

## UNIFORMITY BILL WITH A MEANING

In Senate Bill No. 135, Senator Zim has prepared a measure that, if it becomes a law, will forever clear the State of that text book incubus, the Book Trust—which may be a misnomer, but which conveys a meaning that is only too well understood.

So long have the people suffered from the exactions—to use a mild term—of the combination of book manufacturers that furnish school books to the patrons of our public schools, that they have grown to look upon the Book Trust very much as they would look upon a cancer—as a thing incurable.

But the most pernicious disease that ever afflicted the human form, divine or otherwise, must finally succumb to science, and political doctors are just as potent in their field of action as are the medicos in theirs.

In Senate Bill No. 135, lies the remedy for the Book Trust evil. Here is its title:

A bill to be entitled an act providing for printing of text books by the State, to secure to the patrons of the public schools of Florida, and to certain other persons within the State, a system of school books at cost of printing; creating a Text Book Commission to compile text books for the use in the public schools of the State; requiring certain duties of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and prescribing time and manner of carrying out the provisions of this act."

The levy made by the Book Trust upon the individual is figured in dollars; but in the aggregate, it is figured in thousands.

Reference to Superintendent Holloway's Biennial Report for 1908 shows the total number of pupils enrolled in the public schools of Florida to be 134,729. Any person conversant with the subject, knows that the average cost of books per pupil is not below \$2.50, and probably \$3, each year. This calculation goes beyond the initial cost of books at the opening of a school term; it includes new books required during the term, and the changes that are occasioned, when a child moves from one county to another or from one district to another, by reason of a lack of State uniformity, and sometimes even a lack of county uniformity.

Placing the average cost of books per pupil at the minimum estimate of \$2.50, we have a total of \$336,825, more than one half of which is profit to the Book Trust—or those book publishers in the combine who furnish us with school books, at a price 30 per cent higher than the same books cost in our neighboring State of Georgia.

Getting down to more exact figures, here are some that will show clearly the difference between cost and selling price of school books:

In the "higher grades" of our public schools (those of the sixth and above) there are 23,265 pupils; but for ease of calculation, put the figures at 20,000. In some form and under some name, these 20,000 pupils use a grammar—say, Metcalf's English Grammar, 288 pages, which is listed in Florida at 60 cents. The cost of printing 20,000 of these grammars is:

Linotype composition (432,000 ems at 15 cents per 1,000)	\$64.80
Reading proof,	25.00
Making up, corrections, etc.,	30.00
Presswork (18 16-page forms, 20,000 impressions each form, at 50c per 1,000, or \$10.00 per form)	180.00
Bindery work (folding, gathering, stitching, backing, etc)	\$1,500.00
Paper, 240 reams at \$2 per ream	\$740.00
	2,539.80

Add to this wear and tear, insurance, water, power, lights, etc., and the total cost of printing and delivering from the printer 20,000 of these books will not exceed \$2,700.

Trust price, 20,000 at 60 cents each.	\$12,000
Cost of printing, etc.,	2,700

Profit to trust. \$9,300

So much for one book used by at least 20,000 pupils in the State.

Now, another study that is pursued by these 20,000 pupils is mathematics, chiefly, probably, Milnes Standard Arithmetic, at 95 cents. This contains 460 pages. Here is the cost of production:

Linotype composition, \$103.00

Reading proof,	50.00
Making up, correction, etc.,	50.00
Presswork (20 16-page forms at 50c per 1,000 \$10 per form)	200.00
Bindery work,	1,600.00
Paper, 580 reams at \$2.7 per ream,	1,560.00
	\$3,253.00

Add wear and tear, water, power, lights, etc., and the total will not exceed \$3,500.

Trust price, 20,000 at 65 cents each,	\$13,000
Cost of printing, etc.,	3,500

Profit, \$9,500

These 20,000 pupils also study history, but the cost of the history is \$1, for a book of probably 450 pages, which costs no more to print than arithmetic just quoted:

Trust price for 20,000 histories at \$1.00 each,	\$20,000
Cost of printing, etc.,	3,500

Profit, \$16,500

Here is a list of books required in the eight grade of a local school. Superintendent Holloway's report does not give separately the number of pupils in the eight grade, but this estimate is based on the average from the sixth grade up, which cannot be far from figures given:

	Trust price 20,000 each	Cost to print 20,000 each
Milne's Standard Arithmetic,	\$13,000	\$3,500
Metcalf's English Grammar,	12,000	2,700
Field's History,	20,000	2,500
Advanced Geography,	25,000	17,600
Advanced Physiology,	16,000	3,400
History of Florida,	12,000	2,700
Hearts of Oak,	11,000	2,800
Four American Poets,	10,000	2,500
	\$119,000	\$38,700

(This is the price paid in Georgia, which shows a difference against Florida of \$7,400. Not 20,000 of these geographies are used in Florida at any one time; but of the other books enumerated, or similar books, it is quite safe to put the estimate at this figure)

Trust price of books enumerated,	\$119,000
Cost of printing,	38,700

Profit to Trusts, \$80,300

In the grades below the sixth not so many books are used in each grade, but the number of pupils is 111,457.

In Florida's institution of learning are men eminently qualified to compile the text books used in our public schools. Their qualifications are not to be judged by the salaries they get. Salaries are, in many cases, measured by reputation even more than by ability. There should be no hesitation for fear of lack of ability—there is plenty of it at our beck.

One section of Mr. Zim bill proposes that the Text Book Commission eliminate history and science as distinct departments of study, and combine them in that branch known as "readers." In this form these studies can be given to the child in an interesting and digestible form; and thus can the child escape the overburdening of his brain, and gradually he can be carried through history, agriculture, astronomy, biography etc., at an age when his memory is retentive—if it be not overcharged.

In justice to the child, he should not be required to carry his studies outside the school room. The business man shuts his business out of his mind the moment he shut the door. The labor unionist limits his hours of labor to eight each day. But each of these permits his child to be burdened with studies into the hours of night. The child becomes listless, wearies of school and his innumerable studies become to him a senseless jargon—he has history, physiology, astronomy, algebra, mixed up in an unintelligible mess.

### LET MAN CHOOSE HIS ROAD TO WELLVILLE.

There's a bill on third reading in the Senate that needs attention before it should pass. It is the bill giving the State Board of Health power to make promulgate and enforce rules for the care, treatment, isolation, etc., of contagious disease, or of persons suspected of having them.

It is well for the State Board of Health to have power to isolate persons having communicable diseases, and to care

for and watch persons suspected of having them. Safety to others demands this precaution

But the State Board of Health, nor any other authority should not be given the power to make and enforce rules for the treatment of disease contagious or otherwise, nor of persons suspected of having them.

This bill enacted into law would force persons to take the treatment prescribed by one set of doctors or one doctor or one school of medicine, when he believes in another.

A man should not be compelled to swallow calomel when he believes that rubbing his bones will cure him.

A man should not be forced to have poison put into his arm when he believes that sweats and saffron tea will cure him.

Let the Board of Health isolate, care for, segregate, this much is due to the rights of all.

And when you have him cared for, isolated and segregated, let him choose his own treatment.

Let him smoke rabbit tobacco if he elects, or let him telephone one of Mrs. Eddy's disciples if he would rather.

### SALUTATORY.

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me if I would edit a paper if a fund could be raised to pay its expenses.

I said that I would be glad to do it, IF I WERE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE. I reminded them that the motto of The Sun was—"If it's right, we are for it," and that a paper sailing under this flag, carried NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND GOOD INTENT for ballast.

I told them that if I edited the proposed daily, all lists must be kept from my editorial eye, including:

- The list of favorites—men and measures.
- The immune list—ditto,
- And
- The list of contributors.

To this they agreed,

Then I told them that each man asked to contribute must first be told the conditions I named.

To this they agreed.

So, the money was raised, it was placed in my hands with NARY A STRINC ON IT.

And—

THE SUN HAS RISEN AGAIN.

Rejoice with me friends who know me not, for I am gretafull for the opportunity to do some good in the world.

Rejoice with me friends who know me for I am made glad by this signal manifestation of your trust in me.

Rejoice with me all good people, for, I have been permitted, through this medium, to declare That the love of truth is strong in the hearts of the people of Florida.

THE SUN SALUTES YOU!

Knowing not who has cotributed to this fund, I cannot as editor of The Sun, make it stand for any person or thing, without first getting information about them.

The Sun will try to get the truth, and learn the merits of all public questions, and from that standpoint alone, it will discuss them.

Help me, good people! for my task is heavy.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE.