

SCHOOL TEACHERS "WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE THE WAR"

Salary Increase Less Than in Living Cost

U. S. Chamber of Commerce Survey — Emergency Instructors Lacking Proper Training Form Too Large Proportion.

(New York Evening Post.) Chambers of Commerce in 309 cities of the United States with a population of 8,000 or more will receive today from their national committee for co-operation with the public schools the results of a nationwide survey relating to salaries, training, and experience of teachers in which it is declared that in point of salary the average school teacher is "worse off than before the war."

The report, the first of four "interpretive inquiries," will enable these cities to learn for the first time the truth about their own schools and to compare them with the schools of other cities throughout the country. This survey, which was undertaken by the American City Bureau after a conference of superintendents of schools with Chamber of Commerce secretaries at Cleveland, O., last February 24, has been in progress more than six months. The questions to which answers were sought and obtained in the 850 cities were: "How much training do you teachers have?" and "How well do you pay your school employees?"

Many Have Short Experience. One-half of the men elementary teachers in all cities reporting, it was shown had less than the median of 8.10 years of experience. One-fourth have had less than 3.71 years' experience. Of 68,291 teachers, 3,493 have had only one year's experience, and of this number 738 are men and women high school teachers and 2,736 are men and women elementary grade teachers. More than 10,000 women and 800 men in the cities surveyed, however, have been teaching twenty years and over.

Emergency teachers lacking proper training for their work are said to compose "an alarmingly large proportion" of those now in the class rooms. It is a commonly accepted standard among city boards of education, the report points out, that the teachers in the elementary schools should be at least graduates of a two-year professional course above graduation from a four-year high school. "It is very significant to note in this connection," the report says, "that more than one-third of the teachers of American cities have less training than this standard, and that there are thousands of teachers in the elementary schools of our American cities who have even less preparation than graduation from a four-year high school course."

Good Salaries Essential. Declaring that "national problems of illiteracy, Americanization, racial con-

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troveries, equalization of educational opportunity, health, industrial organization, require that the product of our schools by thinking Americans, provided with the knowledge and habits which will make them contributing members of a democratic society," the report says that "teaching needs to be made a real profession," and that "adequate salaries are an absolute essential for the realization of this ideal." The returns disclose what are described as "many surprising facts concerning teachers' salaries." The average increase the country over since 1918-14 has been 60 per cent. The increase in the cost of living, meanwhile, it is shown, has been more than 100 per cent. "In view of the decreased purchasing power of the dollar the average school teacher in the United States is, therefore, worse off than she was before the war," the report states. The method of calculation used in the report is based on a median, or midpoint, in the scale of salaries which divides it exactly in half, one-half the cases falling below the median and the other half above it.

Chicago Pay Highest. The following cities respectively paid the highest and lowest median salaries during the school year 1919-1920, ac-

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make available the facts with regard to the present situation and if Chambers of Commerce undertake the obligation to carry these facts to the public we shall have an informed public. The American people, when they come to a full realization of the present emergency, can certainly be counted upon to provide the support necessary for the maintenance and development of our public school system."

"WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN"

(The American Banker.) The Retail Clothing Association in convention at Chicago last week let drop some trade secrets. Here are a few facts which explain the high cost of garments: The prices of clothes will drop slowly so long as the girls from Russia get \$45 a week. The average wage for needle trades is \$47, the dealers say. The same shop girls goes regularly to the beauty shop now. She's getting to be a regular chicken, silk hose and every thing. The pocket-makers are the real aristocrats in the clothing business now. In some cases they get \$100 a week. They have entered that class that can take breakfast in bed. There is some balm in Gilead for the long-suffering and heavily-gauged ultimate consumer. For instance: Woollens will be cheaper next spring. The president of the association even said that clothing prices must come down because they are too high. But Fred Veiland, a director of the association, gave a better reason. He let the cat out of the bag. He said the American public had rebelled against high prices. "The old clothes club," he said, "has struck the right note. That was the American public's way of registering a protest against an intolerable situation. Men who could afford to buy clothes at the high prices refused to do so, with the result that the market is overstocked. Men who used to have three and four suits are satisfied now to get along with one a year. "But the men insist on quality," he added. "Their wives have not anything on them as shoppers. They are getting more fussy all the time about what they buy."



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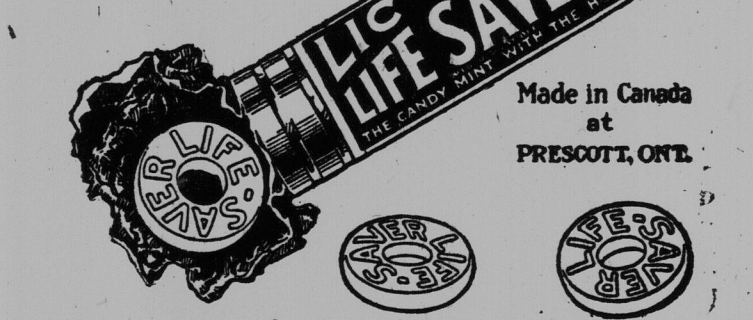
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How the League Issue Is Splitting the Parties

The desertion of the Harding camp by a former Republican National Committeeman and a number of other prominent pro-League Republicans after Senator Harding's uncompromising rejection of the League of Nations in its present form in his Des Moines speech, convinces many observers that the League has taken its place at the eleventh hour as a clear-cut issue of the Presidential campaign. But if the League issue is now rending the Republican ranks, it is also a matter of common newspaper remark that earlier in the campaign it won over to the Harding banner many Irish-American and German-American voters who supported Wilson in 1916. And it will be remembered that it was on this issue that the Hearst papers abandoned their traditional Democratic allegiance. In the Democratic camp Senator Harding's Des Moines speech was greeted with every appearance of rejoicing. The New York Times (Dem.) declares that "the election of Cox means a League of Nations acceptable to President Wilson, and Republican success apparently precludes American participation in the League," but, affirms the Baltimore American (Rep.), all that Senator Harding has done in this matter has been to "turn his back upon the Wilson League and turn his face toward the Constitution and toward the Senate," and the New York Globe (Rep.) is "convinced that Senator Harding will be compelled to move for the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles." A most interesting and instructive analysis and digest of public opinion on the League of Nations issue will be found in the leading article of THE LITERARY DIGEST for October 23d. Other striking news-features in this number are:—

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