
NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, July 14, 1914.

The National Education Association.

The National Education Association held its fifty-second annual convention at St. Paul, Minnesota, July 4 to 11. Teachers' salaries, sex hygiene teaching, vocational education and equality of status, political and professional, between men and women were the subjects brought most prominently before the Association.

At the general session on the evening of July 6, for which the topic was Teachers' Salaries and Pensions, Margaret Haley of Chicago presented statistics disclosing the extremely low pay of teachers as compared to other workers and, in discussing the necessity for higher salaries, pointed to the evasion of taxes by corporations as one of the efficient causes of school poverty. The committee on salaries was voted an appropriation of \$1,000, twice as much as any other committee.

The teaching of sex hygiene was thoroughly discussed at another session, and the following resolution finally passed:

The Association, reaffirming its belief in the constructive value of education in sex hygiene, directs attention to the grave dangers, ethical and social, arising out of a sex consciousness, stimulated by undue emphasis upon sex problems and relations. The situation is so serious as to render neglect hazardous. The Association urges upon all parents the obvious duty of parental care and instruction in such matters and directs attention to the mistake of leaving such problems exclusively to the school. The Association believes that sex hygiene should be approached in the public schools conservatively under the direction of persons qualified by scientific training and teaching experience in order to assure a safe moral point of view. It, therefore, recommends that institutions preparing teachers give attention to such subjects as would qualify for instruction in the general field of morals as in the particular field of sex hygiene.

The special committee which had been studying vocational education during the year reported in favor of one board in control of each community's whole educational system, including vocational courses, rather than the separate vocational board advocated by some educators and business

men. This report was approved by the passage of a resolution stating that the Association—views with disfavor any proposal of a parallel system of schools exclusively for the trades and industries at public expense, but favors a comprehensive unified system of public education, including all types and forms under the single administration of the constituted authorities in charge of the public schools. A national system of vocational education, supported by funds from the nation, the State and the local community, is an urgent need, is based upon sound economic reasons and is in response to a public demand that should have prompt attention from legislative authorities.

Professional and political equality of status between men and women was emphatically advocated in principle and practice by the convention. Five of the ten vice-presidents elected were women, women were more prominent on the program than ever before, and the following resolution was approved:

The Association regards efficiency and merit, rather than sex, as the principle on which appointments and selections should be made, and therefore declares itself in favor of the political equality of the sexes and equal pay for equal services.

Among other measures passed were a commendation of President Wilson's "moral self-restraint in dealing with the Mexican situation," a deprecation of certain autocratic methods of educational work on the part of large private foundations, and pleas for the community use of school-houses, for continuation classes, for increased salaries for teachers, for a national university at public expense and under public control, and for increased appropriations for the Federal Bureau of Education.

President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, California, was elected President to succeed Joseph Swain; and Oakland, California, was chosen for next year's meeting-place, August 16 to 23, when in connection with the National Education Association there will be held an international council on education. [See vol. xvi, p. 685.]

Congressional News.

The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency rejected on July 9 by a vote of 7 to 4 a motion to recommend confirmation of the appointment of Thomas D. Jones to the federal reserve board, and further voted unanimously to postpone consideration of the nomination of Paul M. Warburg until he shall appear before the committee. The votes to confirm Jones were cast by Pomerene of Ohio, Shafroth of Colorado, Hollis of New