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LOUIS LUMET

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FOR THE COUNTRY!

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# The Schools of France in 1792 and 1914-1917

UC-NRLF



⌘B 265 817

*Introduction by M. Aug. BESSOU*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

ABEL FAIVRE, BERNARD NAUDIN and HANSI

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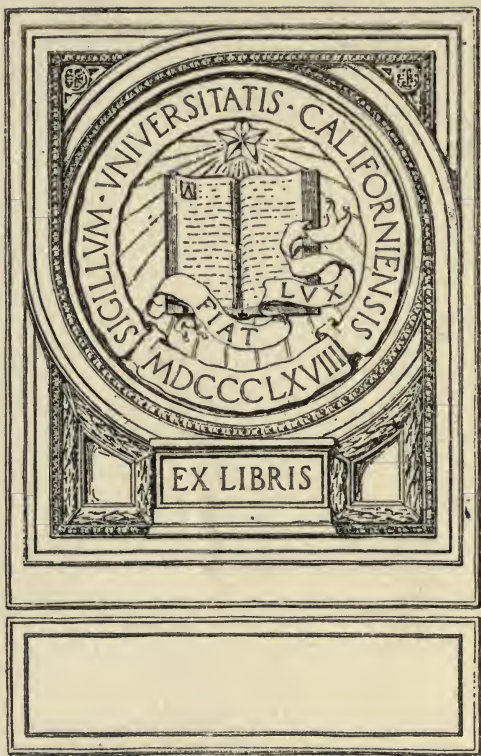
PARIS

E. DE BOCCARD, ÉDITEUR

4, RUE LE GOFF, 4

—  
1917

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**THE SCHOOLS OF FRANCE IN 1792**

**Y**

**IN 1914-1917**



LOUIS LUMET

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FOR THE COUNTRY !

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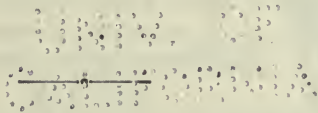
# The Schools of France in 1792 and 1914-1917

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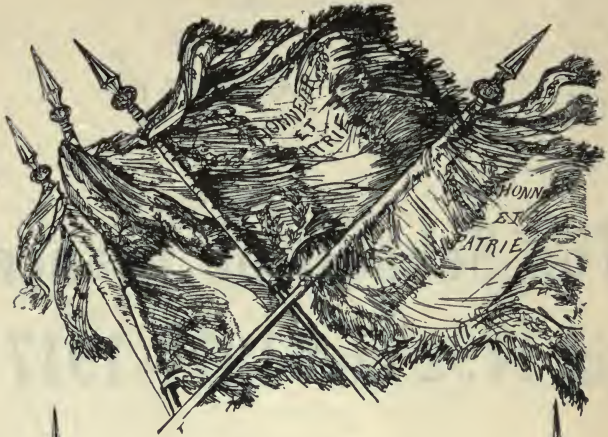
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—  
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L8

19 Dec 17



FRANÇAIS

souscrivez au

DEUXIÈME EMPRUNT

DE LA

DÉFENSE NATIONALE

vous hâterez la Victoire

et vous aurez

fait votre devoir envers la

PATRIE.



RETE IMP PARIS

911

Bernard Naudin's poster for the Second National Defence Loan



## INTRODUCTION

*M. LOUIS LUMET has had the excellent idea of collecting in pamphlet form some interesting documents relative to the French Schools in 1792. Moved by patriotic rivalry, these Schools answered } the call of the country in danger.*

*In this glorious past, the French Scholars of to-day will recognise the generous ardour of their actual aspirations. At that epoch indeed the villages of France could boast but few schools. The principles laid down by Condorcet in his famous National Education Scheme were to be put into practice only much later. But, though forms change, the same unvarying spirit is to be found, in its essentials, throughout the different ages of our history. In the past as in the present, the schoolmaster, inspired by an identical idea, fosters « the sacred love of the country » in the young hearts of which he has the charge. When you read the speeches of those youths who, at the bar of the National Assembly, proclaimed to the legislation their im-*

*patience to enter the military career and oppose their young breasts to the invading floods, you understand more entirely the virile beauty of the « Marseillaise », you appreciate more highly the celebrated bas-relief of the Arc de Triomphe, on which a great sculptor has represented boys and men of all ages rushing to the combat under the standard of Victory with one impulse and one will.*

*Side by side with these documents evoking the schools of yesterday; it has been deemed interesting to trace a rapid sketch of the schools of to-day. The pages that recount the patriotic devotion of French pupils and masters will not be read without pride and emotion.*

*The schoolchildren of 1914-1917 do not now pass in solemn parade before the representatives of the people. They have not been taught the sonorous words and ceremonious gestures that come so naturally to men opening their eyes on liberty. But the simplicity of their attitude detracts in no way from the energy of their resolution. With all the force of their reason, with all the strength of their heart, they have learnt to love their duty towards their country, for they have seen their masters, by the voluntary and joyful sacrifice of their existence, attest the commanding beauty of*

*that ideal. The French Schoolmasters (and under this high title I include all who, in the various degrees of the educational hierarchy, combine in maintaining the nobility of the collective soul of France) the French Schoolmasters have been outstripped by none on the heroic path of duty and death. The solemn and glorious pages of the University Golden Book will bear eternal witness before men to the moral grandeur of those to whom the education of our youth was entrusted.*

*The Masters whom their age or frail health have detained in the Schools, the girls and women who have courageously undertaken to fill the place of the absent, have contended in zeal and set the example of those civil virtues which, so modest in appearance, are perhaps the most difficult to practise. The efficacy of their efforts is not always appreciated at its full worth. Independently of their professional tasks, rendered more difficult by the actual circumstances, Masters and Mistresses undertake in every direction the most delicate and indispensable missions. Are they not the principal, and in some localities the sole, artisans of the works of charity which are born of the war and aim at the relief of its miseries?*

*In the towns, and particularly in the villages, it is on them that the burden rests of fostering the*

*fire of patriotism and unconquerable hope, in the face of uncertainty, sacrifice and mourning. Not to speak of the local charities that are yet another claim on their activity, it is their part to battle against the despondency which sometimes follows misfortune, to foresee and crush the insidious spread of calumny. to implant in their neighbours the idea of national unity, and lastly to show how greatly those are to be pitied and loved who suffer the most terrible disasters for the common cause.*

