

[Jt. Res. No. 52, A.]

[Deposited Jan. 30, 1932.]

No. 40, 1931.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to an investigation of bank robbery insurance.

WHEREAS, The insurance companies writing bank robbery and burglary insurance in this state have recently promulgated an increase of rates for this class of coverage; and

WHEREAS, It is alleged that such companies are asserting such increase in rates to be necessary on account of their loss experience of daylight holdup, robbery and burglary of banks throughout the state of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Such increase in rates will impose a hardship upon the banks of this state and materially increase their expense of operation; and

WHEREAS, There is a question as to the reasonableness and fairness of such rates; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the Commissioner of Insurance be requested to institute an investigation as to the reasonableness and fairness of the increase in bank robbery insurance rates in this state and that if such investigation discloses that such rates are not justified that he promptly take action to secure a reduction of the same.

[Jt. Res. No. 23, S.]

[Deposited Feb. 2, 1932.]

No. 41, 1931.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to history textbooks in use in the common and high schools of Wisconsin which contain alleged false statements, relative to the origin of the World War.

WHEREAS, Some of the histories in use in our common and high schools do not give an accurate version of the causes and events of the World War and repeat the false propaganda of wartime which tends to foster hatred toward the German people; and

WHEREAS, The following statements occur in histories now in use in the common and high schools of Wisconsin:

Thwaites & Kendall—A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES—published in 1928 by Houghton, Mifflin Company, states on page 512 “No country in the world lacked some imperialists—men who wanted to gain national power at the expense of weak and unoffensive neighbors—but only Germany allowed them to rule unchecked”.

Mowry—FIRST STEPS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY—published in 1923 by Silver, Burdette & Company, states on page 338, “People who put their trust in militarism might be called ‘militarists’. The German government, more than any other, was controlled by men of this kind. It had developed the most powerful army in the world and seemed anxious to use it. The opportunity came in 1914”.

West—THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—published by Allyn & Bacon in 1929, states in discussing the origin of the world war on pages 626 and 627, that the Russian Czar wished peace, that Poincare was for peace, but that Germany wanted war; although he also states that Poincare, on his own account, while insisting that his negotiations with Russia never looked to bringing on war, but only what should be done (and perhaps how spoils should be divided if Germany and Austria forced war on the Dual Alliance—as he confesses he thought almost certain to happen).

MODERN WORLD—by the same author and published in 1924, is in the same vein as indicated in the paragraph “Germany wills war” on page 654, which includes this paragraph. “For half a century Germany had been ruled by a Prussian despotism resting upon an old bigoted and arrogated oligarchy of birth, and a new, greedy, scheming oligarchy of money. That rule had conferred on Germany many benefits. It had cared for the people as zealously as a herdsman cares for the flocks he expects to shear. But in doing so it had amazingly transformed the old peace-loving, gentle German people. It had taught that race to bow to authority rather than to right, to believe Germany stronger, wiser, better than ‘decaying’ England, ‘decadent and licentious’ France, ‘uncouth and anarchic’ Russia or ‘money serving’ America; to be ready to accept a program at the word of command for imposing German ‘Kultur’ upon the rest of the world by force; to regard war, even aggressive war, not as horrible and sinful, but as beautiful, de-

sirable and right—the final measure of a nation's worth—and the divinely appointed means for saving the world by German conquest; and finally to disregard ordinary morality, national or individual, whenever it might interfere with the victory of the 'Fatherland'. This diseased patriotism began with the war-begotten empire"—.

THE STORY OF WORLD PROGRESS—and THE STORY OF OUR COUNTRY—by the same author and published respectively in 1928 and 1926 differ only slightly in their account of the origin of the world war. In the latter book, which is an elementary history, on page 501, it is stated that the war came because of the imperialistic aims of all countries, but Austria and her ally, Germany, must take most of the blame. "Germany, especially, believed that it was the right way to settle disputes between nations. Her writers, statesmen, schools and even her churches taught this idea."

Halleck—HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY—published by the American Book Company in 1923, on page 501 states in a paragraph headed "The world war begins": "Germany could have stopped the war, but instead she encouraged Austria to begin it. Her great men taught that war is necessary for progress, because they said it enabled the strongest and fittest nations to take the place of the weak and unfit. A German magazine for boys called war the 'holiest and noblest human activity'. Germany had the greatest army in all history and she thought that war would put her in the foremost place in the world."

