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ARE SCHOOL TEACHERS AS VALUABLE AS SCRUB WOMEN? MONEY TALKS!

By MARGUERITE EDWARDS.

What is a school teacher worth to the community?

Worth as much as a scrub woman, a laundress, a ditch digger?

Money talks, they say—and if it's true, money says the teacher is NOT!

School teachers themselves have been saying mildly, and sadly, for years that they were underpaid, that they could barely live on their salaries. But they kept on living and teaching, and guiding and loving our children—so nobody paid any attention.

Now, suddenly, a great many persons are beginning to pay attention for the school teachers are QUITTING WORK. They are turning to other professions. The normal schools which train teachers have few to train. Those now in the profession who can leave it are leaving, and no new teachers take their places. To meet the war emergency the government itself issued pleas for more teachers, accepted part time teachers, even urged married women to give some of their time to teaching. All to no avail. A sane woman will not accept an ill-paid job when she can get a better job at more salary.

Just what is the salary situation now existing in the teaching profession?

The figures here quoted are from the reports of the United States Bureau of Education, itself an unquestioned authority. The average salary paid school teachers in the United States during the year 1918 was \$243 a year LESS than the average wage of scrub women in the United States navy yards!

A recent story of teachers' salaries in New York city showed that during the last five years, while teachers' salaries remained practically unchanged the cost of living jumped 75 per cent. In two years the wages of industrial workers increased 60 per cent. It required 19 years for the teachers' salaries to advance 11 per cent.

There are 600,000 teachers in America. Of these 100,000 are less than 20 years old. Thirty thousand have had no education beyond the eighth grade, and 200,000 have had less than a complete high school training.

At the very time when the greatest demands are put upon the public schools to train children as true Americans, to give them technical training for self-support and cultural training for happiness, to guard their

moral, perfect their manners, and make normal and useful their minds and bodies—at this time the wages paid the teachers who must bear this responsibility are so low that competent workers are driven from the profession, and inferior workers put in charge.

The problem of living wages for teachers is not a "class problem."

It is the question of whether school boards and public shall decide that "nothing is too good" for American children or that "anything is good enough."

The Inconvertible Turtle

THE turtle was somewhat unsteady
As he found himself caught in an eddy;
He mused, "Though I hurtle,
I can hardly turn turtle,
Because I'm a turtle already."

—Otto Freund.

Song of the Taximeter

I'M a tiny, ticking terror,
With a calculating soul,
And I rarely make an error
As I tally up your toll
In staccato
Obbligato
To the motor's barcarole.

As you drive through summer breezes,
Or through winter evenings chill,
Though the engine stalls and freezes
I keep piling up your bill
Quite precisely
And concisely
With malicious, vicious skill.

When you reach your destination
And as out you start to climb,
With a fiendish exultation
I ring up an extra dime—
Most uncalled for
And unhailed for—
Yet you pay it every time.

—Arthur L. Lippmann.

15/13/51

100 = Cents = Coppers.