. Hayward,	"
Galesburg, W. L. Steele,	"	Elmira, C. F. Walker,	"
Joliet, J. J. Allison,	"	Kingston, S. R. Shear,	"
Kankakee, F. N. Tracy,	"	Plattsburg, S. J. Preston,	"
Monmouth, B. F. Armitage,	"	Syracuse, A. B. Blodgett,	"
Mattoon, G. P. Randle,	"	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Rockford, P. R. Walker,	"	Baltimore, Md., J. H. VanSickle,	Supt.
Rock Island, H. B. Hayden,	"	Knoxville, Tenn., Albert Ruth,	"
Aurora, C. M. Bardwell,	"	Asheville, N. C., R. J. Tighe,	"
Springfield, J. H. Collins,	"	Hartford, Conn., C. W. Keyes,	"
Oak Park, W. H. Hatch,	"	Salt Lake City, Utah, D. H. Christensen,	"
INDIANA.		Pueblo, Colo., J. S. McClung,	"
Jeffersonville, A. C. Goodwin,	Supt.	Los Angeles, Cal., J. A. Foshay,	"
Huntington, W. P. Hart,	"		
Indianapolis, C. N. Kendall,	"		
Shelbyville, J. H. Tomlin,	"		

Thirty-six superintendents who approved the Chicago resolutions themselves had no opportunity before the Atlanta meeting to bring the matter to the attention of their principals. It is hoped they will yet do so and report the result to Supt. Elson, and to Secretary Shepard. They are not included in the list. Some wanted more light. Only 11 were opposed to the movement out of 122 answering. Some of the staunchest friends of the cause have yet to be heard from. The above list contains 75 school systems. In many cases the reports emphasize the fact that the votes were unanimous, as in Cleveland, Columbus, Hartford, Syracuse, Toledo, Cincinnati 53 to 1, etc.

E. O. VAILE, Oak Park, Ill.

*From Journal of Education, Boston, March 10.
By A. E. Winship.*

TWENTY THOUSAND FOR SPELLING REFORM

The greatest surprise in the experience of the National Educational Association was the notable triumph of the Spelling Reformers, who by a vote of more than three to one decided upon the appointment of a committee of thirty eminent men to investigate and promote spelling reform, and who, by a vote of more than two to one, asked the N. E. A. for an appropriation of \$2 000 a year for five years provided an equal amount is raised from outside sources. This will provide \$20,000 in five years.

Tho the Journal of Education has taken no part in the discussions of the past few years, it has had little sympathy with the movement and especially with the idea of a large appropriation from the treasury of the N. E. A. But the Spelling Reformers won a great victory by means that were entirely fair. The hour was as good as any of the week, it was well advertised, the opposition was not hampered. It was a rising vote and only active members voted.

I have never seen a contested issue in the N. E. A. or in the Department settled so decisively by such a notable body of men. The ninety-eight who voted for the appropriation were the bone and sinew of the Department. They were practically all men filling notable positions, some were state superintendents, while most of them were superintendents of such cities as Baltimore, Springfield, Mass., Hartford, Syracuse, Grand Rapids, Columbus, Cincinnati, and other cities, mostly above 25,000. The thirty-eight opposing votes had not the slightest advantage in character or position. It was a complete triumph.

But it was at once said:—"They will never get the money." Why not? What reason is there why they should not have it? We can conceive of none other than financial inability and no one will argue that. It is true that it must pass a committee of seven, but that committee would not be justified in turning down such a vote as that. Practically every one of the ninety-eight is the peer of any one of the seven in devotion to the N. E. A. and in professional prominence. Van Sickle, Balliet, Blodgett, Keyes, Elson, Dyer, Shawan, Cox are men of highest character and influence and it was never contemplated that the seven should put their opinion of an educational movement against that of ninety-eight such men. It is for them to decide as to whether or not the treasury can stand such a draft, but they will hardly say that it can not with many state associations and the unanimous vote of the teachers in many important cities in favor, and not one state association or city voting against it the committee of seven will be slow to put its prejudices against the forces arrayed on the other side.

From The School Journal, New York City, Mar. 5.

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING ENDORSED AGAIN

The most exciting event of the meeting was the adoption of the following report:

* * * * *

John MacDonald, sturdy, conservative Scotchman that he is, opposed the propositions with all his might. He cited Scripture, appealed to Shakespeare and Milton, drew on mathematics, roasted "the college magazines," objected to the dragging in of the illustrious dead by the advocates of spelling reform. Reuben Post Halleck clubbed in with him. But it was all of no avail.

E. O. Vaile was undaunted. Irony and satire were no arguments. He stood firm on the ground that scholarship and the most advanced thought of the age demanded the reform. The N. E. A., he showed, was pledged "to promote the cause of popular education," and the simplification of spelling belonged pre-eminently in this category. The N. E. A. has supplied funds to furnish prizes for essays on schoolroom ventilation, to reinforce the Bureau of Education, etc. It ought to be equally liberal in the support of this present movement.

Dr. Balliet endorsed the report of the committee. The reform, he admitted, was bound to be slow, but that was all the more reason why it should be inaugurated without further delay.

The resolution for the appointment of the committee of thirty was carried by a vote of 116 to 28. The resolution in favor of the appropriation went on record with a vote of 94 to 38.

There is no longer any doubt that the Department of Superintendence is fully committed to the simplification of spelling. The opponents turned out in force, determined to crush the movement. But they failed to carry their plan into effect. Whatever explanation the defeated party may offer for its weakness at the crucial moment, it must admit that it is beaten. Majority rule must prevail. Now that the Department has asked in unmistakable terms for a definite appropriation for the fostering of rational spelling reform, the members of the Board of Directors of the N. E. A. are in duty bound to grant the request. There is no excuse whatever for withholding the grant under the existing conditions. There are sufficient funds in the treasury. The Department of Superintendence represents the most thoughtful, most cautious, and most responsible portion of the N. E. A. membership. The spelling reform question was made a special order of business, entered upon the printed program and taken up at the appointed hour. The vote was carried by a decisive majority. There is no getting away from these facts. Whatever the individual preferences of the Directors may be, here is a matter which must be treated impersonally.