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**A Plan to Promote Educational
Progress through the
United States Bureau
of Education**



THE PLAN

endorsed by

**SCHOOL BOARDS AND
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

representing

40 States and 263 leading cities

by

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**UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES
AND NORMAL SCHOOLS**

and by the

Associations of School Superintendents

of

Michigan and California

DAVID C. BARROW, *Chancellor, University of Georgia.*
"I will be glad to do anything I can and will write to some of our congressmen."

The Bureau of Education is 43 years old

A memorial was presented to Congress in 1866 by the National Association of School Superintendents.

James A. Garfield defended a bill to create a National Bureau of Education.

As a result of his defense the Bureau was established in 1867 as an independent office.

The Bureau a victim of unfriendly legislation

In 1869 the office was reduced to a subordinate position in the Department of the Interior.

The salary of the Commissioner was lowered from \$4,000 to \$3,000.

And the office was neglected and housed in extremely inadequate quarters for nearly forty years.

Meanwhile other Bureaus have been more fortunate

In 1839, \$1,000 was appropriated for the distribution of seeds.

To-day the Department of Agriculture spends \$3,000,000 through a single Bureau.

Through the Weather Bureau, it has been spending about \$300,000 annually for telegraph service alone.

Altogether Congress provides annually between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000 for research mainly along Agricultural and Industrial lines.

BEN BLEWETT, *Superintendent of St. Louis Schools.*

"I am in hearty accord with the proposition of your circular letter, and I shall take pleasure in so stating to the members of the Board of Education of St. Louis."

M. G. BRUMBAUGH, Superintendent of Schools, Philadelphia, Pa.

"I shall advise my Board of Education to cooperate in the manner indicated in your letter dated April 21st."

Amounts appropriated for the Bureau of Education

Congress gives the Bureau of Education \$300,000 a year.

Over \$200,000 is spent in the education of the natives of Alaska.

With the remainder the Bureau gathers and compiles statistics, pays the running expenses of the office and conducts investigations in education.

Despite neglect the Bureau has done efficient work

"In spite of all limitations and embarrassments, the Bureau of Education has fully justified the wisdom of its creation."—Resolutions, N. E. A., 1889.

"It has never been without a highly capable and efficient Commissioner at its head."—A. S. Draper, 1907.

"The office of the Commissioner of Education has always been wisely and ably administered."—Science, October 8, 1909.

SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT NEED INVESTIGATION

Trade and Industrial Education

From the grammar grades of our city schools, 500,000 children leave their studies each year to enter the work-a-day

CIVIC CLUB AND CIVIC PROGRESS LEAGUE, Memphis, Tennessee.

"The City Club and the Civic Progress League, representing the desire of the best citizens that education be accorded the leading place in all plans making for civic betterment request the Tennessee Senators and Representatives to favor an appropriation of \$75,000 for a staff of specialists to conduct the field work of the Bureau."

JOHN W. COOK, President, Northern Illinois State Normal School, De Kalb, Ill.

"It rejoices my heart to know that you folks are pushing the work in the interest of the Bureau so successfully."

world. Of these, 250,000 do not even complete their primary education. These children drop out of school without having had the preparation that will give them confidence and ability to take their places in the activities of life. Educators need to know the lessons of experience in Trade and Industrial Education. They should have in convenient form the history and methods of the various systems and experiments. The agent that could secure these fundamental facts is our Federal Bureau of Education.

School Hygiene and the Health of School Children.

Recent investigations indicate that children who have decayed teeth spend six months longer in going through the elementary schools than do those with sound teeth. Children in rooms in which the temperature is kept between 65 and 68 degrees with normal humidity, learn more easily and remember better than those in rooms with high temperature and low humidity. All available information on these topics should be secured by the Federal Government through its Bureau of Education and placed at the service of school authorities.

School Construction.

Approximately \$500,000,000 represents the value of school buildings and grounds

JAMES R. DAY, Chancellor, Syracuse University.

"I will give attention to the matter and ask for action by our people as soon as we have a faculty meeting. I am in hearty sympathy with the good work of your foundation."

ALSTON ELLIS, *President, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.*

"I am in hearty accord with the object you have in mind and shall be glad to do what I can in a personal way to promote it."

in the United States. Authoritative information on all successful attempts to meet the intricate problems of school construction in their relation to the welfare of children, as well as to the interest of economy, is essential. The proper agency for the collection and diffusion of information on construction of school buildings would be an adequately supported Federal Bureau of Education.

Rural Schools a serious problem

The Federal Commission on Country Life in its report to the President declares: "In every part of the United States there seems to be one mind on the part of those capable of judging on the necessity of redirecting the rural schools. There is no such unanimity on any other subject." If public instruction in the country is to keep pace with other improvements, schoolmen must have all the helpful information that the Federal Government alone can gather. The proper source of this information is the Federal Bureau of Education.

Use of the School Plant after day-school hours

Sixty-one per cent of the total time a school house could be used is wasted when it is devoted only to day-school instruction. To make the wider use universal in our country requires only a

V. H. ELSON, *Superintendent of Cleveland Schools.*
"I am in hearty sympathy with the movement, indeed, it is imperative to our progress. I shall be glad to write to our Representative in Congress."

CHARLES S. FOOS, *Superintendent of Schools, Reading, Pa.*

"I wish to say that I will do all I can in the matter you refer to with reference to enlarging the scope of the National Bureau of Education."

clearing-house of information, an agency which will collect the best plans and the most successful methods and disseminate them throughout the country. The most appropriate agency to perform this service is the Federal Bureau of Education.

The N. E. A. and other organizations have worked to increase the funds of the Bureau.

These attempts have failed because there has not been any persistent work along a definite plan.

This folder attempts to secure your co-operation in behalf of such a plan.

The Plan

Proposes to secure an addition of \$75,000 to the funds usually appropriated for the Bureau. This sum is to be used in employing a staff of ten specialists. These will study, investigate and consult with local schoolmen on the following subjects:

- The construction of school buildings
- School administration
- Accounting and statistics
- Industrial education (evening, trade, and continuation schools)
- Education for housekeeping
- School hygiene
- Rural schools
- Agricultural and mechanical colleges
- Commercial education
- The wider uses of the school plant.

P. S. GOODALE, *Secretary to the Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh, Pa.*

"The movement as outlined in your letter of May 19 has Chancellor McCormick's fullest, heartiest endorsement."

EDMOND J. JAMES, *President, University of Illinois.*

"I have labored in season and out of season strenuously to help to secure a larger appropriation for the office of the United States Commissioner of Education. I believe it ought to be greatly strengthened and shall be glad to follow up the suggestions which you give."

Three reasons why the plan commends itself to schoolmen

It agrees fully with plans projected by the United States Commissioner of Education.

If successful, there will be no conflict with local autonomy.

It promises co-operation with State and local educational agencies.

To secure the \$75,000

It is not necessary to present a Bill for that purpose before Congress.

Therefore such a Bill has not been presented.

But the Commissioner of Education can include that amount in his budget,

And will get the money if schoolmen will back him up.

Otherwise he will not get the \$75,000.

For this reason your co-operation is needed now

Write to your Representative and Senators endorsing the plan.

Get your civic organizations, churches, women's clubs, Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce to send resolutions to Congress.

Work for the plan on the way to the N. E. A. convention at Boston, and after your arrival.

J. Y. JOYNER, *President, N. E. A., Raleigh, N. C.*

"You can rely on my hearty cooperation in all matters of this sort. I will give the matter attention at my earliest convenience."

WILLIAM H. MAXWELL, *Superintendent of New York City Schools.*

"I most heartily endorse the plan outlined by the Russell Sage Foundation for extending the operation and the influence of the United States Bureau of Education."

WOODROW WILSON, *President Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.*

"I will take pleasure in submitting it for consideration to the proper committee of our Faculty, who I am sure will give it their very careful attention."

Senator William E. Borah is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

Representative James F. Burke is Chairman of the House Committee on Education

E. C. MOORE, *Superintendent of Los Angeles Schools.*

"I presented the plan to the Annual Convention of the County and City Superintendents of California, and to the Board of Education of Los Angeles. Both organizations have adopted resolutions approving the plan. I will also present the plan to the Chamber of Commerce."

ELLA FLAGG YOUNG, *Superintendent of Chicago Schools.*

"Anything which I can do to further your campaign for action by Congress along these lines will be very cheerfully done."

As man is more precious than the soil, as the immortal spirit is nobler than the clod it animates, so is the object of this movement more important than any mere pecuniary interest.

We have organized a coast survey bureau and have expended millions upon it. Is it of no consequence that we explore the boundaries of that wonderful intellectual empire which encloses within its domain the fate of this republic?

We have set on foot a score of expeditions to explore the mountains and valleys, the lakes and rivers of this and other countries. Will you refuse a pitiful sum to collect and record the intellectual resources of this country?

We expend hundreds of thousands annually to promote the agricultural interests of the country. Is it not of more consequence to do something for the farmer of the future than for the farm of to-day?

Condensed from a speech of James A. Garfield.