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An Important Crisis

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An Important Crisis

The Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association at its late meeting (Atlanta, Feb. 23-25), by a decisive vote, adopted the following:

Report of the special committee appointed last year to report to the Department of Superintendence, what action the Department can wisely take to co-operate with the State Associations of Illinois and Wisconsin to promote the cause of simplified spelling:

To the Department of Superintendence:

Your committee finds the philosophical scholarship of the world in perfect accord with the experience of teachers as to the need and desirability of rationalizing our spelling. The memorials addressed to this Department by the State Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota propose a plan which it seems to us the N. E. A. can most wisely adopt with a view to permanently placing this movement under auspices which while effectively fostering it will as effectively guard it against all radical and unwise steps. Therefore, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions by a separate vote on each:

Resolved-1. That the Department of Superintendence approves the first of the resolutions addressed to it by the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and respectfully requests the Board of Directors to appoint a permanent, self-perpetuating committee of thirty prominent citizens in different walks of life, particularly scholars and educators, and representing the various sections of the country, to head the movement for simplifying our spelling and to promote its interests in all ways which they find feasible and deem wise.

Resolved-2. That the Department of Superintendence approves the second of the resolutions addressed to it by the State Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and respectfully requests the Committee on Investigations and Appropriations of the National Council to recommend to the Board of Directors, and the Department respectfully asks said Board to make, the appropriation of $2,000 a year for five years, for the use of the above Committee, to be paid to it semi-annually, each payment to equal such a total sum as shall have been paid for the same purpose within the preceding six months, to the treasurer of said Committee by any individuals, teachers' associations, or other organizations, the amount paid by the N. E. A. never to exceed $2,000 in any one year, and never to exceed the sum contributed from outside sources during the previous six months.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. H. Elson, Chairman, (Supt. Grand Rapids, Mich.)
Edwin B. Cox, (Supt. Xenia, Ohio.)
C. N. Kendall, (Supt. Indianapolis, Ind.)
F. T. Olds, (Supt. Dubuque, Iowa.)
A. W. Rankin, (State Inspector of Schools, Minneapolis.)

The first resolution was adopted by 116 to 28, and the second by 94 to 38, none but active members being allowed to vote. Even opponents conceded that it was a perfectly fair vote and expressed the sentiment of a decided majority of the leading members of the Department.

According to the rules of the N. E. A. the plan must now be approved by the National Council of Education and then by the Board of Directors, before it can go into effect. Some members feel that so decisive a vote by the superintendents, over two to one, insures the approval of these two bodies beyond all question, merely on the ground of professional and fraternal courtesy, to say nothing of the justice and wisdom in such approval. But others believe, and intimations have been given, that the appropriation will be fought to the bitter end, both in the Council and in the Board of Directors, and that the issue is doubtful. Of course, if the money is withheld the plan will be shorn of much of its strength. A steady, winning campaign, no matter how gentle and merely persuasive, as this one must ever be, can not be carried on in this day without money.

Judicious and effective leadership is a necessity if this movement is to make headway. The great majority of educators and scholars today believe unquestionably in moderate, wise and conscious steps toward simplifying our spelling. But just what steps are wisest, and the best way to proceed cannot be determined without careful consideration by the most competent persons who are interested in the movement.

Thoroughly safe and accredited leadership of this kind would command the confidence and support of all friends of the cause; it would quicken into life the large latent sympathy which now lies dormant; it would prompt the contribution of funds and insure their wise use.

Manifestly this headship can not be found or vested in any one person. It must be vested in a body of men of such eminent standing and influence as scholars, educators and business men, that their fitness to advise and lead in this matter will be acknowledged on all hands.

But these men can not select and constitute themselves into such a body. Who shall choose them and give them a charter to legalize their existence and their ac-
tions? From whom can issue this royal patent with such perfect propriety as from the great representative educational body of our country, the National Educational Association? What other parent is there so natural and logical to bring into being such a committee to head this movement which is so closely and fundamentally related to education? The question is its own answer.

Look at a merely partial list of the scholarly, influential and level-headed friends of this cause from whom such a national committee could be selected:

Hon. Andrew D. White, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Dr. William R. Harper, Dr. Edmund J. James, Dr. Cyrus Northrup, Dr. E. Benj. Andrews, Dr. J. W. Abercrombie, Dr. Chas. W. Dabney, Prof. Brander Matthews, Prof. Calvin Thomas, Prof. Thomas R. Lounsbury, W. D. Howells, W. H. Venable, Melvil Dewey, Frank Fitzpatrick, Dr. Benj. E. Smith, Dr. Isaac Funk, Dr. Wm. H. Ward, Dr. F. A. March, Dr. C. P. G. Scott, Prof. A. H. Tolman, Dr. John Dewey, Dr. Albion Small, Prof. W. S. Jackman, Prof. Ella F. Young, Prof. George Hempf, Dr. John W. Cook, Mrs. Henrikotin, Judge A. N. Waterman, Hon. Luther Laffin Mills, Presidents Seerley, Pray, Parkinson, Boyden, Supts. VanSickle, Brooks, Balilt, Soldan, Dougherty, Govc, Greenwood, Collins, Jordan, Boone, Kendall, Foshay, Oldt, Martindale, Coy, Siefert.

Would not our whole people, as well as the public of teachers, feel confidence in the moderation and judgment of any committee made up of such men? Would there not be such confidence in their integrity and good business sense that all would be disposed to aid financially in any plans they might desire to carry out?

After such a committee is known to be in the field and organized on business lines, with an executive committee, a treasurer, and a permanent secretary or agent, it is altogether probable that funds can be secured or will come to its hands from sources now unthought of. Our progressive business men appreciate the merits of the cause, and they will show it when they see a thoroughly accredited and effective organization actually at work in the field. The probability of their help would be greatly enhanced, however, and higher standing and prestige would be given to the committee, if it could be enabled by the control of a fund from the start to inaugurate promptly some moderate and sensible measures in furtherance of the cause.

Tests already made show that where this matter is wisely presented, teachers, educators, and the more progressive people in the community can be depended upon to contribute at least a small sum, which could be made, no doubt, to aggregate a considerable amount by the systematic efforts of a regular paid secretary acting in the name of the national committee, and particularly when it is understood that for every dollar thus contributed to the committee another dollar will be given by the N. E. A. The consideration that one dollar given by him will result in devoting two dollars to the cause will induce many a man to open his pocket-book who otherwise might not give at all.

On the other hand, the proposition that the N. E. A. is never to contribute to the committee's fund except to double what has previously been given to it from outside sources, must, as a business proposition, commend itself forcibly to the judgment of the Board of Directors and of the Council. It safeguards the funds of the N. E. A. to the fullest extent. It requires the friends of the cause to prove their faith, to show that they are not over sanguine, by first putting up their own money. If they fail, the demonstration of their mistake will be conclusive and the N. E. A. will not be out one dollar.

The invested fund of the N. E. A. now aggregates $130,000. For the last six years it has added to its permanent fund an average of nearly $12,000 a year. As you know, appropriations varying from $750 to $1,500 have very properly been made for various objects. Can an object be proposed more deserving, from a practical, educational standpoint, of judicious aid from this fund than the promotion of this effort to develop and stimulate a tendency in our language toward rational and economical spelling? In the nature of the case five years is as short a limit of time as can reasonably be set for a trial effort in a problem of such magnitude. At least a moderate income should be assured to meet expenses for a period long enough to test with some thoroness whether the plan is worth continuing further.
Objections Considered

A Self-Perpetuating Committee is Objectionable. Undemocratic, UnAmerican.

