

E. Metzger, Miss Elsa Huebner, G. A. Millett, J. W. Putnam, W. H. Tudor, Charles L. Barry, Miss Alice O'Hair, Miss Mary McKeever, Mrs. Mabel Schmidt.

The resolution in reference to the high school system follows:

"Be it Resolved, by the board of directors, that the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce recommends to the board of school commissioners of Indianapolis, That in the development of a comprehensive high school system for the city, proper attention should be given to the necessity for a separate, modern, completely equipped and adequate high school building for colored students, and

"Be it Further Resolved, That the board of school commissioners be urged to enter upon the consideration of a comprehensive plan for the development of a city high school system in connection with the extension of grade schools, which will eventually make adequate provision for high school buildings, conveniently located to the main residential areas in each section of the city."

The resolution in reference to co-operation between the school board and the superintendent, follows:

"Having confidence in the board of school commissioners and in the superintendent of public schools and convinced that the school system requires the fullest and friendliest co-operation between the school board and the superintendent, we trust and recommend that in the selection of the personnel of newly created assistant superintendents, the legal rights of the superintendent, as well as of the board, shall receive recognition.

"The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce believes that the law contemplates that the superintendent shall designate members of the teaching forces. We understand from the president that the board of school commissioners recognizes this principle, and we, therefore, trust that the superintendent will be encouraged to proceed in the exercise of his duties, having, of course, in mind only the competency, experience and fitness of appointees and the welfare of the schools—all as contemplated in the law."

The members of the board of directors of the Chamber are: A. L. Block, A. D. Hitz, L. C. Huesmann, O. B. Iles, Walter Pittsford, Frank D. Stalnaker, John R. Welch, G. A. Schnull, Lucius M. Wainwright, J. Edward Morris, Anton Vonnegut, B. A. Worthington, Wm. J. Mooney, Sr., Henry L. Dithmer, Oscar Schmidt, LaMonte Daniels, Arthur R. Baxter, A. G. Ruddell, F. M. Ayres, Elmer W. Stout, Henry F. Campbell, Elie M. McWhirter, treasurer, is an ex-officio member. Meetings of the board are attended also by John B. Reynolds, general secretary, and Elsie L. Green, assistant general secretary.

The Chamber and Social Problems

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE are old institutions and, like most institutions, their character has been modified by long and hard experience, says John Ihlder, manager of the civic development department of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in an article on "Existing Social Forces of a Community," copies of which have been received by John B. Reynolds, general secretary of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. One thing about them, however, the article continues, distinguishes them from some other old institutions. They have not become aged, ossified. They are still virile, supple, adaptable to new conditions. Consequently today they are adapting themselves to the new conditions of the present.

"When one speaks of chambers of commerce," Mr. Ihlder writes, "he speaks of more than 1,500 organizations in the United States alone. This geographical limitation is necessary because in other countries there are other thousands of chambers of commerce, and it would be quite possible to make certain broad generalizations

which would differentiate chambers of commerce in the Latin nations of Europe from those of the rest of the continent and again from those of the British empire and America. And other generalizations, somewhat more specific, would truthfully differentiate American chambers of commerce from those of any other nation.

"Perhaps the most outstanding difference between American chambers and those of other nations is their greater interest in civic and social problems.

Trail Not a Straight One

"But even in America generalizations as to chambers of commerce have to be pretty broad, especially when they deal with civic and social activities. We have fairly good evidence as to the general direction in which we are headed, but the trail behind the leaders is not a straight one, and all along it, back to the zero point of no interest, are scattered the chambers that have just started, those that have made noticeable progress and those that now are beginning to sense clearly this new purpose in their being and to head more directly for the goal.

"The most widespread of these experimental endeavors took the form of the charities indorsement committees with which most agencies are familiar. From these committees has come a very real and influential interest in the organization of financial federations among social agencies and community chests.

"It is natural that the interest of a chamber of commerce in social work should first be expressed in terms of finance, because the deepest impress made upon their members by social agencies has been in terms of finance—appeals for contributions. To be sure, a considerable proportion of the boards of social agencies are business men and members of chambers of commerce. Through them it might be hoped that the chamber membership in general would become informed as to the purposes and methods of social work and therefore interested in more than the budget side of the agencies. To a limited extent this hope has been realized, to a considerably greater extent in some cities than in others. But there are two handicaps in the way of a full realization of this hope, the seriousness of which perhaps is not generally recognized by social workers. The first and less important is that business men board members form only a small part of the chamber of commerce membership and that they seldom feel called upon to speak out in meeting for the enlightenment of their fellow-business men. The second and more important is that the purposes and methods of the social agencies often are not clearly understood by their own business men board members.

Not Definite Enough

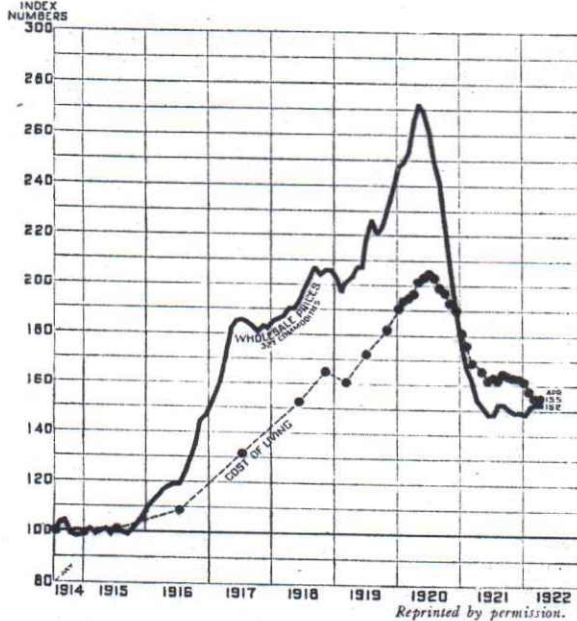
"I have many times asked professional social workers, especially case workers, to state the purpose of their work in a clear, concise, definite and untechnical answer from a case worker, the kind of answer that will carry over to a person outside. Group or community workers seem to have less difficulty in this respect, and perhaps it is for this reason that we find chambers of commerce more interested in such matters as Americanization and zoning than they are in family rehabilitation. From case workers the best answer I have ever had is, 'that they may live more abundantly.'

"There could be nothing finer than this as a spiritual interpretation, nothing better fitted to keep up the social worker's own courage, renew his enthusiasm. But it is not definite and concrete enough to get over to the outsider, even to the board member. Far be it from me to decry the value of good technique, to minimize the vital part it has played in raising social work from the level of the good intentions that pave the hell of futility, to a service that produces results. But after all, technique is a means, not an end, and the outsider is interested in the end far more than he is in the means."

WHOLESALE PRICES AND COST OF LIVING UNITED STATES

CHANGES RELATIVE TO JULY, 1914 AS BASE 100

REPRODUCED BY NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD NEW YORK CITY



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN—

Or part way down, for the recent drop in both wholesale and retail prices halts considerably short of the 1914 level. At present, according to the above diagram based on the researches of the Labor Department and the National Industrial Conference Board, the cost of living has come half-way back to its pre-war level, while wholesale prices have come two-thirds of the way.