*Some years ago, during a famine that devastated a part of Russia, the great writer Tolstoi was asked his views in a salon as to the best means of relieving the sufferings of the people. « Give them love ! » was his answer. These words were received with astonishment, even with laughter. « Yes, repeated Tolstoi ! give them love ! He who gives bread does not always give love ; but he who gives love always gives bread. »*

*An admirable truth, keenly appreciated by our French Schoolmasters, when, for the Refugees from our Northern Departments, for Belgians and Serbians driven out of their country, for soldiers without a family, for unfriended orphans, they demand moral as well as material aid, the generous pity so dear to the heart of the wretched.*

*But these numerous efforts have not exhausted*

*their benevolent activity. They have co-operated in the sale of National Defence Bonds, they have seconded the endeavours of the gold committees, and they have obstinately combatted the absurd mania which leads so many people to conceal the precious metal, as if it had the virtue of some mysterious talisman. Quite recently again they have responded to the appeal of government, and a great part of the success of the Second National Loan is due to them.*

*M. Ribot, our eminent financial minister, who, without a moment of weakness, has supported his formidable burden for two years and a half, M. Ribot understands perfectly well that the success of a loan is due as much to moral as to material causes. A loan might be as plain and profitable an investment as possible, but it would not succeed unless there were implanted in every soul veneration for the country, confidence in her immortal destinies, pride in a patrimony jealously to be guarded, and the will to make the entire sacrifice of self in view of Victory. And these moral forces, who can deny that they take their rise especially in those Schools, great and small, that form the intelligence and the heart of a people? That is why the grand savant whom the University of France is honoured to have called its minister*

*did right in offering to collaborate with the financial minister. That is why, on the certificates with which all the communes of France will desire to adorn their Schools, the illustrious names of M. Ribot, financial minister, member of the French Academy, and M. Paul Painlevé, minister of Public Instruction, member of the Academy of Sciences, symbolise this indispensable accord of the material and moral forces of our country*

*Aug. BESSOU*

FOR THE COUNTRY!

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# THE FRENCH SCHOOLS IN 1792

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On April 20, 1792, before the National Legislative Assembly, in the presence of the king, Dumouriez, the Foreign Minister, read a report presented to the Council on April 18. Proofs of the hostility of the king of Bohemia and Hungary towards France were here enumerated. The report concluded in favour of war, and, speaking after his minister, Louis XVI said: « We all prefer war rather than see the dignity of the French People any longer insulted and the National Security menaced. »

The National Assembly applauded the words of the king and in its evening sitting unanimously voted the decree for a declaration of war on Austria, who, « disdaining the treaties, has not ceased to accord open protection to French

rebels » and « with several European powers has instigated and formed a coalition against the independence and safety of the French nation ».

The decree corresponded so exactly to the sentiments of France, menaced in her existence and her sovereignty, that, hardly was war declared than a vast movement was set on foot to subsidise the struggle by voluntary subscriptions and patriotic gifts. Private individuals, societies, civilians, soldiers, all brought their offerings to the Treasury, and thus contributed to the formation of the armies to be sent into the field and to the fabrication of the necessary equipments.

There was a kind of generous and ardent rivalry between poor and rich, administrative and social bodies, as to who should lay the most considerable contribution on the Altar of the Country. The schoolchildren and their masters were among the first to answer the nation's call. At the very moment when Condorcet was presenting his project of a decree for the general organisation of Public Instruction, the school world of France, still a scattered and numerically feeble part of the community, rose to magnificent heights of exaltation and with a fine enthusiasm sacrificed its meagre savings for the defence of the Country.



Not a day passes but a deputation of school-children appears at the bar of the Assembly or a school sends a contribution towards the expenses of the war. The children deliver themselves of admirable speeches, and, as in their case deed follows word, deposit « on the Altar of the Country » sums of money very considerable for those days. The girls rival with the boys in generosity. Rich and abundant is the harvest of touching details : but our space only allows us to choose a few.

The movement is not confined to Paris. It spreads all over France, and from every town enthusiastic letters and patriotic offerings flow in to the Assembly,

### Sitting of April 22, 1792.

As early as April 22, the Schoolmasters of Saint-Roch (Paris), Bouvier and Vauvilliers, appear at the bar of the Legislative Assembly, accompanied by their pupils, and one of the latter speaks in the name of his comrades on the deputation :

Worthy representatives of a free people, in the name of all our comrades of the schools of the parish of Saint-Roch, we have presumed to come here to-day to pay you our respects : and in proof of our patriotism, we have the honour to lay this civic crown before your

august Assembly. Not strong enough to repel the enemies of liberty, while we wait our moment we will uphold the Constitution by engraving it on our hearts (applause), and we swear that we will learn to respect your laws as we have learnt to obey our teachers, good patriots like ourselves.

After this boy, it is M. Bouvier who speaks :

*Mr President, Gentlemen,*

This is the happiest day of our lives, an ever memorable day for us.

As the teachers of these youths who have the honour of paying their respects to your august Assembly and also that of assuring you of the unshakeably firm nature of their newborn devotion to the Constitution and obedience to the laws, we have judged it fitting to accompany them before our [worthy representatives in order to attest that this patriotic act which the Children have the honour to register in your hearts was suggested to them solely by their own imagination and their unanimous sentiments.

Proud to share these sentiments under the guidance of your laws, we swear freely and firmly, we swear, I say, before this august and sovereign tribunal of the French nation, that we will employ our principal endeavours to make honest citizens of these children ; adding this doctrine to the other instruction we give them, we shall not cease to exhort them to be constant, as we, to the words that their enthusiasm has dictated and to the oath which, as we, they have just sworn before heaven and the whole French Empire, and to be

ever faithful to the Country, and to die rather than violate the oath which we have taken unanimously before this august senate. (*The honours of the Sitting.*)

### Sitting of April 27.

The young pupils from the first class of the Schools of Charity in the parish of Saint-Roch are admitted to the bar with Lemaire, their Master. Etienne-Jean Rouet, aged only ten and a half, is the spokesman of the deputation.