That is very true in a general way. But careful consideration will convince almost any one that this committee ought to be born as an independent, self-perpetuating board. Reasons: (1) No one can now foresee what questions of policy may arise as this movement develops. Some of these may become acute, and it is wise to prevent the possibility of their carrying discord or division into the N. E. A. Remove the whole subject to an independent court. (2) This is a large problem, and the committee can use and ought to have in time a liberal and constant income, more than the N. E. A. can furnish or ought to. The committee's support must come mainly from outside sources. Wealthy philanthropists are beginning to glance at this matter. But it is certain such men will not contribute to a fund or an endowment in the hands of a shifting committee, dependent for dignity and efficiency upon the uncertain appointments of an annual convention. (3) As leader and moderator in this movement this committee will have two functions: (a) to advise now and then as to the best steps for us to take in our long journey to phonetic spelling; (b) to persuade and to encourage us to lay aside our prejudices and to fall into line with promptness and alacrity after it advises an advance step. The committee can not and must not dictate or prescribe. It can only advise. Hence the necessity of its being endowed with all the influence that can result from high scholarship, personal standing, and that practical wisdom which can be acquired only by long experience in the office. This committee must have the respect and confidence of the people of all classes. To gain and keep this confidence continuity in policy and personnel is absolutely essential. This is the reason why all educational and philanthropic boards, i.e., The Carnegie Institute, The Peabody Fund, The Southern Education Board, etc., fill their own vacancies.

Two Thousand Dollars is Too Much.

Is it? In the first place, while keeping up the incidental work of educating and enlightening the public the committee would have to get into friendly and sympathetic touch, so far as possible for discreet agents to accomplish it, with the editors, publishers, authors and printers of the whole country, with all who furnish reading matter to the people extensively. This would require a year, at least, for several men of ability and standing who could not be hired on meager salaries. Then there would be conferences and receptions to be held and lectures to be provided as opportunity offered. This would take money. Even for a bright, scholarly man to gain the ear of college young people on this subject would entail a great deal of travel and expense for a year or more. The matter of editing, printing and mailing suitable educative and persuasive literature would require first class ability and a large fund. The committee would have to do some advertising to make its purpose and plans understood. Of course, over all these departments there would have to be a general secretary or superintendent.

How much of this work would the maximum of $4,000 as proposed by the report of Supt. Elson's committee accomplish? It would hardly enable the committee to make a beginning.

Furthermore, what bequests or contributions could be hoped for from wealthy men who are aware of the N. E. A.'s $130,000 invested fund if that great representative organization should show no more interest and confidence in this movement than to provide it with a beggarly dower?

The anticipated shortage in the N. E. A.'s income this year at St. Louis may not be as serious as it is feared. The expense will certainly be less than is usual, while such substantial advantages have been conceded to N. E. A. members that it seems almost certain that to secure them the usual number of $2.00 fees will be paid. At all events, the North Pacific slope the following year will give us another Los Angeles, which added $14,000 to the permanent fund. The fees of 4,200 active members insures an income of $8,400, any-how. For the last 17 years an average of nearly $6,500 has been added to the permanent fund, including three years when there was no surplus at all. For the last six years the average surplus has been
nearly $12,000. Certainly these facts give little ground for maintaining that
$2,000 a year for five years, the total sum not equaling an average year’s surplus,
is too much for the N. E. A. to give in sums equal to what may come to the com-
mitee’s fund from outside sources to organize this movement on a sensible and safe
business basis.

The Money may be Wasted.

Of course the objector does not fear that any committee appointed by the Presi-
dent of the N. E. A., as proposed in this plan, would allow this money to be wrong-
fully or extravagantly expended. If he means that the money may seem to be
wasted because of the slight effect produced, he may be right. No sensible person
will prophesy what results may be counted on. But we all know that a persistent,
well-directed effort, backed up by money, is very potent always. To induce seventy
millions of people to change habits which have become to them a matter of nature,
is a tremendous problem. What tangible, obvious result can we expect the work
represented by a few thousand dollars, no matter how wisely applied, to achieve
the first year, or the second year, or in five years? Only time can answer. Patience
and perseverance and time must be very large elements in this propaganda. We
must make up our minds to that. But will money thus spent be wasted? Then
the husbandman’s seed is always wasted.

It would be a Misuse of the Funds of the N. E. A.

Wherein would this be a misuse of its funds any more than to furnish prizes for
essays on schoolroom ventilation, or to reenforce the Bureau of Education, or to in-
vestigate teachers’ wages, or to report on school centralization and the transporta-
tion of pupils, etc., causes wholly worthy of the aid given, but certainly not one whit
more in line with the main purpose of the N. E. A. according to its constitution, viz.,
“to promote the cause of popular education,” than is the simplification of our
spelling.

It would not be Right or Wise to use the Funds of the N. E. A. to Promote a
Cause upon which there is a Division of Sentiment.

Then majority rule is never right or wise, altho it is the foundation of the Anglo-
Saxon’s superiority in civil government. What would become of all progress if
the majority had to wait for the minority’s approval? The majority of the N. E. A.
Directors acted upon their own judgment in the initial step five years ago when they
decided to adopt the twelve short spellings. It is now too late, it would be wrong,
to let the minority dictate in this matter since it now appears that a majorit~ is in
favor of this advance step in organizing this movement. This step is a logical
sequel to the first.

(List of petitioners concluded from page 6)

B. W. Tinker, Supt. Schools, Water-
bury, Conn.
J. H. Tomlin, Supt. Schools, Shelby-
ville, Ind.
Chas. F. Tomlinson, Supt. Schools, Win-
ston, N. C.
A. W. Tressler, Insp. of High Schools,
State Univ., Madison, Wis.
J. L. Trisler, Supt. Schools, Hartwell, O.
W. M. Vance, Supt. Schools, Miami-
burg, O.
C. L. VanCleave, Supt. Schools, Mans-
field, O.
E. M. VanCleave, Supt. Schools, Steuben-
ville, O.
E. O. Valle, Editor Intelligence, Oak
Park, Ill.
J. H. Van Sickle, Supt. Schools, Balti-
more, Md.
O. P. Voorhes, Prin. School, Cincinnati,
O.
C. F. Walker, Supt. Schools, Elmira, N.
Y.
E. W. Walker, Supt. Schools, Delavan,
Wis.
John S. Weaver, Supt. Schools, Spring-
field, O.
W. J. Wheeler, Prin. Business College,
Birmingham, Ala.
H. A. Whipple, Interstate School of
Cor., Baraboo, Wis.

W. T. White, Prin. High School, Knox-
ville, Tenn.
W. A. Wirt, Supt. Schools, Bluffton,
Ind.
E. E. Wolfe, Prin. College Academy,
Marietta, O.
L. E. Wolfe, Supt. Schools, San An-
tonio, Tex.
J. L. Wright, Prin. School, Nashville, Tenn.
Z. H. Brown, Supt. Schools, Nashville, Tenn.
J. J. Allison, " Joliet, Ill.
A. B. Poland, " " Newark, N. J.
P. K. Walker, " " Rockford, Ill.
C. E. Gibson, " " Columbus, Ga.

The following persons sign the petition
whose names do not appear in the list of active
members:

Anna L. Barbre, Co. Supt., Taylorville, Ill.
C. E. Carrey, " Warren, O.
J. D. Keelston Jr., " Worsham, Va.
DeWitt Eick, " " Charleston, Ill.
J. Patrick, " " Springfield, Mo.
P. J. Kutz, " Owatonna, Minn.
J. D. Singa, " " St. Mary, O.
W. M. Swingle, " " Orange, N. J.
Brander Matthews, Columbia Univ., N Y
To the National Council of Education and to the Board of Directors of the
N. E. A.:

GENTLEMEN: We, active members of the N. E. A., do respectfully and person­
ally petition your honorable boards,

First. To appoint a committee (to head the simplified spelling movement) in accord­
cance with the requests of the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wis­
cconsin, and Minnesota, and of the Department of Superintendence as
expressed at its late meeting.

