

committee to consider the advisability of establishing a filing system for the registration of teachers of speech, the files to be available to employers of such teachers. Professor Drummond offered as an amendment to this motion that the matter be referred to the Secretary-Treasurer-Business Manager for his consideration. Amendment adopted, also the motion as amended.

Editor Hunt introduced a resolution that the word "Education" be dropped from the title of THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SPEECH EDUCATION. Seconded and carried.

Editor Hunt then moved that the word "Quarterly" be eliminated from the title. This motion was defeated.

Mr. Monroe moved that the new President be instructed to allow more time for discussion after papers are read on the programs. There was no second to this motion.

Miss Ehresmann introduced a discussion as to the possibility of sending a delegate from the Association to the international speech conference to be held in Vienna, July, 1928. Professor West moved that the President be empowered to appoint official delegates to allied conferences as he deemed advisable. Motion seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS EICH, *Secretary*

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## ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

ANDREW THOMAS WEAVER

Cincinnati 1927

In conformity with our quaint and delightful practice of reversing the divine order and allowing retiring presidents to deliver the inaugural addresses of their successors, I shall now undertake to do as well for him who shall come after me as President Mabie did for me last year. Really, there are some obvious advantages in permitting the outgoing President to propose a list of projects which ought to be undertaken. A realization that one does not have to carry out the program himself, frees one's fancy and makes it possible for him to see all sorts of interesting and profitable plans which ought to be adopted.

President Mabie in his farewell address last year, presented six planks out of which he constructed an admirable platform.

May I remind you briefly of these planks, and consider with you what we have done about them? The proposals were as follows:

1. The sectional organization of our convention program should be continued. You will have noted by looking over the program that we have worked on this principle and have not only continued the sectional organization, but in some small degree at least we have expanded it.
2. The Association should undertake a more active membership campaign. Although our membership has been constantly augmented, I do not believe we can truthfully say that as an organization we have done much toward carrying out this proposal so vital to our life as an association. The increase in membership has come about very largely through the splendid efforts of our Treasurer and Business Manager, and through the assistance which individual members of the Association have been able to render in rather isolated instances. If even half of our present members now numbering between 1500 and 1600 would constitute themselves press agents and solicitors for the Association, we could soon expand to a membership of 10,000. I suggest that it is thoroughly desirable to give the Business Manager all possible assistance in any program which may be devised for increasing our membership remembering always that there is no adequate substitute for personal solicitation.
3. The QUARTERLY JOURNAL should be so edited as to make an appeal to the maximum number of teachers in our field. I am sure that this suggestion is always in the minds of the editors of the JOURNAL and that they are anxious to have all of the helpful advice which anyone may be able to give on this point. Of course the real issue is: What is the proper balance between material which will necessarily have a limited appeal to those with scholarly interests and material which will reach the greater number of teachers who are seeking practical help in the performance of their daily tasks? I know that the editors of the JOURNAL have sometimes been reluctant to accept manuscripts on the ground that similar materials have previously appeared in the pages of the JOURNAL. It might be wise to consider

the fact that previous issues of the JOURNAL usually mean nothing to those who were not on the subscription list when the previous issues appeared. I, for one, feel that there is little to be lost through the repetition of matters of fundamental importance and much to be gained.

4. Research monographs should be published separately from the JOURNAL. I suppose that in electing a special editor and legislating as we did last year, we have made adequate provision for carrying out this proposal.
5. Special committee investigations, such as that published by Professor Drummond's committee several years ago, should be continued and others similar to it should be undertaken. I can well remember Professor O'Neill's presidential address in 1915, when he said that he felt sure we should be spared the blight of unanimity for some time to come. I take it that, while there are many matters on which we do not yet see eye to eye, we have made substantial progress toward a harmony of viewpoints in certain fundamentals such as the content of high-school courses, correct procedure in the diagnosis and treatment of speech defects, the organization and conduct of college courses, etc. It seems to me greatly to be desired that just as rapidly as we can arrive at agreements, these agreements should be made available to the profession at large as the authentic opinions of this Association.
6. New methods of financing "a working program" should be devised. President Mabie announced that several institutions, through their representatives, had pledged considerable sums toward a contemplated fund.

When I came into the Presidency, these proposals were before me and in various ways I was made aware of strong opinion in certain quarters that I had been charged with the responsibility of carrying forward this expansion program. After a year of experience in the duties of the office, I aver that, no President can be expected to do much single-handed, by correspondence, in developing and expanding the influence of our Association. No teacher who is faced with the necessity of earning his living while he serves the Association, can do much more than attend to the routine duties of his office. Such trivial but important details as

making arrangements with hotels, securing reduced railways rates, corresponding with officers of other academic organizations, setting up the program, distributing the program, etc., take all of the time that any teacher with a full time academic job on his hands can devote to them.

When I was urged by certain interested parties to go forward with the work of soliciting an operating fund of from two to five-thousand dollars, I began to seek information as to what was to be done with the money when it had been collected. I am obliged to report that I nowhere found any very definite notion as to how this money ought to be expended, and in view of this condition, it seemed to me inexpedient to collect the money. To go about asking willing members of the Association for contributions to an operating fund without any program for the expenditure of the fund, seemed to me illogical and unpersuasive. Please understand me. I am not asserting that there were no conceivable ways in which this money could have been used to advantage, I am simply submitting the sober fact that no such plans had been made and that I found myself unable either to work out the plans or to persuade anybody else to do so. I believe that the Association must in some way, very definitely formulate its expansion program before the officers attempt to raise the operating fund. This plan once formulated must be committed to the hands of someone other than the President or the Business Manager, at least until the Association is in a position to pay one of these officers a salary which will enable him to devote himself exclusively to the work of his Association office.

This year I have had the opportunity to observe the Business Manager at work, and I want to say that his task has developed with the growth of the Association until it has reached back-breaking proportions. Some sort of substantial relief must soon be devised and put into effect or the Association will suffer.

Now for some platform suggestions on which I should like the members of the Association to meditate and to take such action as they may deem advisable.

1. Regional organization of our membership into subsidiary groups or conferences to operate as sections of the National Association, in the several localities over which our membership is at present distributed.

- a. The New England Conference—this is already a going concern.
- b. The Western or Pacific Conference—this was organized several years ago at the University of California. Its present state of repair is not known to me, but certainly we have membership enough out on the Pacific coast to go forward with such a conference.
- c. The Southwestern Conference. There are now strong state organizations in several states in that locality.
- d. The Northwestern Conference. Several of the states in the Northwest have state organizations, which might be combined and expanded into a sectional conference.
- e. The Southern Conference.
- f. *The Mountain Conference.*

When we remember that the National Association itself started with 17 charter members, and has increased nearly 1000% since then, I believe that we must admit the feasibility of getting live, going, organizations started in the various parts of the country. I think that the National Association should, just as soon as possible, adopt a plan of meeting in rotation with these regional conferences. Our organization is now large enough to bring such a proposal within the range of possibility, and I believe that if we were to adopt the plan we would speedily find that it would bring large increases in our membership.

2. We should seek to develop all possible connections between our Association and other similar National and International groups. It was a very real disappointment to me that we were unable to have a representative present at the International Conference held in England last month. American physicists, chemists, historians, philosophers, and linguists, all conduct their work in the light of what is going on among their fellows in other countries. We should do likewise, and seek out the many mutual advantages available in such coöperation.

3. We should engage in an active campaign of propaganda among school and college administrators. We should overlook no available means of getting distinguished members of our Association on the programs in conventions of Presidents, Deans, Superintendents, and Principals. We should see to it that scholarly, worthwhile articles by members of our Association are published in

Journals which are read by the administrative officials of schools and colleges. Out of the somewhat melancholy experience of this year, I have been convinced that the president hasn't time to accomplish what should be done along this line. As far back as last February, I began the attempt to get some speaker from our organization on the program of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A. meeting in Boston next April. After a discouraging exchange of letters with various dignitaries who, one by one, turned out not to be the right ones for the purpose, I was finally informed about a month ago that we were too late to get anyone on the program. Other special interests, such as Art, Music, Industrial Education, and whatnot, are represented on these programs. Lack of information on the part of school superintendents, is the one most salient reason for the unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing in high-school speech work.

