

GREENVILLE NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS IMPERATIVE.

The political atmosphere at the Nation's Capital is saturated with expectancy and uncertainty. All want to know; some say they know; but nobody knows. The Sixty-Sixth Congress is now in its closing session. What may be accomplished during this short session is purely conjectural. The leaders of both House and Senate have announced that no general legislation will be considered, only the necessary appropriation bills. The new President and the new Congress will not take office till the fourth of March. It is generally supposed that President Harding will call the Sixty-seventh Congress in special session in March or April. The newspaper correspondents have filled all the Cabinet positions many times over, including the Department of Education, but the man who knows has not spoken.

Anticipating the enactment of legislation during the new administration for the reorganization of the Executive Departments, several bills on this subject have been introduced, altho

It is not expected that any of them will be passed during the session. It is too early to give a complete list of these bills and the provisions of each. One would abolish the Department of Interior and create a Department of Public Works; another would do the same, and also create a Department of Public Welfare; and still another would establish a Department of Social Welfare. All would more or less rearrange existing bureaus. The first would transfer the Bureau of Education to the Department of Labor, the second would place it in the Department of Public Welfare, while the third would include it in the Department of Social Welfare.

While we would favor reorganization of the Departments in the interest of efficiency, and would not oppose the creation of other new departments, it is an error that these bills do not meet the needs of education, for none of them would give any greater recognition to education than it now has nor make any more generous provision and support, in a pay with animals, but with much smaller appropriations than these. There are nearly ten times as many employees in the Bureau of Animal Industry as in the Bureau of Education, and the Government spends four times as much per head on the cattle, horse, mules, sheep and hogs of the country through the Bureau of Animal Industry as it spends per capita on the school children of the country through the Bureau of Education, and the Bureau of Animal Industry is only one of several similar bureaus in the Department of Agriculture. Even if one of these bills were passed the friends of education would have to keep right on working for a Department of Education. We ask no less for live stock but more for children.

The Smith-Towner bill would lift education out of the subordinate position in which it has so long been submerged and give it equal recognition with agriculture, commerce and labor, with a Secretary in the President's cabinet. President-elect Harding declared in his statement to the committee of the National Education Association, at Marion, on October 1, that "Education is so intimately related to every phase of human welfare and to the perpetuity of our free institu-

tions that it must be considered of primary importance in every program for social betterment." Is it not imperative that a matter of such "primary importance" be given primary recognition? We do not object to a Department of Public Welfare, but we must continue to insist on a Department of Education.

There is abundant evidence that the movement for a Department of Education is gaining in public support. Of course there is opposition, and no doubt some of it is sincere, but the opposition which is most heard is based on fear, and must break down when the truth is known and understood. It is absurd to state that under the provisions of the Smith-Towner bill control of the public schools would be centralized in Washington, when it specifically provides for state and local control. But every knock is proving a boost. The friends of public education are becoming aroused. They are asking why those who have never demonstrated any particular love for the public schools should presume to be so concerned about their welfare, and they very logically conclude that public education is safest in the hands of its friends. The American people have a way of finding out what is right and best and then bringing it to pass.

The time is critical. The friends of public education have an opportunity right now to show their devotion and loyalty for a Department of Education. Never mind the timid and the doubting. This is a time for action. Congressmen and Senators are always pleased to hear from their constituents. A hundred telegrams and letters to each could tell all the needs of education. Our friends will help, too. We have some powerful allies in this cause. Six of the great national organizations of women are aggressively supporting the movement, and many national organizations of men are rising in support of the highest welfare of the public schools. The justice of the cause appeals to nearly all patriotic citizens.

The proper recognition and promotion of education by the Federal Government is so fair and reasonable and so clearly essential to the preservation and development of all that is best in our national life that it is sure to come. It may be delayed but it can

not be defeated. In spite of doubts and complications and opposition there will yet come to education the dawning of a brighter day. Editorial reprinted from the January, 1921, issue, The Journal of the National Education Association.

LAMAR LOSES LEGAL BATTLE

Washington, Dec. 14.—Conviction in New York of David Lamar, "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Henry B. Marsh, on charges of conspiring to prevent the transportation of munitions of war to the allies, will stand as a result of the Supreme Court's dismissal today of the writ of error obtained by the defendants.

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