

your home. The average American teacher cannot do this.

The great educational associations consider themselves above this whole matter of teachers' pay. The officials and leading members of the National Educational Association have been asked to take it up, but have declined. This meeting to-night is not under the auspices of the venerable and dignified organization which brought us to Boston. That association has gone on for year after year delivering itself of programs to teach the teachers how to teach better; but I venture to propose to you that the rank and file of teachers in the United States at this moment need to be put into better physical condition, to elevate the work of teaching. A body of intellectual workers averaging \$270 a year cannot carry out the theories propounded by the experts of the National Educational Association in Boston this week. We are planning time-tables for trains that haven't coal enough to make the speed. Unless the Association looks to this end of the problem, those who are intelligently sincere in their devotion to educational advancement must organize and do it themselves.

Also from the same number of The Woman's Journal we take the following portions of the address of the President of the National Federation, Miss Margaret A. Haley, of Chicago:

#### MISS HALEY'S ADDRESS.

Mr. McAndrew has pictured to you the condition of the grade teacher. What is the sense of blaming the American people for it? I believe there is not much blame. These conditions are the legitimate outcome of our economic and industrial conditions. We shall continue to have poor schools and poorly-paid teachers till we have entirely different economic conditions; and until we throw ourselves with our whole hearts into the work of changing them. . . .

We have a system of taxation that makes it impossible for schools to obtain the revenue they need.

I will show you the way to remedy these conditions, as we did in Chicago—as we did in the Illinois headquarters to-day. Follow this course, and then you will not need to come here and hire a hall for yourselves after paying your two dollars to the National Educational Association; you will have the use of its machinery. If you stick at that two dollars, you have no right to growl if you have to teach for \$265 a year, and if the National Educational Association refuses to discuss the fact. It is your own fault. We found in Chicago that only five per cent. of the male voters turn out to the primary meetings, and then the

95 per cent. growl all the rest of the year at what the five per cent. did. . . .

I believe in action. The moment you find out what you ought to do, that is the time to go and do it. When the Chicago Teachers' Federation heard the report of their executive committee that the shortage of money for school purposes was due to the great corporations' failure to pay their taxes, it did not take these women thirty minutes to make up their minds what to do. When the Board of Education offered two of the teachers a year's vacation, and probably pay, if they would follow the matter up, the teachers said, "No, we will not let the board pay our representatives;" and they took up a collection and have paid the two women ever since. Meantime the Board has cut the teachers' salaries once, and then abolished their schedule entirely, and has done so many other things that I don't like to speak of them because it makes me angry. When, through the efforts of the teachers, \$1,200,000 of delinquent taxes was turned into the public treasury, that very night the city council voted to appropriate from it back pay for the policemen and firemen, and the Board of Education the same night voted large appropriations for a gymnasium and other purposes, but not a dollar for the arrears of salary due to the teachers, who had secured the money. Why was this? Because a director of the Chicago Union Traction company was a member of the Board of Education. Our investigations had added \$75,000,000 to the value on which his street car lines would have to pay taxes, and he did not wish to encourage us. The teachers had to go to the courts to get the arrears of salary which were due them; the case has been postponed 12 times at the request of the Board of Education, and we have not got our money yet. But did the teachers stop for that? No. They kept right on with the fight.

Our Chicago Board of Education represents "good business" in the ordinary industrial sense. They represent the idea that "good business" is to put the largest number of people into the smallest number of cars, with the fewest possible conductors and motormen. Why should they not regard the same thing as "good business" in the schools? Last year they took 500 teachers from the Chicago schools, closed their rooms and divided the pupils among the other teachers. We shall fight to have a Board that understands "good business" in a better way, and to get a Board of Education that is elected by the people, instead of appointed by the Mayor. Waging this fight may not be very sweet and womanly, but perhaps it is as much so

as to stay in the school room from 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m., and be continually irritated. Dr. Winship once said, "An irritator is not an educator." We are going to remove the irritations.

In every city there is an ample fund available for the schools and the public service. The people of Chicago pay ten million dollars yearly to five companies for the use of their own streets. When anyone puts in five cents as car fare, he pays two cents for the use of the cars and three cents for the use of his own streets. Do the people do this because they want to? They don't want to any more than the people who are held up on the streets in China. Those ten million dollars are more than Chicago pays for its schools and its public library put together. We are going to get the use of those ten millions for the city. The franchise of our street railroads is about to expire and unless all signs fail, they will never get another.

#### THE CONSULTATION.

The managing editor disappeared through the door leading to the business manager's office.

"I am ready for instructions," said the M. E.

"All right. Don't say anything about the Consolidated Oil company. We've just sold a block of our stock to its president."

"All right."

"Remain discreetly silent concerning the Union Traction company franchise steal, for we expect to be let in on the ground floor."

"All right."

"We are preparing to trade some of our treasury stock for a block of stock in the United States Iron company, so avoid any reference to its business."

"All right."

"And some of our leading stockholders are interested in the new trust that is combining our gas plants and trying to get hold of the municipal water plant. Don't say anything about it."

"All right."

Two hours later the foreman thrust his head into the managing editor's room and asked:

"What's the leader for to-morrow morning's editorial page?"

"I'll have it ready in a few minutes," replied the M. E. "It will be entitled 'The Free and Untrammelled Press.'"—Will M. Maupin, in The Commoner.

"I dreamed last night," remarked the man who always has and always will vote the Republican ticket,