Second. To make the appropriation as requested by the same organizations.

*(Preceding the Atlanta meeting a "feeler" was sent out to a limited number of members to as­
certain whether enough support could be counted on for these two propositions to warrant bring­
ing them forward at the meeting. Among the specific inquiries made was this: "Will you au­thor­
ize your name to be signed to the following (the foregoing) petition?" Out of 241 replies the fol­
bout one-half distinctly expressed themselves as favorable to the cause.)

Frederick B. Abbott, Director of Man­
ual Training, State Normal
School, Emporia, Kans.
F. S. Alley, Supt. Schools, Greenfield, O.
M. F. Andrews, Prin. 25th Dist. School,
Cincinnati, O.
Samuel Andrews, Supt. Schools, Pitts­
burg, Pa.
G. F. Arps, Cary, Ill.
Howard Ayers, Pres. Univ. of Cincin­
nati, Cincinnati, O.
H. E. Axline, Supt. Schools, Brooklyn,
N. E. A. :

C. M. Bardwell, Supt. Schools, Aurora,
III., east side.
R. C. Barrett, ex-State Supt., Des
Moines, Iowa.
D. E. Batcheller, Supt. Schools, Olean,
N. Y.
John K. Baxter, Supt. Schools, Mt. Ver­
non, O.
James K. Beck, Supt. Schools, Bloom­
ington, Ind.
Robert H. Beag a, Prin., Grammar
School, Denver, Colo.
Anson H. Bigelow, Supt. Schools, Le­
mars, Iowa.
Nathan L. Bishop, Supt. Schools, Nor­
wich, Conn.
A. B. Blodgett, Supt. Schools, Syrac­
suse, N. Y.
Geo. B. Bolenburgh, Prin. Fulton
School, Cincinnati, O.
F. E. Bolton, head Dept. of Education,
State Univ., Iowa City, Iowa.
Richard G. Boone, ex-Supt. Cincinnati
Schools, Yonkers, N. Y.
A. P. Bourland, Prof. of Eng. Lit., Pea­
body College for Teachers,
Nashville, Tenn.
Stratton D. Brooks, Supervisor Public
Schools, Boston, Mass.
J. F. Brown, Prof. of Education and In­
spector of Schools, State
Univ., Iowa City, Iowa.
Edwin B. Brown, Supt. Schools, Day­
ton, Ohio.
Robt. A. Brown, Instructor in Presby­
terian College, Coyoacan, Mexico.
Wallace Buttrick, Director and Secre­
tary General Education Board,
New York City.
Otis W. Caldwell, Prof. of Botany,
State Normal, Charleston, Ill.
Starr Cadwallader, Director of Public
Schools, Cleveland, O.
Arthur D. Call, Supt. Schools, Ansonia,
Conn.
Alles D. Cary, Prof. Lit., Morris Brown
College, Atlanta, Ga.
W. W. Chalmers, Supt. of Schools, To­
ledo, O.
A. H. Chamberlain, Prof. of Education,
Throop Poly. Inst., Pasadena, Cal.
Delos Fall, State Supt., Lansing, Mich.
David Feilme, Pres. State Normal, Normal, III.
Geo. M. Forbes, Prof. Phil. and Ped., Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.
Geo. A. Franklin, Supt. Schools, Farmington, Minn.
R. F. Gillum, Supt. Schools, Abbeville, S. C.
G. W. Gordon, Supt. Schools, Memphis, Tenn.
Geo. Griffith, Supt. Schools, Utica, N. Y.
Ada V. Harris, Supervisor Kindergartens, Rochester, N. Y.
Edward L. Harris, Prin. Central H. S., Cleveland, Ohio.
W. H. Hatcher, Supt. Schools, Oak Park, Ill.
E. L. Hendricks, Supt. Schools, Delphi, Ind.
W. H. Harshman, Supt. Schools, Hammond, Ind.
R. H. Holbrook, Prin. South H. S., Carbondale, Ill.
