

# SIMPLIFIED SPELLING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Board of Education Adopts a List of 300 Words.

## CHEAP LUNCH PLAN REJECTED

### Police Will Take a Census of the School Children—Needs of the Normal College.

The Simplified Spelling Board scored a point yesterday in its campaign to have shorter forms introduced into the public schools. The Board of Education at its meeting received from the Board of Superintendents a report recommending that the spelling of 300 words, listed by the Spelling Board in its announcement on March 21, should be used in the schools.

The report was referred without comment to the Committee on Studies and Textbooks, which has the power to approve or reject it. This committee's recommendations will probably be made known at the next meeting of the board on July 9.

In addition to taking this action the Board of Education rejected a proposition made by one of its Commissioners to have lunches provided for the children in the elementary schools, on the ground that "the Board of Education has no desire to become a caterer itself, and will not supervise the work of any outside caterer." It also agreed to have a school census taken as requested by State Commissioner Draper. The actual work of taking the census will be done by the Police Department, while the Department of Education will tabulate the reports.

The report of the Board of Superintendents favoring the adoption of simplified spelling, reviewed the arguments which led the members to advocate the departure. The report said that after the matter had been referred to the Superintendents by the Board of Education, at a meeting on April 11, the Superintendents in turn referred it to its Committee on Course of Study, Libraries, Textbooks and Supplies, which consists of Associate Superintendents Edson, Straubenmuller and Shallow. On May 15 Prof. Brander Matthews, Chairman of the Simplified Spelling Board, Col. Charles E. Sprague, and Commissioner John Greene advanced their arguments in favor of the shorter forms. On June 14 the committee reported to the Board of Superintendents in part as follows:

"The movement to simplify English spelling does not involve any radical steps. It aims to obtain the general adoption of the simpler spelling of two forms where two forms are authorized. For many years the tendency among good writers and scientific bodies has been to simplify the spelling of English words. The National Educational Association, some years ago, formally adopted a list of twelve simplified spellings. These spellings have been followed by some of the best educational papers and magazines."

On the strength of this report, the Superintendent at a meeting on June 18, which was attended by City Supt. Maxwell and Associate Supts. Davis, Edson, Meleney, O'Brien, Shallow, Stevens, and Walsh, prepared its report. This was also signed by Supt. Gustave Straubenmuller, who was not present at the meeting. The only person who opposed it was Supt. Stevens.

"While I am using the twelve principles of simplified spelling, I object to spelling 'past,' the past participle of the verb 'pass,' instead of 'passed,'" Mr. Stevens said yesterday.

The agitation to furnish the children in the elementary schools with luncheons grew out of the statement that 78,000 hungry children were attending the schools. The proposition was brought before the board yesterday by Commissioner Haupt, who offered a resolution providing that the Committee on Elementary Schools should hire caterers to sell the children at small price milk, wholesome cake and buns, and that the Committee on Buildings should supply counters for the children's use.

"I offer this resolution," said Mr. Haupt, "as an opening wedge for further good."

Mr. Stern, who is Chairman of the Elementary Schools Committee, objected to the adoption of the resolution. He said:

"This idea of making the Board of Education a wholesale caterer is not right. In the first place, we want no food scandal in the public schools, caused by selling hash and canned goods to the pupils. Then, if the caterer employed is to sell his goods so cheaply, where will his profit come in? There are 304 elementary schools in the city. If we adopted this plan of providing lunches for the children we would soon have 500 philanthropists telling us that the caterer should sell three-cent food for 2 cents."

"Then, too, who will supervise the selling of the buns? Who is going to test the buns, milk, and cake as to their wholesomeness? The Chairman of the Committee on Elementary Schools refuses to undertake the job. None of the members will do it. Shall we leave it to the Principal of the elementary school? He cannot do it, because he has other duties to attend to. There is nobody to do the supervising but the janitor. He would probably prove a competent judge, but he has other duties. That leaves the janitor's assistant to do it. He would probably be a competent judge of the difference between bad cake and good cake, bad buns and good buns. He would realize more than the caterer himself."

At the close of Mr. Stern's address the resolution was rejected by the board.

The By-Laws Committee said that after an interview with the Mayor and the Police Commissioner, Chairman Harrison of the committee and President Winthrop had arranged to have the Police Department undertake the actual work of making the school census, and had induced the Board of Estimate to appropriate \$15,000 to cover the expenses. It submitted a resolution requesting that the work to be performed by the Department of Education be put under the supervision of the Elementary Schools Committee. This resolution was passed.

City Superintendent Maxwell reported that 10,454 pupils received certificates of graduation from the elementary schools this June, and that there are 76,243 pupils on part time in the same schools—an increase of 6,429 over last year. The graduates were distributed among the boroughs as follows: Manhattan, 4,590; Bronx, 974; Brooklyn, 3,901; Queens, 774; and Richmond, 215. The part-time pupils were distributed as follows: Manhattan, 24,079; Bronx, 1,207; Brooklyn, 40,971; Queens, 6,216; and Richmond, 170.

The Board of Education as the Board of Trustees of the Normal College, decided to ask the Board of Estimate for an appropriation of \$500,000 corporate stock for a building to take the place of the present inadequate Training Department Building on Lexington Avenue between Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Streets. The trustees want a building with sixty rooms, thirty of which may be used for the Training Department and the rest for the college. The departmental estimate for 1907 was also fixed by the trustees. They want \$275,000, which is an increase of \$45,000 over the amount allowed by the Board of Estimate last year. The increase, it was explained, is due to the recent improvements in the building and additions to the teaching corps.

### New Trolley Line for Long Island.

The Suffolk Traction Company, Patchogue, L. I., capitalized at \$1,200,000, was incorporated at Albany yesterday to construct a street railroad 28 miles long between Brookhaven and Babylon. The line will run through Brookhaven, Bellport, Patchogue, Blue Point, Bayport, Sayville, and Islip. The Directors are Clinton L. Rossiter, D. H. Vallentine, Henry Seibert, W. M. F. Sheehan, D. L. Hughes of Brooklyn, Charles A. Collins of New York, W. H. Jaycox, M. G. Wiggins, G. G. Roe of Patchogue, and Benjamin B. Wood of Babylon.