

13,567 PEOPLE SERVE ON SCHOOL BOARDS

There are 13,567 members of boards of school directors in Pennsylvania, according to figures just announced by Doctor James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction. These men and women are elected by the people in all districts but those of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia where appointment is made by the judges of the courts of common pleas.

In school districts of the first class or the cities of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, 15 directors are appointed for each district, making a total of 30 members. In the school districts of the second class, consisting of 20 cities the size of Altoona, Harrisburg and Scranton, 9 members from each district are elected or a total of 180 representatives. School districts of the third class such as Carlisle, Lock Haven and Rochester where 7 members are elected for each of the 266 districts a total of 1862 serve; while in the fourth class, made up of 2299 boroughs and townships under 5000 in population, five directors are elected in each district, or a total of 11,495, thus making a grand total of 13,567 school directors in the 2587 school districts in Pennsylvania.

These directors are chosen at large in their respective districts, serve without pay unless holding the position of secretary or treasurer and hold office for a term of six years. In school districts of the first class, the term of office begins on the first Monday of December following their election. Directors may succeed themselves and it is not uncommon for incumbents to remain in continuous service for as much as twenty to twenty-five years.

Boards of school directors in every school district in Pennsylvania are responsible for establishing, equipping, and maintaining a sufficient number of elementary schools in compliance with the law, for all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 21 years who may attend; and in addition may establish, equip, furnish, and maintain high schools, vocational schools, evening schools, kindergartens, libraries, museums, gymnasiums, playgrounds, schools for the deaf, blind and mentally deficient, truant schools, schools for adults, public lectures, and such other schools as they may see fit to establish. In the early days of the public schools, directors examined and certificated teachers in addition to their other duties. This was later delegated to the superintendent of schools and for some years now has been under the immediate direction of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

MOTOR CAR INSPECTION STARTED JANUARY 1

Attention of motorists is called by the Keystone Automobile Club to the impending compulsory inspection campaign of motor vehicles in Pennsylvania, under an amendment to the Vehicle Code.

The first inspection period of three months will begin January 1. At any time in this period motor cars may be inspected at designated official stations. For the following three months owners will be subject to arrest if, on demand of police authority, they fail to produce evidence showing that the motor vehicles had passed inspection.

Beginning June 1, the second inspection campaign will be undertaken, to last until September 1, after which motorists will be subjected to police scrutiny as to safety equipment for the following three months.

Benj. G. Eynon, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, has advised the Keystone Automobile Club that the State has virtually completed the selection of official stations. Qualifications are higher than in previous campaigns, Mr. Eynon said, and many applicants have been rejected because of lack of equipment, space or personnel.

The Club also is advised that the law will be strictly enforced against any official station caught selling "inspection stickers." This practice in previous years brought the whole inspection system into disrepute.

PRINTS BULLETIN ON BUILDING LAWS.

A new bulletin on "Rules and Regulations for Public School Building Construction," has been issued by the Department of Public Instruction. These rules and regulations cover the various provisions in the laws of Pennsylvania which apply to every public school building in any school district within the Commonwealth for all construction, reconstruction, repairs or work of any nature, as enumerated in Article VI of the School Code, and suggest standards and practice for the erection and construction of a school building.

In this bulletin will be found the legal requirements governing plans and specifications, the procedure for awarding contracts, acceptance or rejection of bids, advertisements, bonds, workmen's compensation, and the various requirements, pertaining to the school site, location of building, development of grounds and landscape, and specific details as to the construction of the building.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Health, and the State Art Commissions cooperated with the Department of Public Instruction in the compilation of the bulletin.

"The Volstead act last week was twelve years old," writes Eph Kelljoy, of Newport, "and it still seems able to stagger along."

NEXT JUNE 22ND WILL GET MOST SUNSHINE

Shining above the horizon for fifteen hours and one minute, in middle latitudes of the United States, on Monday, June 22, the sun was visible longer than any other day of the year. Besides thus being the longest day, June 22 was the beginning of summer.

The day is longest because the sun is then at the northernmost part of its annual path through the sky—what is called the summer solstice. Astronomers have universally agreed that this shall mark the beginning of summer. It occurs on the 22nd, at 4:28 a. m., Eastern Standard Time.

If the matter of clear or cloudy weather did not complicate the situation, the surface of the earth would, on this day, receive more heat from the sun than on any other day of the year. Not only is this due to the fact that the sun is above the horizon longer, but the greater height of the sun in the sky causes a concentration of its light and heat over a smaller area. In winter, when the sun is low even at noon, a yard square beam of sunlight may cover a couple of square yards. Now, at noon, the sun is well overhead, and the same yard square beam covers only a little more than a square yard.

An interesting observation of this phenomena has been made by Harry Paul Eichin, of Chicago. At noon on the day of the summer solstice in June, 1930, Mr. Eichin took a picture of a pipe casting a shadow on a nearby tank. Since the sun was at its maximum height in

THE DOLE IS BEGETTING INDOLENCE IN GERMANY

The German dole started, like the English, writes Dorothy Thompson in the Saturday Evening Post, as an insurance idea. Every worker was taxed 1 per cent of his pay to create an insurance against unemployment, and the employer added another 1 per cent.

The fund presumed a normal unemployment of 800,000. But in the very year of its establishment it became clear that the insurance would be insufficient to support the unemployed, and the Government was called upon to supplement it. Then came the economic crisis in America, with its repercussion throughout the world. There were 1,000,000 unemployed in Germany, then 2,000,000, then 3,000,000, then 4,000,000 and then even more.

In 1928, 1929 and 1930 the Government advanced to the insurance fund 1,260,000,000 marks, half of which has been crossed off the books as gone. Of course, as the unemployment grew the fund automatically diminished, because there were fewer and fewer workers contributing to it.

But the insurance, with its Government subsidies, is not the only burden which unemployment places on the State. The unemployed worker receives aid from it for twenty-six weeks. At the end of that

time, if he is still unemployed, he becomes a charge on the so-called emergency relief. The Reich pays four-fifths of this fund, the municipalities the other fifth, and it supports the jobless for another thirty-two weeks.

At the beginning of 1930 this fund was supporting 130,000 workers; in the middle of January, 1931, 780,000, and the Government reckons on an average of 700,000 in this class throughout the year and has appropriated another \$100,000,000 for their support.

If, after fifty-eight weeks, a worker is still unemployed, he falls into the category known as "recipient of poor relief" and becomes a charge on the municipality.

In Class 1 he had been getting—if he were an average worker—about 30 marks a month; in Class 2 about 60 marks a month, and in Class 3 the pickings are pretty lean, because the municipalities comb the lists of applicants thoroughly, rejecting any who have savings, who have relatives able to support them or who refuse any kind of work offered them. And the applicant in Class 3 receives part payment in free soup, coal and lodgings.

The 4,000,000 people living this way are not getting fat, but the system probably makes it harder to starve in Germany than elsewhere in the world. The social danger in the dole arises from the fact that German economic life offers so little compensation for those who do work.

—Four Japanese officers and more than thirty privates were killed in battle with 5000 Chinese irregulars.

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