Legislators! We come to bring you an offering of 30 francs in cash, the total of a contribution from our humble means, towards the expenses of the war. We come to promise to deprive ourselves of our most legitimate pleasures in order to be able to offer still more to the country. Alas! that our hands are yet too weak to support the weight of arms! Alas! that our stumbling feet do not allow us to march, I should rather say to rush, on the tyrants! (Repeated applause). But our enemies will lose nothing by waiting... Legislators! do not think that there is no warmth in the sentiment that brings us before you. No, we feel all the preciousness of liberty; we cherish her; it is one of the benefits of the Revolution to have made us comprehend her.

The honours of the sitting are accorded to the children. Then M. Lejosne, deputy for the North, says :

I invite the Assembly to testify to the master, present at the bar, of these children our satisfaction with the patriotic sentiments that he inspires in them and to decree that honourable mention be made of him in the order of the day, with insertion of his name and that of the spokesman of the deputation.

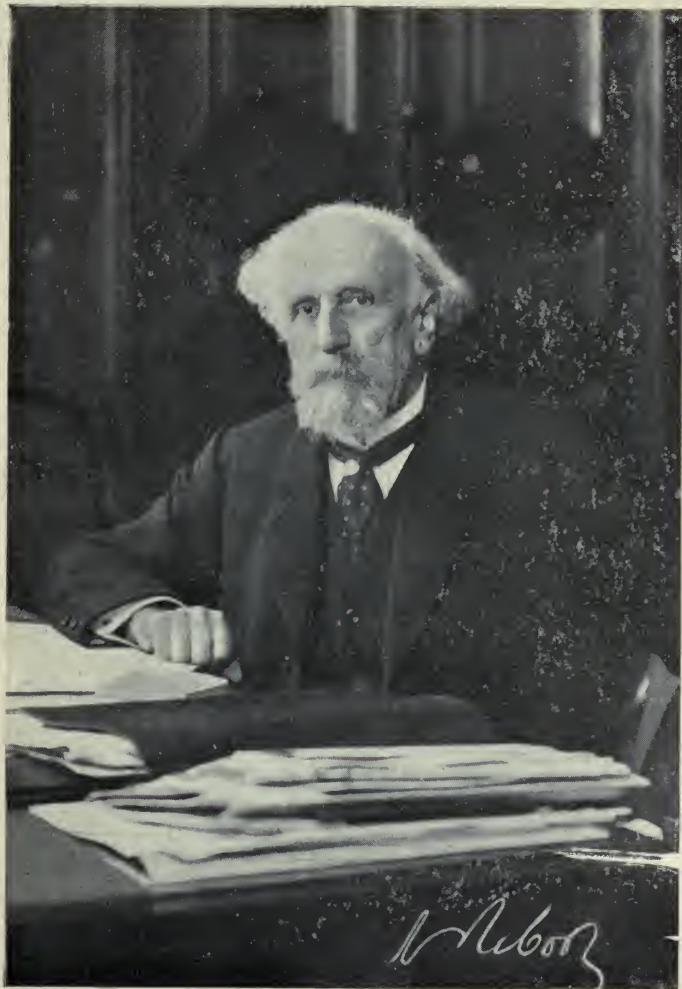
President Bigot de l'réameneu answers, addressing M. Lemaire :

Sir, the National Assembly testifies to you its satisfaction with the patriotic sentiments you have inspired in your pupils and invites you to the sitting. (*applause.*)

### Sitting of April 29.

The boys and girls of the free national schools of the parish of Saint-Louis at Versailles are received at the bar. Their spokesman thus expresses himself :

Legislators; the pupils, boys and girls, of the free national schools of the parish of Saint-Louis at Versailles, here present and chosen by their comrades as their deputation, beg you to accept their respects which they are anxious to offer you as a pledge of their love for the country : for they declare that it is their first duty to present you with the modest tribute that their gratitude ordains and their sentiment inspires. It is their happiness to experience your benefits and their glory to publish them abroad.



M. A. RIBOT, President of the Council.



Patriotism is their guide. The torch of august liberty shall never cease to illuminate their young hearts. The Rights of Man are their study. Their physical force cannot second their moral strength, and so they come to support by a gift proportionate to their means the generous transports which at this moment animate all true citizens. What a privilege for them, on an occasion so admirable and so stimulative of their zeal, to be able to deposit with this august senate the ineffaceable tokens of their sincere attachment to the Constitution! They burn with an ardent desire for the birth of the accomplishment of their wishes : the longing to see again all our young heroes, crowned with the laurels of victory. Their intrepid courage already fills our enemies with terror. Our generals are inspired with prudence and the purest patriotism.... What have they to fear? They have only to combat tyrants and courtiers, incapable of vanquishing free men.

Wholly devoted to the defence of the country, the teachers of these schools join with their pupils in offering you their gift. It does not entirely satisfy their desires. The passage from will to deed is not always easy. But their motive has its source in that faultless transport that patriotism inspires. Fathers of families have sacred engagements to fulfil : to generate men and citizens, to defend the country, and to educate their children in the sentiments which will furnish ages to come with a certain guarantee of happiness and a sure pledge of the prosperity of the empire.

The amount of the children's and masters'

donations reaches the sums of 106 fr. 14 sous and 40 fr. 9 sous respectively.

On April 30, the pupils of M. Paillon, rue Bracque, section Enfants-Rouges, make a gift to the country of 18 fr. 19 s. in cash and 8 fr. 10 s. in patriotic notes : their master gives 20 fr. in assignats : Petitot and Devron, pupils of the rhetorical class at the college of Langres, send an assignat of 5 fr. each.

On May 1, the choir-boys of the parish of Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur and their teacher Morinet deposit on the Altar of the Country 15 fr. in cash and 44 fr. in assignats and notes. On May 5, a deputation of boys delegated by about 1400 of their comrades of all the charity schools of the Faubourg Saint-Antoine is received at the bar. They deposit 155 fr. in pence, the amount of a collection raised among them, and one of the children offers his silver buckles. On May 8, Arnaud, teacher at Blois, addresses to the Assembly 305 fr., a sum offered by the young ladies with whose education M<sup>me</sup> Arnaud is charged. On the same day, the pupils of the charity school of Saint-Eustache give 36 fr. 10 s. in assignats, 9 fr. 14 s. in silver and 5 s. in pence, first fruits of their modest resources, towards the expenses of the war. Rebécer, professor at the Seminary of Blois, sends 25 fr. On May 9, 400 fr.



come in from the vicars, superiors and ecclesiastics of the Seminary of the department of Saône-et-Loire : on May 10, 72 fr. 15 s. from the pupils of the parish of Saint-Roch and 95 fr. from the pupils of the school at Bracier. On May 11, Pierroud, principal of the college of Verdun, undertakes to contribute 50 fr. every three months for the whole duration of the war.

### Sitting of May 12.

One of the secretaries of the Assembly reads an address sent in by the administrators of the college of Bordeaux, showing the generous sentiments and the patriotic zeal of the pupils under their care :

#### *Representatives of the Nation,*

The administrators of the national college of Bordeaux hasten to communicate to you the delightful sentiments with which their soul is vividly penetrated. Surrounded by the young pupils whose scholastic successes we had just rewarded, we were enjoying their pleasure, when a new scene came to increase our emotion. One of the boys, whose talents and acquirements were already the matter of our admiration, addressed his companions in success with the simplicity which belongs only to their age. « My friends », he said, pointing to his prizes, « we were vexed yesterday at having nothing to offer to the country. To-day we are no longer without possessions. To the glory of having

won these valuable rewards, let us add the pleasure of making a useful sacrifice with them. I hand back my books to the administrators to send their value to our representatives. For they are our representatives, since they make our education their care ».

M. Berniard (the pupil's name) had hardly spoken when his comrades ran from every side to put their books on our table. But we, Gentlemen, considering that the country ought not to take back these rewards with the hand with which she had given them, and further that to accept them would be to deprive our boys of the means of forming their characters in that country's service, we thought it our duty to check this fine movement. But the generosity of our pupils long combatted the resistance which our scruples opposed to them and they would not have yielded if we had not announced that the administration of the college would, in their name, express their sentiments and offer to the country the value of the prizes they wished to renounce. Receive then, Gentlemen, these 300 fr. as a tribute from their young patriotism. Owing to the energy you have inspired in every heart, this tender age, which owes nothing but the promise of the future, already pays its debts in deeds.

We adjoin the list of the pupils. We should have liked it to include the names of their wise teachers who, while communicating the most useful and varied knowledge, inspire in their classes the noblest sentiments.

*Bordeaux, May 4, 1792,  
in the Year IV of Liberty.*

On the same day, in the name of his comrades of the charity school of Saint-Merri, the young Lami deposits 50 fr. in pence, the total of their second subscription towards the expenses of the war. The deputy Borie offers an assignat of 50 fr. on the part of Guillaume Borie, his brother, of the canton of Meyssat, district of Brives, department of Corrèze. [The young man, a student at the College, has economised this sum by small privations. Some pupils of M. Gerlet, of the quarter of Saint-Paul, give 70 fr. A deputation of girls from a school in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine, accompanied by their mothers, is received at the bar. One of them carries a pike surmounted by a cap of liberty, and several others have banners and flags They offer to the country 91 fr. 6 s., towards the expenses of the war.

### Sitting of May 13.

The girls of the school of Saint-Nicolas-des-Champs are received at the bar. The speaker of the deputation declares :

Our hearts burn with love for the country. All our sighs, all our vows are for the preservation of the representatives and legislators and our fathers, and for the glory of the intrepid youths in arms who shield the kingdom.

Some day we shall be [wives and mothers, always good citizens. We hope to be the joy of our families. We come to bring you the result of a little collection we have made among ourselves.

She lays 90 fr. 16 s. on the table. This same day the private pupils of Suchet, teacher, 4 barrière de Menilmontant, his children and his three assistants, Messieurs Moreau, Ferrand and Lacroix, offer a gift of 70 fr. 5., adding to it 3 pairs of silver buckles.

#### Sitting of May 14.

M. LORTAL, deputy for the Aveyron.

« The pupils of the college of Villefranche-d'Avignon have commissioned me to offer to the Assembly a sum of 200 fr. in specie, viz : 8 golden louis and the rest in silver : as well as 8 silver medals or class-crosses, of which they say have no more need now that national rewards have been promised by decree to talent and virtue. »

Four students of the College of Navarre are received at the bar. In the name of their comrades they present 126 fr. in cash and 475 fr. in assignats : 601 fr. in all.

*Evening Sitting.*

PIORRY, deputy for the Vienne, reads the following address from the professors of the college of Poitiers :

The pupils of the college of Poitiers, penetrated by those sincerely patriotic sentiments which we daily rouse and develop in them, present themselves to-day by our voice before the altar of the country, whose lamp and mainstay you are, to offer you their respects according to the dictates of their hearts.

These generous children have been unwilling to owe to anyone, even to their parents, the gift they offer to the country. They have decided to give something which is their own property, something at least of which they have the enjoyment, satisfied that their successors in class will heartily ratify an act of which they are to share the glory. Still too young to put their arms at your service against the invading tyrants who strive to rob us of our liberty, they deposit in your hands the badges of distinction that are the goal of their rivalry. These badges will help to maintain in the field the brave citizens engaged in ensuring the fortunes of France by a noble and courageous resistance to the infamous conspiracies of brigands. All our children aspire to fulfil some day the same sacred function. Awaiting this happy moment, deign to accept their offering as the pledge of their most sincere devotion to the state. (*Applause.*)

The professors of the National college of Poitiers :

Signed : Bernazais junior, vice-principal of the collège, lieut. 1<sup>st</sup> co. 1<sup>st</sup> batt ; Hontois, grenadier 1<sup>st</sup> batt., second-form master ; Bernazais senior, private 1<sup>st</sup> batt., third-form master ; Herbault, private 5<sup>th</sup> batt : fourth-form master ; Dassier, grenadier 2<sup>nd</sup> batt., fifth-form master.

Gift of 15 silver crosses.

### Sitting of May 15.

A deputation from-the pupils of the free schools of Saint-Paul and Saint-Ambroise comes to the bar, accompanied by teachers. Discourse of the spokesman :

Legislators, you see before you children of Liberty, all disposed to defend her. But still too young to endure the fatigues of war, we come, in the name of 500 of our comrades of the free schools of Saint-Paul and Saint-Ambroise, to present you our respects and the sum of 90 fr. for the maintenance of the defenders of the country. We have little money but much courage. The Bastille was taken under our eyes. Our fathers had their part in this victory, and we promise faithfully not to be behind them in bravery.

Instructed at our schools in the principles of the constitution, we already appreciate all the worth of Liberty. We often repeat these words : « The Constitution or death : we will live free or we will die. » And we write them on our papers against the day when we

may fight under the ensigns on which they stand as device. (*Applause*).