Hazen—MODERN EUROPE—by Henry Holt & Company in 1924, on pages 514 to 519 gives an elaborate defense of the "war guilt" theory written into the peace treaty which has been proved false by the official documents of all warring countries.

Guiteau—HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES—published by Houghton, Mifflin Company in 1924, develops an account of the war on pages 600 and 601 which is revealed by paragraph headings, reading: "Bismark's policy of blood and iron"; "Germany's dream of world empire"; and the "Spoils of a successful war". The paragraph on "Germany's dream of world empire" reads as follows: "Inspired by these ideals the military party which rules Germany had for many years planned an aggressive war which should give Germany her place as the foremost world power. Not content with the provinces of Alsace—

Lorraine which she had wrested from France in 1871, Germany planned in this New War to annex the Northwestern portion of France as well as the whole of Belgium. This would give her immense fields of coal and iron, so necessary for industry, and especially for the manufacture of armaments; while the seizing of the Channel ports would enable her to hold a dagger at the heart of England. For Britain with her world empire, was the enemy which Germany expected to attack eventually, although she hoped that this would be in a later war, after France and Russia were crushed. And after Britain, then America, peace-loving, idealistic, defenseless America—might be taken in hand and taught her proper and subordinate place in a world ruled by German power. 'I shall tolerate no more nonsense from America after the war!' said Kaiser Wilhelm to our Ambassador Gerard, when President Wilson protested against the murder of American citizens on the high seas."

Muzzey—THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—published in 1929 by Ginn & Company on page 622 repeats a wartime libel on American citizens of German descent in which they were referred to as "hyphenated" American citizens, who had "poured the poison of disloyalty into the very heart of our national life—sought to bring the authority and good name of our government into contempt, to destroy our industries wherever they thought it effective for their vindictive purposes, and to debase our politics to the uses of foreign intrigue".

Beard & Bagley—A FIRST BOOK IN AMERICAN HISTORY—in the 1928 edition by Macmillan on page 433 states: "On August 4, 1914, the Imperial German army, bent on world conquest, plunged into Belgium. This was the stroke for which the German war party had long been preparing."

Coman & Kendall—A SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLAND—published by Macmillan in 1928, on pages 446 to 448 talks about "Germany's mailed fist", and states Emperor William would not rest until his navy, as well as his army, stood first in the world.

Ashley—AMERICAN HISTORY: FOR USE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS—published by Macmillan in 1927. Pages 551 and 552 have a similar account of the "mailed fist" and report the war as having been caused by Germany's determination to gain "what she deemed her rightful 'place in the sun' "; and

WHEREAS, These statements are not only a one-sided and unfair account of the origin of the world war but tend to arouse in children a hatred for Germany and a suspicion of all persons of German descent; and

WHEREAS, Whoever may have started the world war, neither the Americans of German descent nor the common people of Germany were responsible, and they should not now—thirteen years after the close of the war—be subjected to insult, ridicule, and suspicion; and

WHEREAS, People of German descent constitute a large and valuable element of the population of the United States and of Wisconsin; their contributions to American history include such brilliant names as Steuben, Herkimer, DeKalb and Schurz; and they have ever been among the foremost of our citizens and the first to respond to the nation's call in every emergency, including the world war; and

WHEREAS, It is little short of an outrage that our schools should be used to poison the minds of youth against all things German and that the oncoming generation should be fed with the propaganda and falsehood which caused so much hatred and injustice during the war years; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the state superintendent of public instruction, and the state superintendent is hereby instructed to send to each county and city superintendent of schools, and to the clerk of each school district in the state, a copy of this resolution to advise these superintendents and the school district boards of the character of the accounts regarding the causes of the world war which occur in the histories above enumerated.

[Jt. Res. No. 43, A.]

[Deposited Feb. 3, 1932.]

No. 42, 1931.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the Wisconsin-Chicago Centennial
of Progress Committee.

WHEREAS, Chapter 8, Laws of 1931, created a Wisconsin-Chicago Centennial of Progress committee consisting of two senators,