

A National Council for the Social Studies

The emotional interest in Americanization and training for citizenship has about run its course. Thoughtful people have taken stock of the movement and concluded that there is little difference between education and training for citizenship. They realized that the work of the school system, including the institutions of higher learning, may be made more useful than heretofore; and that the efforts at education which were inaugurated during the war revealed weaknesses which we are not quite able to correct. They are ready to settle down to a careful examination of our educational machinery with a view to its constructive reorganization.

One of the lessons that we seem to have learned is the fact that the pursuit of the social studies needs a good deal more attention than it has heretofore received. But it is not certain that all have learned that the social studies constitute a group of subjects which must be viewed as a group and not as separate disciplines, wholly independent of each other. There still remains a tendency among the historians, economists, political scientists and sociologists to work too independently of each other. Although the school program is already full, representatives of these fields of university scholarship are insisting on separate recognition in it. The fact is not clear enough that those who wish to improve the work in the social studies must ask the school administrators how much time may properly be granted to them as a group, and then prepare in coöperation to use this allotment of time as fully and usefully as possible.

A study of the situation made during the year 1920 revealed, however, that the most progressive workers in all of the fields commonly referred to by those who use the term social studies are ready to meet their colleagues on equal terms and seek a solution of the educational problems, which may rightly be said to belong to the training of the rising citizen through a study of our political, economic and social organization with the historical evolution of this organization. There is no doubt that the time is ripe for a national association with a view to effecting such coöperation.

A number of teachers on the Pacific coast, under the leadership of Miss Olive Thompson and Mr. R. L. Ashley, recently considered the organization of the teachers of the social studies for the purpose of establishing a journal and the propagation of sound principles in this field. But the projected journal was given up because of financial difficulties and because it became evident that the *HISTORICAL OUTLOOK* was already available for the publication of such discussions as could be provided. With the abandonment of the plan for a journal, the movement halted.

At Teachers College, Mr. E. U. Rugg and Professor J. M. Gambrill recently called a conference to discuss the desirability of organizing a council in coöperation with the meetings of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association. The outcome of this conference, and of an inquiry sent out by Mr. Rugg, was the calling of a meeting of those interested in the matter at Atlantic City on March 3, 1921, during the recent meetings of the Department of Superintendence. At this meeting a temporary organization was effected. Professor A. E. McKinley, Editor of the *HISTORICAL OUTLOOK*, was selected as

President; Professor R. M. Tryon, of the University of Chicago, Vice-President; Professor Edgar Dawson, of Hunter College, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mr. E. U. Rugg, of Teachers College, Assistant Secretary. In the temporary constitution, adopted at that meeting, the name "National Council of Teachers of the Social Studies" was adopted, and the purpose of the organization was stated as follows: "To bring about the association and coöperation of teachers of social studies (history, government, economics, sociology, etc.), and of administrators, supervisors, teachers of education and others interested in obtaining the maximum results in education for citizenship through social studies."

This meeting and temporary organization had in mind only the preparations which must be made during the next year for a more permanent institution, through which all persons who are really working in the field of the social studies may find coöperation convenient. The officers were elected for a year, and the constitution was adopted for a year. The President is to appoint an Advisory Board of fifteen members, and four members are to be selected to coöperate with the officers as an Executive Committee. It will be the duty of these persons to canvass the field of the social studies; draft a constitution to be submitted to the next meeting; nominate officers; and generally to prepare the way for an organization which will be representative and capable of performing functions which need to be performed if the work of our schools and institutions of higher education is to be served most effectively.

The temporary officers hope that those who read this will consider the embryonic movement a useful one; and will wish to coöperate in it. All who are interested are invited to send their names, with the annual dues (\$1.00), to the Secretary-Treasurer, Edgar Dawson, Hunter College, New York City, as soon as convenient. The movement needs support and encouragement; it needs particularly the advice and guidance of those who wish to make the social studies useful. Those who do not wish now to become members are urged to write to the Secretary, stating their views on the desirability of the movement. Further plans for the Council will be reported in the May number of the *HISTORICAL OUTLOOK*.

Books on History and Government Published in the United States from January 29, to February 26, 1921

LISTED BY CHARLES A. COULOMB, PH.D.

AMERICAN HISTORY

- Bennett, Helen B., and others, Editors. Historical readings; an introduction to the study of American history. N. Y.: Rand, McNally. 440 pp. \$1.50, net.
- Bolton, Reginald P. New York City in Indian possession. N. Y.: Museum of the American Indian. Heye Foundation.
- Boyer, Charles S. The old houses in Camden, N. J. Camden, N. J.: S. Chew and Sons. Privately printed.
- California and the Japanese; a compilation of arguments advertised in newspapers by the American Committee of Justice in opposition to the Alien Land Law. Oakland, Cal.: The American Committee of Justice, 1904 Adeline St. 16 pp.