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Homemaker as Citizen

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Homemaker as Citizen

The Education Bill, originally as the Smith Bill and first introduced in Congress in 1918, has been revised and during December was again introduced and referred to the House and Senate committees on Education.

Patterned after the Smith Lever and Smith-Hughes Acts, it is designed to promote education and provides particularly for research work on immigration, immigrant education, public school education including rural education, physical education including health education, recreation and sanitation, and the preparation and supply of competent teachers for public schools.

A Department of Education with a Secretary appointed by the President in his Cabinet is provided for. This measure is regarded by all students of contemporary politics as one of the most encouraging and healthiest signs of the times. It is making the participation of women in voting a sane and vital force. Our representative institutions are based upon the two-party system, and the great task of women voters is to support our two great parties loyally, but at the same time act as a wholesome and irresistible influence for better policies and more intelligent policies within the parties.

The recent Des Moines Conference is the most eloquent demonstration we have had of what woman suffrage is going to mean to our country. Ability of a high order, restraint, earnestness and good humor were shown in handling the topics under discussion, and the resolutions adopted showed that our women voters are not to be stumped by their emotions, nor are they likely to be beguiled into voting for one candidate over another. We must do our best to reach as many women as possible.

Recently I attended a meeting of the Public Health Association of the city of Philadelphia, and there was a good attendance, but the speakers, I regret to say, did not interest the audience sufficiently to give the health of our city the attention it is due. I am sure we can do much better than this, and I am hoping that more men will be interested in the work of the public health department.

NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATION FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Efforts for universal Physical Education have been made by national and state groups and although progress has been slow several states have faced the issue squarely and enacted laws providing for medical inspection, health education and physical training.

National legislation for universal physical education began in December, 1917, when the War department reported that one-third of the men examined under the draft had been found unfit for military service. Since then progress has been made as shown in the National Physical Education Service Report.

November, 1918, the National committee on Health and Education reported less than one-fourth of the nation's school children as fully fit physically.

February, 1919. Thirty national organizations joined a campaign for universal physical education in the schools of the nation.

February, 1920. Original Fess-Capper Physical Education Bill introduced in Congress proposing federal leadership and stimulus to states in extending physical education to all children.

June, 1920. Promise of national legislation for physical education included in Republican campaign platform.

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competition, much of its original imperative force.

If we are to profit by nature's gifts we must use them. The richness of life which seems to fill the life of the parent to overflowing when he first feels the touch of his baby's hands upon his cheek is the power, the motive force, which impels him to make every sacrifice in the interest of babyhood. Now this energy is needed quite as much when this same baby has reached the awkward years, when as a general rule, no one loves him much but his mother.

The parent who has allowed the parental fires to burn low because of the failure to replenish them with the proper fuel—many and varied sought out contacts with the child—will prefer the lodge or the bridge-party to the companionship of his own child, particularly during these important years of transition. But the one who has kept the fires glowing warmly will, on the contrary, find these years the open gate to a still sweeter companionship and an even greater opportunity.

"My boy is growing into manhood! He will soon be living in my own world, a companion in every sense. I must use every resource at my command to guide him unerringly through this critical period. His interests are calling him forth into wider activities; I must have a share in them. I must be his right-hand man, his closest friend ready to advise him in every new experience."

Such is the nature of the soliloquy which passes through the mind of the parent in whom the parental instinct has waxed stronger and stronger as the years of growth and development have sped by.

The successful parent is one who has studied, in season and out, to keep this parental urge very much alive. With this vital urge he advances fearlessly and hopefully into his task with the determination to "study to show himself approved", a parent "that needeth not to be ashamed".

Hints for the Spring Wardrobe
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summer fabrics are numerous. For afternoon there are hand-embroidered voiles, organdies and chichinette, a sheer fabric corded with fine stripes and bars. For less dressy occasions hand-blocked crepes, English prints, percales, gingham and linens. There will be much hand-drawn embroidery on the plain colored linens. The popular summer costume will be made of some member of the ratine family. With these will be worn matching or contrasting scarfs.

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July, 1920. Democratic leaders promised support.
February, 1921. Pess-Capper Bill H. R. 22-S. 416 (revised to overcome a number of reasonable objections) was introduced in Congress.
Leaders in Congress assure us that national legislation for the stimulation of Physical education will be enacted in the

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Miss Baker will be with us again the first week in February to give instructions in "Dennison Craft." Come and see her.

REYNOLDS & IVERSEN
Ames News Stand
present session of Congress. They explain the failure of action during the recent Congress to be the result of the fact that there were several competing proposals for legislation which included the promotion of physical education.

The National Bill rests in the committees on education of both the Senate and the House. The Republican Steering Committee promises ultimate action on the bill in fulfillment of the party pledge, but during the present session is discouraging the report of any bills involving appropriations for new governmental activities. Leaders in the House Committee on education have up to the present time agreed that the Towner-Sterling big bill for a Department of Education must have right of way. The report on that big bill, however, has been delayed by the uncertainty of the plans for reorganizing the federal departments.

The first state passing a bill for physical training was North Dakota. The bill was enacted in 1899 and was followed by one in Ohio in 1904. By 1918 eleven states had laws for state-wide promotion of physical education and four of them provided for state supervisors. Four years later seventeen other states had been added to the list.

An act approved April 16, 1923, to provide for physical education and training in health in the public schools of the state of Iowa is as follows:

"Section 1. On and after September 1, 1924, there shall be established and provided in all of the public elementary and secondary schools of this state physical education, including effective health supervision and health instruction of both sexes, and every pupil of school age attending such schools shall take the prescribed course or courses in physical education as herein provided.

"Modified courses of instruction shall be provided for those pupils physically or mentally unable to take the courses provided for normal children. Said subject shall be taught in the manner prescribed by the state superintendent of public instruction. This program of physical education shall occupy periods each week totaling not less than fifty minutes, exclusive of recesses, throughout each and every school term. The conduct and attainment of the pupils shall be marked as in other subjects and shall form part of the requirements for promotion or graduation. Provided that no pupil shall be required to take this instruction whose parents or guardian shall file a written statement with the school principal or teacher that such instruction conflicts with his or her religious belief.

"Section 2. After September 1, 1923, every high school, state college, university or normal school giving teacher training courses shall provide a course or courses in physical education.

"Section 3. The state superintendent of public instruction is authorized to prepare or approve a manual on practical health training for the aid of teachers, and to distribute the same."

Miss May E. Francis, state superintendent of public instruction, has prepared a suggestive plan for teachers in normal training high schools, also suggestions to superintendents as well as suggestions to all teachers and a list of reference books to aid in carrying out the act enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Iowa.