4. This association should undertake the preparation of bulletins for state and federal bureaus and departments, which are willing to spread abroad among interested parties, our recommendations for different phases of speech work. The United States Bureau of Education is now calling for precisely this sort of material. This is a golden opportunity which should not be overlooked.

5. We should plan just as quickly as possible for a full-time paid assistant in the office of our Business Manager. I believe that if this Association were to hire such an assistant Business Manager who would work under the direction of the Business Manager, and carry forward a membership campaign, that such an assistant would quickly secure enough new memberships to cover his own salary. It is certain that the membership at large little appreciates the arduous character of the tasks which the Business Manager performs from day to day. The Business Manager is now carrying a load of association business at least equivalent to one full-time job. This is more than we should ask of anybody.

6. One of the crying needs of the Association is for a revision of our Constitution and By-laws in the light of legislation passed since their adoption twelve years ago. I doubt whether there is any other organization as large and important as ours, whose fundamental law is in such a scandalous state of confusion. We need a committee which will go back over the records of our annual

meetings, consider all of the resolutions which have been passed, and then bring in a new Constitution and new by-laws embodying all of the basic sanctions under which we are now operating.

When a new Constitution has been drawn up and approved by the Association, we must give up our hit-or-miss way of amending it. We have now reached a state where any convention is practically a law unto itself. This does not make for orderliness of procedure or continuity of policy.

We need to establish archives in which complete records will be available, and when we have made adequate provision for the keeping of complete records, let us see to it that such records are actually kept. In many cases the secretaries' minutes are fragmentary and inadequate. For example, so far as I have been able to determine, there is nowhere available, any record of the attendance at five of the eleven Conventions preceding this. We not only do not know who were present, we do not even know how many were present.

I am conscious of the limitations of government by committees, but I do not know of any way in which the work of the Association can be done except through committees. I therefore earnestly recommend that committees be created to consider as many of the foregoing proposals as the Association may feel merit such treatment, and to report at the 1928 Convention.

The year 1927 has brought a number of developments upon which we as a profession, can look with a sense of pride and gratification. Among these are: the two international conferences of speech workers which have been held, one in London and one in Vienna, and the notable changes which have occurred in the Universities of Minnesota and Michigan. At Minnesota under the leadership of Professors Rarig and Morse, our work has finally been taken out of the Department of English and given its autonomy as a Department of Speech. The Department of Public Speaking at the University of Michigan has been renamed the Department of Speech and under the chairmanship of my long-time colleague and predecessor at the University of Wisconsin, is now offering graduate work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Speech. This means that there are now four large graduate schools in which students may become candidates for the doctorate in Speech. When this Association was founded thirteen

years ago, I doubt whether there were four similar institutions in which a student could secure a Bachelor's degree in Speech.

A brighter day has dawned for our profession. In 1915, Professor Winans said, "We are not yet able to take ourselves for granted. We shall feel better and do better when we can." As a profession we can now take ourselves for granted. We no longer need to apologize to anybody for the work which we are doing; it has achieved an assured place in school and college curricula. Standing firmly on a past of solid achievement, we look forward with confidence to an ever-widening future of educational service now opening before us.

#### EDITOR'S REPORT—1927

The real report of the editor is constituted by the JOURNALS he has edited; but beyond this, custom and courtesy allow him an annual opportunity to call attention to the merits of his publication or to apologize for its deficiencies and offer promises of improvement. I desire to do both. Much excellent writing has been offered the editor this year; I am very grateful to the contributors. I wish also to thank the entire editorial staff for its coöperation. I think I ought to mention especially the work of Professors Baird and Hudson, and that of the Associate Editors, Professor Simon and Miss Rousseau. In preparing this report I re-read the reports of former editors and received much guidance from their statements. I also asked staff members and others for suggestions concerning editorial policy, and have received, together with many expressions of approval of the articles published, the following suggestions and criticisms:

1. No results of research have been published which are comparable in extent and detail with the studies in the research number for November 1926.
2. Very few articles have appeared which offered practical pedagogical help to teachers in the secondary schools.
3. Various special interests have asked to see more articles representing their particular fields.
4. The JOURNAL should be published more frequently.
5. The cover of the JOURNAL is dull and the type is hard to read.
6. The published reports of research in progress contain too