

## NEW YORK MAY NOT FOLLOW.

### Mr. Draper Doesn't Believe in Telling People How to Spell.

Special to The New York Times.

ALBANY, Aug. 24.—There is no one in Albany to-night with authority to say whether the State Administration will follow President Roosevelt in spelling reform. Gov. Higgins is at Lake Placid, Private Secretary Perley in Western New York, and most of the State officers are away.

Andrew S. Draper, State Commissioner of Education, said he thought that this State would not follow the President. Personally he was in favor of mild spelling reform, but he did not believe that the State educational department should tell the people how they must spell. He was of opinion that the public generally would follow the dictionaries for some time to come.

## BOARD IS DELIGHTED.

### Work for Simpler Spelling Began in 1878 with 11 Words.

The working staff of the Simplified Spelling Board in its offices in the Metropolitan Life Building, Twenty-third Street and Madison Avenue, rejoiced yesterday at the adoption by President Roosevelt of its propaganda.

"I do believe," said Dr. Charles P. G. Scott, the Secretary of the board, "that if President Roosevelt declared that it would be wise to annex the planet Mars to the United States the papers would immediately proceed to print column after column about it."

Prof. Brander Matthews, the Chairman of the board, was not in the city yesterday, and consequently no immediate action could be taken in recognition of the signal help given to the spelling reformers.

The present Simplified Spelling Board was formed Jan. 1, 1906, and was evolved from a series of bodies formed in past years to study and expound the simplification theories. The American Philological Association, started in 1874, heard its President declare in a meeting at Hartford that the spelling of the language was monstrous. In 1876 an international congress for the amendment of English orthography was held in Philadelphia. It was attended by spelling reformers from all the English speaking nations. A standard phonetic alphabet was inaugurated that year. In 1878 eleven words were chosen for a beginning and a set of rules formed recommending the elimination of letters not necessary for the proper sounding of the words.

### Began with a Dozen Words.

In 1898 the National Educational Association resolved to adopt such spellings as United States Commissioner of Education Harris should recommend. He, with two other educators, decided on a little experiment. The words altho, catalog, decalog, demagog, pedagog, prolog, program, tho, thoro, thorofare, thru, and thruout were recommended.

The various philological and educational societies have been at it ever since, and finally the reform crystallized in the Simplified Spelling Board, which started out with Brander Matthews as Chairman last January, and which in two months had the ear and the support of Andrew Carnegie, who gave \$15,000 a year for five years with which to start practical work of getting converts.

Being interested in the founding of libraries, and also in universal peace, and believing that the English language would be the universal language and one of the means of bringing about peace on earth, Mr. Carnegie saw in the simplification of English spelling an aid to the quick learning of the language by those of other tongues, and he made the announcement of his conversion and of his gift last March.

With this money to pay expenses, the board established its offices and employed a clerical force. Since the staff got to work it has obtained the pledges of 5,300 persons to use the board's list of 300 simplified words in their correspondence. Many of these are men in various public departments of Nation and State. There are also 500 or 600 persons who have agreed to use certain of the words, but who object to others.

While the office staff was at work the board has not been idle. Prof. Matthews has given to the work of getting converts much of his attention.

### Members of Spelling Board.

With him on the board are E. Benjamin Andrews, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska; O. C. Blackmer, publisher, of Chicago; David J. Brewer, United States Supreme Court Justice; Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University; Andrew Carnegie, Samuel L. Clemens, Melvil L. Dewey, formerly Director of the New York State Library; I. K. Funk, editor and publisher of the Standard Dictionary; Lyman J. Gage, Richard Watson Gilder, editor of The Century; William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education; George Hempl of the University of Michigan; Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Henry Holt, publisher; William James, Harvard Faculty; David Starr Jordan, Leland Stanford University; Thomas R. Lounsbury, Yale; Francis A. March, Lafayette College; Judge W. W. Morrow, San Francisco; H. H. Seerly, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Benjamin E. Smith, editor of the Century Dictionary; Charles E. Sprague, New York; Calvin Thomas, Columbia University; E. O. Vaile, Chicago; Robert S. Woodward, President of the Carnegie Institution; William Hayes Ward, editor of The Independent; Charles P. G. Scott, Prof. W. W. Skeat, Cambridge, England; Dr. A. H. MacKay, Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia, and William Findlay MacLean, M. P., Toronto, Canada.