At the same sitting, the girls of the school of M<sup>me</sup> Cordonnier, Grande Rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine, offer 3 fr. in cash and 40 fr. in small notes. The pupils of the College of the Quatre-Nations, accompanying their teachers, deposit 615 fr. and announce that they have spent 135 fr. on the equipment of one of their comrades leaving for the frontier. At the evening sitting, the girls of the charity school of the parish of Saint-Paul pay in 21 fr. 16 s.

*Evening sitting.*

Duvergier, teacher, Blind-Alley of Saint-Narcisse, comes to the bar with a deputation of his pupils. Discourse of the spokesman :

*Mr President,*

We have long heard speak of the National Assembly : we have long desired to come here. Now that we know that voluntary contributions towards the expenses of the war are received, we hasten to bring ours. It is modest, but, modest though it is, we make it cordially. We regret that the weakness of our arms forbids us to offer them for the defence of liberty, but when more

sinewy, we will employ them to overthrow the enemies of our constitution, if there are any left. We acquit ourselves of a duty very dear to our hearts when, on the altar of the country, we lay 23 fr., the fruit of our little savings. We beg you to accept our respectful gift. (*Applause.*)

On May 17, the pupils of the Military School of Nanterre give 150 fr. On May 18, a secretary reads a letter from the third-form boys of the college of Lille, enclosing 86 fr. : •

*Legislators,*

At the moment when the nation is about to put forth all its energy every good Frenchman ought to contribute with his whole power to the maintenance of his liberty. Our age does not yet allow us to take arms and proceed to the frontiers to defend with our hands and seal with our blood that constitution of which the principles, already comprehended by us, are so dear to our hearts. Wishing however to fulfil a desire which urges us to contribute in some way to the defence of the country, we offer you, for the arming of a citizen, 48 fr. in specie, the fruit of our strict economy, fondly persuaded that you will accept this tribute of our love for the state.

On May 19, the choir-boys of the parishes of Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois, Saint-Roch, Saint-Leu, Saint-Paul, Saint-Gervais, Saint-Germain-



des-Prés, Saint-Merri, Saint-Eustache, Saint-Philippe-du-Roule, Saint-Laurent, Saint-François-d'Assise, Saint-Pierre du Gros Caillou, Notre-Dame-de-Lorette pay in 218 fr.

### Sitting of May 21.

Deputation of the pupils of the School of Drawing. Discourse of the spokesman :

Legislators, the pupils of the National School of Drawing see with enthusiasm thousands of patriots sacrificing their blood and fortunes in the cause of the Nation. This sublime example traces their duty.

The war has begun. The people is at its post and will hold there. The thunders of conspiracy are heard, but they will be vain, for true and courageous men defending their hearths have no fear of traitors.

Legislators, your efforts make it possible for children of this class, insulted by despots, to prove that the virtue of spirits trained up under the constitution will outstrip their age to save the country.

Impatiently awaiting manhood, these young students, many of whose comrades are at the frontier, joyfully and in proportion to their means contribute 430 fr. towards the expenses of the war. Animated by a like zeal, the professors and domestics of this useful institution have joined in the pupils' civic offering.

This tribute will bring millions of others. Such numerous contributions will prove to the enemies of a country that will have liberty or die that they have to contend against a nation in which the citizens of all classes are bound together like spears of a fasces to defend undauntedly the constitution which the tyrants would annihilate.

We have a country : slaves know none. With Slaves we will war, and in the sanctuary of law the banner of victory shall be seen waving over our heads.

The deputation deposits 429 fr. 3 s. and, preceded by a band and tricolor flags, marches out amidst great enthusiasm.

### Evening sitting of May 22.

Deputation of the pupils of Messieurs Charlemagne, father and son. Discourse of the spokesman :

*Mr Président and Gentlemen,*

You have consecrated the interest that our legislators take in the children by calling them the hope of the country. Anxious to respond to the idea that this name conveys, we come to communicate to you, with our respects, our sentiments and wishes.

Fathers of the country ! when you decreed the war,



E X T R A I T  
DU PROCÈS-VERBAL  
DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE.

Du 21 Mai 1792.

L'AN QUATRIÈME DE LA LIBERTÉ.

Les Evêques de l'Ecole des Evêques fondent à la  
fabric pour subvenir aux besoins de la guerre; savoir en  
originaux en Billon Patriotique trois cent Cinq sous  
Cinq livres en or ou quatre quatorze livres trois sous  
en or ou

L'Assemblée Nationale, après avoir  
accepté l'offrande, décrète qu'il en sera fait mention  
honorifique au procès-verbal & qu'il en sera délivré  
un Extrait.

Collationné à l'original par  
moi le Secrétaire de l'Assemblée  
Nationale à Paris le 30 Mai  
1792, l'an 4.<sup>e</sup> de la Liberté.

*Amel*  
*Renouard*  
*Merle*

Extract from the minutes delivered by the National Legislative Assembly to the Schools contributing towards the expenses of the war in 1792 (preserved at the National School of the Decorative Arts).

France resounded with the applause of all her citizens, of every man of whom liberty has made a soldier. Each claimed for himself the honour of going forth to combat the modern Porsennas. What regrets have we not felt at being too young to rush to arms with our fathers! What vows do we not form that victory may accompany their standards!...

What! When from every quarter of the empire all hastened to offer you the tribute of their patriotism, could we remain strangers to this unanimous devotion? No, never! We wish it to be said of us that we are co-operating in the establishment of the Constitution. We wish the coming generation of which we are the germ to inspire alarm already in the tyrants of the empire. So we offer you 37 fr. 17 s. in cash and 78 fr. in assignats, a total of 115 fr. 17 s., our modest savings from the money at our disposal. Several of us count a father or a brother among the soldiers who have gone to conquer or die in the cause of liberty...

### Sitting of May 23.

MICHELAN, master of a private school at Belleville, presents himself at the bar with his ten children and his pupils. One of the latter makes this short speech :

We too, Gentlemen, come with joy to lay our offering on the altar of the Country. We have only one regret :

not to be able to offer a gift more worthy of our country and more in proportion to the gratitude we feel towards our common mother who devotes her special care to defending our childhood and ensuring our happiness. This is the widow's mite. We cannot weigh our zeal in scales, but we can at least say that we have done all that our limited means allow us.