H. V. Hotchkiss, Supt. Schools, Akron, Ohio.
W. W. Howe, Supt. Schools, Whitehall, N. Y.
R. L. Hughes, Supt. Schools, Whiting, Ind.
W. F. Hughes, Cincinnati O., Station S. E. Hutchinson, Supt. Schools, Napoleon, O.
S. P. Humphrey, Supt. Schools, Ironton, Ohio.
W. S. Jackman, Dean of College of Education, Univ. of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Jennie E. Johnson, Prin. Brownell School, Cleveland, O.
E. A. Jones, State Supt-elect, Maysville, Ky.
Richard Jones, Prof. of Literature, Vanderbilt Univ., Nashville, Tenn.
C. M. Jordan, Supt. Schools, Minneapolis, Minn.
R. F. Knight, Supt. Schools, Wichita, Kansas.
Cas. F. Koehler, Pres. State Normal, Aberdeen, S. D.
C. A. Krout, Supt. Schools, Tiffin, Ohio.
Alfred Livingston, Supt. Schools, Clarksville, Tenn.
E. E. Lollar, Supt. Schools, Garrett, Ind.
H. W. Lull, Supt. Schools, Newport, R. I.
E. D. Lyon, Supt. Schools, Madisonville, Ohio.
Miles E. Mashee, ex-Supt. Schools, Waterbury, Conn.
H. M. Maxson, Supt. Schools, Plainfield, N. J.
J. S. McClung, Supt. Dist. 1, Pueblo, Colo.
C. M. McDaniel, Supt. Schools, Madison, Wis.
Chas. McKenny, Pres. State Normal, Milwaukee, Wis.
W. J. McKeon, Supt. Schools, Albin, Me.
J. V. McMullan, Supt. Schools, Marietta, Ohio.
Frank McMurry, Prof. Teaching, Teachers' College, New York City.
H. R. McVay, Supt. Schools, Sidney, Ohio.
J. L. Millsbaugh, Pres. State Normal, Athens, Minn.
B. F. Moore, Supt. Schools, Marlon, Ind.
H. T. Morrow, Supt. Schools, Amsterdam, N. Y.
H. C. Muckley, Asst. Supt. Schools, Cleveland, Ohio.
B. E. Nelson, Supt. Schools, Lincoln, III.
Mary E. Nicholson, Prin. City Normal School, Indianapolis, Ind.
F. T. Olds, Supt. Schools, Dubuque, Iowa.
M. V. O'Shea, Prof. Education, State Univ., Madison, Wis.
G. M. Plumer, Principal, Marietta, O.
Rosalie Pollock, Supt. Primary Schools, Salt Lake, Utah.
Virgil Prettyman, Prin. Horace Mann H. S., New York City.
G. P. Randle, Supt. Schools, Mattoon, Ill.
H. H. Raschig, Prin. 10th Dist., Cincinnati, Ohio.
R. E. Rayman, Supt. Schools, East Lynn, Conn.
E. S. Redman, Supt. Schools, Hornellsville, N. Y.
John Richeson, Supt. Schools, East St. Louis, Ill.
E. D. Roberts, 1st Asst. Whittier School, Cincinnati, O.
R. K. Ross, Supt. Schools, Berwyn, Ill.
J. M. Sarver, Supt. Schools, Canton, Ohio.
W. N. Sheats, State Supt., Tallahassee, Fla.
David F. Shirk, Supt. Schools, Newton, Kansas.
H. O. R. Sievert, Supt. Schools, Milwaukee, Wis.
R. B. D. Simpson, Supt. Schools, Hannibal, Mo.
Albion Small, Head Dept. Sociology, Univ. of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
Walter H. Squires, Supt. Schools, Providence, R. I.
J. H. Snyder, Supt. Schools, Martins Ferry, Ohio.
J. R. Sparks, Supt. Schools, Havana, Ill.
Randall Spaulding, Supt. Schools, Montclair, N. J.
W. L. Steele, Supt. Schools, Galesburg, Ill.
W. M. Stevens, Supt. Schools, Sioux City, Ia.
Libbie J. Sweetland, Co. School Comm., Dryden, N. Y.
E. C. Thompson, Supt. Schools, Marquette, Michigan.
R. J. Tighe, Supt. Schools, Asheville, N. C.

(List concluded at bottom of page 4.)
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. 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.**
- Cleveland, E. F. Moulton, Supt.
- Cincinnati, F. B. Dyer, Supt.
- Columbus, J. A. Shawan, Supt.
- Canton, J. M. Sarver, Supt.
- Hamilton, Darrell Joyce, Supt.
- Akron, H. V. Hotchkins, Supt.
- Steubenville, Edward M. VanCleve, Supt.
- Marion, H. L. Frank, Supt.
- Mansfield, C. L. VanCleve, Supt.
- Xenia, Edwin B. Cox, Supt.
- Elyria, W. R. Comings, Supt.
- Middletown, Arthur Powell, Supt.
- Troy, Ralph M. Brown, Supt.
- St. Marys, J. D. Simpkins, Supt.
- Zanesville, W. D. Lash, Supt.
- Dayton, Edwin N. Brown, Supt.
- Lancaster, H. A. Cassidy, Supt.
- Springfield, John S. Weaver, Supt.
- Toledo, W. W. Chalmers, Supt.

**MICHIGAN.**
- Traverse City, J. B. Gilbert, Supt.
- West Bay City, E. D. Palmer, Supt.
- Adrian, P. J. Willson, Supt.
- Calumet, H. E. Kratz, Supt.
- Ironwood, L. L. Wright, Supt.
- Iron Mountain, L. E. Amidon, Supt.
- Jackson, L. S. Norton, Supt.
- Saginaw (W. Side), Phil. Huber, Supt.

**IOWA.**
- Waterloo, F. H. Bloodgood, Supt.
- Marshalltown, Wm. J. Cranc, Supt.
- Cedar Rapids, J. J. McConnell, Supt.
- Burlington, F. M. Fultz, Supt.
- Mason City, L. D. Ellis, Supt.

**MINNESOTA.**
- Duluth, R. E. Denfeld, Supt.
- Faribault, Geo. A. Franklin, Supt.
- Winona, Chas. R. Frazier, Supt.

**WISCONSIN.**
- Superior, B. B. Jackson, Supt.
- Fond du Lac, Wm. Wilson, Supt.
- Chippewa Falls, S. B. Tobey, Supt.
- Wausau, Karl Mathie, Supt.

**NEW YORK.**
- Batavia, John Kennedy, Supt.
- Cohoes, E. Hayward, Supt.
- Kingston, S. R. Shear, Supt.
- Plattsburg, S. J. Preston, Supt.
- Syracuse, A. B. Blodgett, Supt.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**
- Knoxville, Tenn., Albert Ruth, Supt.
- Asheville, N. C., R. J. Tighe, Supt.
- Hartford, Conn., C. W. Keyes, Supt.
- Salt Lake City, Utah, D. H. Christensen, Supt.
- Pueblo, Colo., J. S. McElroy, Supt.
- Los Angeles, Cal., J. A. Foshay, Supt.

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 58 to 1, etc.

E. O. VAILE, Oak Park, Ill.
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 $20,000 a year for five years provided an equal amount is raised from outside sources. This will provide $20,000 in five years.

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 carry it. 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.

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, rosted "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 preeminently 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. They have carried 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.