

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDITORIAL

JUST BEGUN

Big barriers to school progress have been removed by the three amendments to the State Constitution sanctioned by the voters of Virginia on November 2.

Our work has "just begun", however, as these amendments simply remove obstructions in two of the three cases, namely, those regarding local taxes for schools and compulsory school attendance.

The legislature may now fix the maximum rate for local taxes and we do not believe that a maximum less than \$1.25 on the \$100. will meet the urgent needs of our public schools. This is a matter for our next legislature.

In the meantime local communities must be informed about the needs of our schools. Pertinent facts should be brought before them through the newspapers and various organizations so that no community which needs additional funds for its schools shall fail to take advantage of the maximum tax rate now provided by the legislature.

The compulsory attendance law we believe should be formulated by educators and put before the people to secure sufficient momentum to have it passed by the next session of the legislature. A committee of the State Teachers Association, working with the State Board of Education and representatives from the Superintendents and School Trustees, would be admirably suited to accomplish this purpose.

S. P. D.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

WHY I LOVE TEACHING

The following sentences taken from a prize essay of Supt. John Dixon will pay reading and re-reading, especially whenever our interests lag a little or the work is at all discouraging:

"I like teaching because I like boys and girls, because I delight in having them about me, in talking with them, working with them, playing with them, and in possessing their confidence and affection.

I like teaching because the teacher works in an atmosphere of idealism, dealing with mind and heart, with ideas and ideals. . . .

I like teaching because the relation of teacher to learner in whatever capacity is one of the most interesting and delightful in the world.

Teaching is attractive because it imposes a minimum of drudgery. Its day is not too long, and is so broken by intermissions, and so varied in its schedule of duties as to exclude undue weariness or monotony. The program of each school day is a new and interesting adventure.

There is no work in which men and women engage which more directly and fundamentally serves society and the State. Teaching is the biggest and best profession in the nation because it creates and moulds the nation's citizenship. It is the very foundation and mainstay of the national life.

And now at last the teacher's work is coming into its own. From now on, the teacher will be adequately paid, and accorded the place which is rightfully his in the public regard.

The TRUE TEACHER is, and may well be, proud of the title, for his work is akin to that of the Master Builder, the creation of a temple not made with hands."—*Public Service*, September 28, 1920.

"THE OUTLOOK FOR TEACHING"

In a pamphlet with the above caption published by the Illinois State Normal University and addressed to high school seniors, President Felmley points out that, with a great shortage of teachers, salaries are

advancing rapidly throughout the country for teachers with professional training. He calls attention to the fact that the number of students in most normal schools has been decreasing and adds: "Competent men and women must be had for the schoolroom. Salaries will be made sufficient to hold them there and enable them to obtain the training and culture needed for good service. There will never be an oversupply of teachers of character, ability, and skill."

THE SURVEY AGAIN

School Life, the official organ of the United States Bureau of Education, for September 1, 1920, devotes a page and a half to the topic—"Comprehensive Changes in Virginia." The proposed amendments to the constitution are discussed as well as ten important legislative acts of the last session. Any teacher may avail herself not only of this number but of the regular bi-monthly issues by dropping a post card to the United States Bureau of Education, Washington, D.C. By the way, the World Book Company, New York City, has just announced the publication of the State Survey under the title "Virginia Public Schools."

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Steps towards the fundamental reorganization of the N. E. A. are under way, whereby state and local teachers' associations may become affiliated with the National Association, and delegates therefrom represent their interests in a general Representative Assembly for the election of officers and other important matters. The new constitution as printed in the N. E. A. Bulletin for September 1920 makes clear the advantages and privileges of such an affiliation. Why not see to it that your city or county is one of the first to take advantage of this opportunity?

Furthermore it is time for hotel reservations to be made at Atlantic City for the next meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A., February 27 to March 3, 1921. Superintendent Charles Boyer, of Atlantic City, will assist you. This promises to be the greatest educational gathering in history.

THE BALTIMORE SCHOOLS

For some time interest has centered in changes in administration in the city schools of Baltimore as well as in the state department of education of Maryland. Following shortly upon the appointment of Mr. Albert S. Cook, former head of the splendid Baltimore County system, to the headship of the state department, came the appointment of Dr. Henry S. West to the city superintendency.

Dr. West was given the backing of a reorganized board of education and now has been able to secure the services of Dr. George D. Strayer of Teachers College to make a survey of the system. This is a fortunate solution of the matter as a survey has been in the air for some time but it seemed likely that it might be undertaken quite unprofessionally and unscientifically by the board of education under the instigation of the Mayor who has been interested in the school situation since he took office.

The expectation is that a report can be made during the present month upon the matter of buildings, repairs, additions, and new buildings, and that it will be possible to use these results in a program already under way. This will be followed with an extensive survey into the teaching and supervision work of the elementary and higher schools of the city which will no doubt consume most of the present school year. This reminds one of the last time Baltimore had a school survey. It was a non-professional matter and was instigated by politics, with the results that the progressive superintendent then in charge, Mr. Van Sickle, was relieved. Baltimore then took a step backward from which she is now trying to retrieve herself. Until such time as the Survey Report is to be had, the general activities of school authorities and of the survey staff can be profitably followed by reading the pithy critiques of "Ezekiel Cheever" in the Sunday Baltimore Sun.

W. J. G.

No teacher in the common schools of Indiana shall receive less than \$800 for a school year, according to the terms of a bill recently signed by Governor Goodrich.