With the President's official sanction of the use of the 300 simplified words they will receive very wide circulation.

Asked yesterday if the work would slacken at the end of the five years for which Mr. Carnegie subscribed, Dr. Scott said yesterday that it would not, and that if necessary the board's work could make its own way now.

The 300 words now on the list of the reformers are words the changes in which will make no very great difference to the average reader or correspondent. An ordinary communication would not be so affected by their use that it would seem to be written in a new language. A new words are added from time to time after careful deliberation general reform in the spelling of the language will be gradually reached.

The words receiving the approbation of the President and now being used by the other 5,300 converts are as follows:

### The 300 Simplified Words.

Abridgment, accuter, accurst, acknowledgment, address, adz, affixt, altho, anapest, anemia, anesthesia, anesthetic, antipyrin, antitoxin, apothem, apprise, arbor, archeology, ardor, armor, artizan, asize, ax.

Bans (not banns), bark (not barque), behavior, blest, blusht, brazen, brazier, bun, bur.

Caliber, caliper, candor, chapt, claspt, clipt, Clapt, clue, coeval, color, colter, commixt, comprest, comprize, confest, controller, coquet, criticize, cropt, crost, crusht, cue, curst, cutlas, cyclopedia, carest (not caressed), catalog, catechize, center.

Dactyl, dasht, decalog, defense, demagog, demeanor, deposit, deprest, develop, dieresis, dike, dipt, discust, dispatch, distil, distrest, dolt, domicil, draft, dram, drest, dript, droopt, dropt, dulness.

Ecumenical, edile, egis, enamor, encyclopedia, endeavor, envelop, eolian, eon, epaulet, eponym, era, esophagus, esthetic, esthetics, estivate, ether, etiology, exorcize, exprest.

Fagot, fantasm, fantasy, fantom, favor, favorite, fervor, fiber, fixt, flavor, fulfil, fulness.

Gage, gazel, gelatin, gild (not guild), gipsy, gize, glycerin, good-by, gram, gript.

Harbor, harken, heapt, hematin, hiccup, hock

(not hough), homeopathy, homonym, honor, humor, husht, hypotenuse.

Idolize, imprest, instil.

Jail, judgment.

Kist.

Labor, lacrimal, lapt, lasht, leapt, legalize, license, licorice, liter, lodgment, lookt, lopt, luster.

Mama, maneuver, materialize, meager, medieval, meter, mist, (not missed,) miter, mixt, mold, molder, molding, moldy, molt, mullen.

Naturalize, neighbor, niter, nipt.

Ocher, odor, offense, omelet, opprest, orthopedic.

Paleography, paleolithic, paleontology, paleozoic.

Paraffin, parlor, partizan, past, (not passed,) patronize, pedagog, pedobaptist, phenix, phenomenon, pigmy, plow, polyp, possess, gracilis, prefixt, prenomem, prest, pretense, preterit, pretermitt, primeval, profest, program, prolog, prompt, pur.

Quartet, questor, quintet.

Rancor, rapt, (not rapped,) razor, recognize, reconnoiter, rigor, rime, ript, rumor.

Saber, saltpetter, savior, savor, scepter, septet, sepulcher, sextet, silvan, simitar, sipt, sithe, skilful, skipt, slipt, smolder, snapt, somber, specter, splendor, steadfast, stept, stopt, strest, stript, subpena, succor, suffixt, sulfate, sulful, sumac, suppress, surprize, synonym.

Tabor, tapt, eazel, tenor, theater, tho, thoro, thorofare, thoroly, thru, thruout, tipt, topt, tost, transgest, trapt, tript, tumor.

Valor, vapor, vext, vigor, vizor.

Wagon, washt, whipt, whiskey, wilful, winkt, wisht, woful, woolen, wrapt.

In the next pamphlet issued by the board the names of distinguished men interested in the movement will be announced.