

(Deja Vu All Over Again)
Reasons Why Teachers Must Have More Pay

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transcribed by Ron Henson

1. There is an emergency in education – 140,000 teachers left the profession during the last year. Many of their places are filled by young or incompetent teachers and many vacancies yet exist.
2. The great majority of those who left the teaching profession did so to enter positions offering better pay, hence it is evident that they were of the more ambitious, intelligent, and progressive class.
3. As these have left the teaching business, and others in great numbers will follow, to enter better paying positions, it is clear that the only way to meet the emergency is to secure better pay for teachers.
4. A very great number of districts are now levying the maximum limit of fifteen mills, and this in many places is found to be inadequate, and it will be inadequate in far more places next year, to provide the salary funds necessary to keep the best teachers in the profession.
5. In districts where the limit is not being levied, they are in many cases having short terms of school with poorly paid teachers.
6. Education is not a local affair. Its cause is state-wide, and the State should protect its interests and help to support it.
7. The cities are dependent upon the poorer rural districts for their existence and support, and the support is made possible only by making the rural districts such that the farmer can afford to keep his children there, and he can not afford to keep them where there are not good schools; hence, the welfare of the cities demands that good schools be provided for the rural districts.
8. A six-mill state-wide tax levy will amount to about fifteen dollars to each boy and girl of school age in the State, and will almost double the amount of school funds now available.
9. Such levy will guarantee all rural districts a good school with well paid teachers, even where school boards are not progressive, and will enable towns and cities to meet the emergency confronting them.
10. Such levy will give the boys and girls in the poor districts more nearly an equal opportunity with the boys and girls in cities or wealthy districts.
11. Where the limit is now sufficient or unnecessary, the six-mill levy will reduce the present local levy by six mills and not hurt the district, be it rural or city.
12. With good pay or even the prospect of good pay, the best teachers will remain in the business, many well qualified teachers who have left it will return to it, and our normal schools and the educational departments of other institutions of learning will become

filled with the best and brightest of our young men and women who will soon become prepared for teaching and thus supply the depleted ranks of the profession; yet, it will, at the very best, require three or four years to replenish the teaching forces with teachers as competent as they were in pre-war days.

13. When the ranks fill, standards of qualifications will be raised and we will then, and not until then, be able to eliminate the incompetent teachers.
14. The children – our future men and women – deserve our best efforts and unstinted help. This is our opportunity to give it and in so doing manifest the true spirit of AMERICANISM. Will we do it.

W.C. Canterbury,
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