And besides, we come not so much for this as to protest our most ardent love for the Constitution and to promise you our young arms which we daily exercise and train with the view of employing them in the service of the Constitution as soon as we can.

Amount of the deposit : 110 fr. in assignats.

### Sitting of May 28.

Letter from the pupils of the college of Nevers, sending 20 fr. :

*Legislators,*

When the country is in danger, when she is menaced by an early attack, it is the duty of all good citizens to renew the bonds which unite them and to join in saving the fond mother who counts so many ungrateful hearts among even her dearest children. Imbued with these grand principles, the pupils of the college of Nevers offer to the country the modest pledge of their

devotion. Our contribution would have better corresponded with our sentiments had not certain enemies of our Constitution perverted the majority of our comrades and turned them away from our worthy constitutional institutions. And further, legislators, all those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to go to the frontiers and combat under the standards of liberty have hastened there, leaving their comrades to the regret of being unable to follow them and the desire of making themselves useful.

Other colleges will doubtless offer you much more considerable gifts. They outstrip us in their means, but never in purity of sentiment and in eagerness to serve the country.

If the impossible were possible and free men were vanquished by false tyrants, we swear to this; the last day of liberty should be the last of our lives. Signed: Ballard-le-Brone, Bonzia, Baudin, Jemois, Narzot, Bibolet.

On May 29, the pupil Pautre, in the name of his schoolfellows of the college of Juilly, makes a gift of 10 fr.

#### Sitting of May 30.

M. SANLAVILLE, accompanied by pupils of the college de la Marche, comes to the bar. The children carry guns with fixed bayonets.



M. Paul PAINLEVÉ, War Minister





M. DORIZY, deputy for the Marne. — No-one should be allowed to appear in arms on the floor of the Assembly. I ask that these citizens be called upon to retire. (*Uproar*).

*Several voices.* — Hear ! hear !

THE PRESIDENT. I beg to mention to the Assembly that, when the petitioners presented themselves at the bar, I directed an usher to order them to retire and to come back without their arms.

(The petitioners withdraw and re-enter a moment later without arms).

M. BRÉARD, deputy for the Charente-Inférieure.

I ask that the ushers be instructed to introduce no armed person at the bar.

*Several members.* — Or into the house.

*Other members.* — The orders have been given.

M. SANLAVILLE. *Spokesman of the deputation*, offers the Assembly in the name of his pupils the respectful expression of their devotion and of their zeal for the defence of the country, regretting that their age does not allow them to hasten to the frontiers. He lays on the table 75 francs in assignats. This is the first instalment of a sum of 300 fr.

which the children undertake to pay yearly for the maintenãnce of one national guard. (*Applause*).

THE PRESIDENT accords the deputation the honours of the sitting.

M. SANLAVILLE. — Mr. President, I ask the Assembly to permit the children I direct to pass through the house with their arms.

A member. — I object. We are not here to hold reviews.

M. JORIZY. Mr. President, be kind enough to take the opinion of the assembly.

The assembly accords the petitioners the permission to traverse the house under arms. (*Applause from the galleries.*)

May 31 : from the pupils of the public schools of the Madeleine and Ville l'Evêque, a patriotic gift; from the students of the University of Rheims, 400 fr., including a golden louis from a student who does not wish his name to appear.

June 1 : from the college of Lons-le-Saulnier : 160 fr. 10 s.

June 5 : from the infant citizens of the college of Laval. 67 fr. — From Panckouke, sixth-form boy at the college of Plessis, 25 fr.

June 9 : from certain children and their master, 63 fr. 11 s. — From the choir boys of Vannes cathedral, 45 fr.

June 12 : from young citizens of Paris and their master, 102 fr. 15 s. and a silver ring.

June 17 : from the scholars of the Sainte-Geneviève Section, 8 fr. 12 s. The spokesman is only six years old!

June 23 etc : from the young students of the college of Chateauroux, 75 fr. : from the administrators of the college of Rheims, 40.000 fr. in specie to be converted into assignats : from the pupils of the national college of Vesoul, 150 fr. ; from the pupils of the provisional institution of Nontron, 210 fr; from the professors of the University of Douai, 5 silver maces.

July : from the pupils and teachers of the Saint-Gervais Section, 40 fr. : from the pupils and teachers of Chatillon, 150 fr. in assignats and 6 fr. in silver, with a petition for the prompt organisation of public instruction ; from the masters, boarders and dayboys of the college of Saint-Joseph at Roanne, 180 fr. 5 s. : from M<sup>me</sup> Ballot's girls' school, 55 fr. : from the young children studying at the college of Joigny (Yonne), 67 fr. 10 s.

The students of philosophy and a large number of other classes in the town of Saint-Claude renounce the prizes in books, which are the

time-honoured recompenses of school work. The municipality, informed of their patriotism, decides on July 12, to send the money value of the prizes to the assembly, in accordance with the desire of the young citizens, and decrees them a vote of thanks. The administrators of the college of Billon hand in 150 fr. in assignats, on the part of the students, to the college of the town of Saint-Claude. This sum is destined for the purchase of the prizes which the scholars have renounced.

August : from the pupils of the college of Avallon, 200 fr. and regrets not to be old enough to go to the frontiers : from the professors and pupils of the College of Cardinal Lemoine, 1671 fr. 18 s.

### Sitting of September 1.

RIBOND, deputy for the Ain :

I come, Gentlemen, in the name of the pupils of the College of Bourg, to lay on the table a sum of 150 fr. in assignats, offered to the country by these young citizens. This money was destined for by purchase of the prizes they had won : they believe that they will

make a better use of it by giving it to their country towards the expenses of the war. (*Applause*).

They have further commissioned me to present you with an address, which I beg leave to read. It is thus conceived :

*Legislators,*

The country was in danger. Secret intrigues undermined our new-founded liberty. We marched on a soil that threatened to yawn under our feet. But a decree, famous for ever in our history, has lopped the last head of tyranny. New Hercules, you have burst open the cavern of Cacus, and the conspiracies against liberty and the black perfidy of a corrupt court have been dragged into the light of day...

Legislators, be proud of your victory as we are of your courage. Strike with the sword of the law the subordinate tyrants who wished to enslave us. Ensure us the reign of liberty, of equality, which all Frenchmen have risen to defend. Our youth have deserted town and field. Twenty of our comrades have rushed to the standards of victory. Hardly arrived at the doors of manhood, they have snatched themselves away from their weeping and tender mothers.

Left in solitude, desperate at being unable to follow our schoolfellows to the camp, we reproach nature with the slowness of our physical developement. Unfit to support the fatigues of war, we come to make the country the only offering in our power.

We lay upon the altar of *liberty and equality* a sum of 150 fr. It was destined to buy us commonplace

prizes. For these, immortal wreaths have been substituted. A branch of oak or laurel is the most flattering recompense for a free man.

Signed by the pupils of the college of Bourg, to the number of 36. (*Applause.*)

Sept. 3, from Fontaine and Champion, students of the veterinary college of Charenton, 12 fr.; from the medical students at the Hôtel-Dieu, 2.644 fr. 2 s. and a petition to be allowed to serve the Country as soldiers or surgeons; from private pupils of M. Robin, rue Saint-Jean-de-Beauvais, 41 fr. 1 s. and 6 pence, the assignats tied together with a tricolor ribbon; from the pupils of college of Gray (Haute-Saône), 200 fr.

Sept 4, from the directors, professors and students of the veterinary school of Alfort, 440 fr., and a request from 22 pupils who have finished their studies to be allowed to make the campaign in the cavalry; from the pupils of the college of Nantua, 80 fr.

Sept. 6, from young English boarding-school girls, 444 fr. 10 s.

On Sept. 8, François Kindler, student of the ex-royal veterinary school of Alfort, citizen of Moulins, chief town of the department of the Allier, aged 21, and the eldest of 21 brothers and sisters (42 still living) gives his prize medal of

gold and silver towards the expenses of the war, and offers his professional services; if needed, in the newly levied national gendarmerie.

On Sept. 9, the Children of the Country, pupils at the college of Bagnols, department of the Gard, send 100 fr. in assignats, the sum accorded them by the General Council of their commune for prizes at the end of the current scholastic year. They add 20 fr., making 120 fr. in all.

On Sept. 13, the schoolchildren of Louhands send, towards the expenses of the war, the sum of 100 fr. that the commune is accustomed to award yearly for the purchase of prizes. The other scholars give an equal sum of 100 fr. from their savings: and a workman, named Claude Savage, contributes his take of fish, valued at 40 fr.: 240 fr. in all. The pupils of the college of Tarbes send 300 fr. in assignats, the equivalent of the prizes destined for them, the directory of the departement having decreed that the prizes to be awarded shall consist of branches of laurel and oak.

#### Sitting of Sept 14

The young Freycinet, aged 14, presents himself at the bar:

I know my dear country, he says, only as the mother

on whom I am accustomed to smile, for I have been educated by my parents in the principles of liberty and equality, but I hope soon to have the strength to defend her and to show myself worthy of her by my talents and virtues.

Meanwhile I come to lay on the table 100 fr. towards the expenses of the war. It is all I possess.

Sept. 24, from the citizen Legendre, director of the Christian School of Agde, 5 fr. with a petition to the Convention to give its attention to the organisation of Public Instruction and the interest of the brothers of the Christian Schools.

In October, November and December: from the pupils of the royal military school, 50 fr.: from the principals and professors of the Faculty of Arts of Paris, 1,821 fr. for the Lille victims: from the citizen Lons, aged 16, pupil of the Republic at the school of Corrèze, department of Aude, two silver medals received by him at this school as prizes and encouragement.

During the year 1793, the gifts of the schools and scholars were often united with those of the Popular Societies. However some private offerings are still to be remarked on the table of Patriotic Gifts.

In the first half-year, Doua, surgical student at the hospital of Chateau-en-l'Isle, Oléron, sends 3 fr.: the citizen Mongeot, national teacher



gives, towards the expenses of the war, a pair of silver shoe-buckles, a large and a small silver medal with chains, and a third medal enriched with silver : the blind children of the national asylum send 168 fr. 16 s., and the pupils of the college of Sens six small silver crosses weighing 3 oz.

July to September : from Demengeon Lehadigny, student, 25 fr. : from the young republicans of the college of Sablé, chief town of the district of the department of Sarthe, 15 fr. and five small crosses with *libertas vel mors* as supercription : from the scholars of the college of Le Mans, eight small crosses ; from the pupils of the national college of Vesoul, 400 fr. and fifteen small crosses : from the third-form boys of the college of Auxerre, 12 fr. and a competitive silver cross, of the dimensions and shape of a military decoration.

The table of Patriotic Gifts for Brumaire to Fructidor of the Year II of the Republic notes :

From the pupils of the Section des Arcis, 60 fr. in pence : from the citizen Saumon, school-mistress, rue Poissonière, a Spanish silver coin of the value of 5 fr. 5 s and two three-franc pieces : from the young republicans of her school, a Basle 12-sou pièce, two Spanish 10-sou pieces and a wedding-ring, together with 22 fr. 1 s. in money : from the citizens Baraton, Babouin and

Martinet, a piece of 1 fr. 4 s. each, towards the expenses of the war : from a citizen schoolmistress, 107 fr. 5 s. in assignats and 10 fr. 18 s. in coin : from certain young girls clothed as Goddesses of Liberty, 26 fr. : from the citizen Roget, schoolmistress in the section of Montreuil, three 10-sou notes handed to her by a patriot for the war fund : from the citizen Grassier, schoolmaster at Tourves (Var), 25 fr. : from the pupils, boys and girls, of the citizen Pierre-Joseph Grasseur and Louise Trevine, his wife, 35 fr. : from the Popular Society of Rheims on behalf of the pupils of the citizen Auchet, teacher at Cernay, 14 fr. 15 s. : from the members of the corresponding committee of Marseillès, 25 fr. 15 s., handed to them by the pupils of the citizen Joseph Devèze, schoolmaster : from the citizen Morineau, teacher at Fouesnant, 15 fr. 10 s., on behalf of the children of the commune : from the young citizen Antoine Laget, pupil at the school of Mars, a silver watch, by the hands of the citizen Peyssard, representative of the people at the camp of Sablons : from the citizen Jean-André Fayolle, pupil at the same school, a pair of silver garter-buckles : from the citizen Roger, teacher at Fontenay, 5 fr. : from the members of the directory of the district of Verneuil, 50 fr., in the name of the private pupils of the citizen Dupille.

