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Report of the Committee on Resolutions- Declaration

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Committee on Resolutions

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REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

—DECLARATION—

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
ASBURY PARK AND OCEAN GROVE, N. J.

JULY 3-7, 1905.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

ASBURY PARK AND OCEAN GROVE, N. J., JULY 7, 1905.

DECLARATION

The National Educational Association, now holding its forty-fourth Annual Convention in Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, and representing the teachers and friends of education thruout the country, makes the following declaration of principles:

1. The Bureau of Education continues to render invaluable service to the nation. It is the judgment of the Association that the powers of the Bureau should be enlarged and that liberal appropriations should be made to it by Congress in order to enable it to widen its usefulness.

2. The National Educational Association notes with approval that the qualifications demanded of teachers in the public schools, and especially in city public schools, are increasing annually, and particularly that in many localities special preparation is demanded of teachers. The idea that any one with a fair education can teach school is gradually giving way to the correct notion that teachers must make special preparation for the vocation of teaching. The higher standard demanded of teachers must lead logically to higher salaries for teachers and constant efforts should be made by all persons interested in education to secure for teachers adequate compensation for their work.

3. The rapid establishment of township or rural high schools is one of the most gratifying evidences of the progress of education. We believe that this movement should be encouraged until the children of rural communities enjoy the benefits of public education to an extent approximating as nearly as practicable the education furnished in urban communities.

4. The Association heartily approves of the efforts now being made to determine the proper place of industrial education in the public schools. We believe that the time is rapidly approaching when industrial education should be introduced into all schools and should be made to harmonize with the occupations of the community. These courses when introduced should include instruction in agricultural as well as manual training, etc. Wherever the conditions justify their establishment, schools that show the application of the branches of knowledge to practical life should be established.

5. The National Educational Association strongly recommends the increasing utilization of urban school buildings for free vacation

schools and for free evening schools and lecture courses for adults, and for children who have been obliged to leave the day schools prematurely.

6. It is the duty of the State to provide for the education of every child within its borders and to see that all children obtain the rudiments of an education. The constitutional provision that all persons must contribute to the support of the public schools logically carries with it the implied provision that no persons should be permitted to defeat the purposes of the public school law by forcing their children at an early age to become bread winners.

7. The national government should provide schools for the children of all persons living in territory under the immediate control of the government. The attention of Congress is specially directed to the need of adequate legislation to provide schools for the children of citizens of the United States living on naval reservations.

8. The Association regrets the revival in some quarters of the idea that the common school is a place for teaching nothing but reading, spelling, writing, and ciphering; and takes this occasion to declare that the ultimate object of popular education is to teach the children how to live righteously, healthily, and happily, and that to accomplish this object it is essential that every school inculcate the love of truth, justice, purity, and beauty through the study of biography, history, ethics, natural history, music, drawing, and manual arts.

9. The National Educational Association wishes to record its approval of the increasing appreciation among educators of the fact that the building of character is the real aim of the schools and the ultimate reason for the expenditure of millions for their maintenance. There is in the minds of the children and youth of to-day a tendency toward a disregard for constituted authority; a lack of respect for age and superior wisdom; a weak appreciation of the demands of duty; a disposition to follow pleasure and interest rather than obligation and order. This condition demands the earnest thought and action of our leaders of opinion, and places important obligations upon school authorities.

10. The National Educational Association wishes to congratulate the secondary schools and colleges of the country that are making the effort to remove the taint of professionalism that has crept into student sports. This taint can be removed only by leading students, alumni and school faculties to recognize that inter-school games should be played for sportsmanship and not merely for victory.

11. The National Educational Association observes with great

satisfaction the tendency of cities and towns to replace large school committees or boards, which have exercised thru sub-committees executive functions, by small boards which determine general policies but entrust all executive functions to salaried experts.

12. Local taxation, supplemented by state taxation, presents the best means for the support of the public schools, and for securing that deep interest in them which is necessary to their greatest efficiency. State aid should be granted only as supplementary to local taxation, and not as a substitute for it.

13. We cannot too often repeat that close, intelligent, judicious supervision is necessary for all grades of schools.

14. A free democracy cannot long continue without the assistance of a system of state supported schools administered by agents chosen by the people and responsible to the people for its ideals, its conduct, and its results.

Committee on Resolutions	{	Eliphalet Oram Lyte, of Pennsylvania, Chairman,
		Charles J. Baxter, of New Jersey,
		Edwin G. Cooley, of Illinois,
		Frank B. Cooper, of Washington,
		Charles D. McIver, of North Carolina,
		Miss Anna Tolman Smith, of District of Columbia,
		Miss Harriet Emerson, of Massachusetts,
		O. J. Kern, of Illinois,
Edward J. Goodwin, of New York,		
William L. Bryan, of Indiana.		