We have published without commentary

these documents, drawn from the Parliamentary archives and the table of Patriotic Gifts. They are ancient history, but still so living that we find in them our own patriotic fever and our own ardent response to the call of the Country, menaced and in arms.

In 1792, France was defending her infant liberty and she saved it at the price of her blood and with incredible perils. It is that liberty that she is defending again to-day, for herself and for the world, for the peoples that the German dominion claims to oppress pitilessly. And as in those grand hours when men had to conquer or die, so schoolmasters and schoolchildren throng to-day round the Altar of Country in the determination to protect her against all assaults of the enemy, everyone within the limits of his age and strength, but all equally resolved.

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POUR  
LA  
PATRIE

MINISTÈRE DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE  
DES BEAUX-ARTS ET DES INVENTIONS INTÉRESSANT LA  
DÉFENSE NATIONALE


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D.....

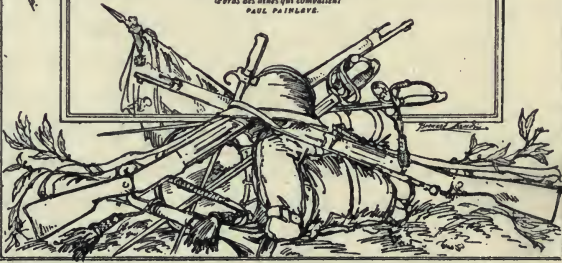
A SOUSCRIT  
AU \_\_\_\_\_ EMPRUNT  
DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

LE MINISTRE DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE

LE MINISTRE DES FINANCES



Quand le destin de la France est en jeu, le pays tout entier ne doit faire qu'un corps et  
qu'une âme. En apportant leur obole à l'emprunt, les enfants, les écoles  
contribuent à la Victoire: leur argent sert à armer  
le bras des aînés qui combattent!  
PAUL PAINLEVÉ.



L. Jouve, Paris.

Demain, 7 et 8 c.

Certificate awarded to Schools subscribing to the National  
Defence Loans.

FOR THE COUNTRY!

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THE FRENCH SCHOOLS  
IN 1914-1917

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On July 31, 1914, the schools were closed for the summer holidays : two days later the war broke out. From one end of the territory to the other millions of hearts were inspired by one unanimous sentiment, and the sons of France the Immortal rose like one man to meet the Barbarians who had resolved to surprise her treacherously and enslave her.

The onslaught of the enemy broke against the heroic resistance of the soldiers of the Marne and the schools re-opened their doors at the date fixed. But the classrooms were no longer closed to the outside din. The thought of war was present to every soul and gave a new turn to school

work. It rose up at every line and every word of a lesson, recalling incessantly to the memory of the children their fathers and brothers under arms for the general safety. The masters recounted too the horrors and crimes perpetrated and repeated by the invaders of Belgium and our Northern-provinces and, while young hearts quivered with most just hatred, they expanded also with most ardent pity.

Impatient of the least delay, they have directed their generosity to the alleviation of the misery of which they comprehended the overwhelming injustice. Week by week, sou by sou, the French Schoolchildren have brought their masters sums of money which amount to an enormous war contribution. For instance, the total collected in two years in the primary schools of the Seine is reckoned at 3.000.000 fr.

Scholars and masters have proved themselves valuable allies of the Bank of France by their useful participation in the collection of gold. And lastly, though the idea may first have appeared strange, the Minister of Public Instruction has appealed to them to subscribe to the national loans. Results have proved the soundness of his judgment.

M. Paul Lapie, the distinguished Director of Primary Instruction in France, has kindly permitted us to look through the reports in which the

Rectors and Inspectors of the Academy have recorded the efforts of schools and masters during the war and especially on the occasion of the second National Loan. When future historians aim at giving a true idea of the moral force of this country in the midst of a formidable upheaval, these pages will furnish them with the most valuable and certain testimony.

We will limit ourselves to-day to quoting a few passages in which facts alone shall speak with eloquent simplicity. This will give an idea of what our schools and their admirable masters have done and are capable of doing.

## THE SECOND NATIONAL LOAN

### I. — In the school.

As soon as Government had decided to open a second war loan, the minister of Public Instruction addressed the following circular to the rectors and inspectors of the Academy :

*Paris, october 13. 1916.*

I have had pictures illustrative of the loan distributed in the primary schools. The teachers have commented upon them before their classes, and I feel sure that

their words have awakened an effective echo in the families of the children. As in the last year, the masters in the three grades of instruction will address themselves to the adult and will give lectures to explain to every citizen what is his duty at this hour.

They will not limit themselves to words; they will act. As in the last year, they will engage their pupils to associate themselves for the purchase of the newly-issued bonds which will go to swell the capital of the funds of the schools and national educational establishments and of all our joint institutions. They will thus be able to found an annual National Defence Prize in every school. And I count on their inventive powers to suggest the most useful employment of the sums collected by them on the occasion of the loan.

You will be kind enough to inform me, as they come in, of the suggestions which you would think advisable to adopt generally. Then in the course of December, you will address me a detailed report of the results of the campaign which I ask our teachers to prosecute with their full patriotic ardour.

PAUL PAINLEVÉ.

The appeal of the minister was not made in vain.

In every lycée, collège and school of France, during the second fortnight of October, the work of the classes was directed to showing the importance of the great duty that the Country laid upon her children. Reading lessons, dictations, compositions, Latin versions even were turned into



*On les aura !*



**2<sup>E</sup> EMPRUNT**

DE

**LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE**

*Souscrivez*

DÉFENSEZ-VOUS

Abel FAIVRE'S poster for the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Defence Loan.



means for explaining, the necessity of the loan, its mechanism, its advantages. All the masters made their pupils learn « The appeal to the French », an ardent passage from the speech pronounced in the Chamber of Deputies, on Sept. 14, 1916, by M. Ribot, financial minister.

In certain departments, at the October session of the C. E. P. (certificat d'études primaires), the primary inspectors set the young candidates questions relative to the loan, and thus assured themselves that the efforts of the teachers had not been in vain.

The drawings of Rabier and more particularly of Hansi had been distributed by millions and had rendered the lessons pleasant and easy. The master commented the text and developed the idea. Thus through the child he reached the family, to which the pupil carried the direct and full echo of his master's sentiments and voice.

Artistic posters on the walls of the classrooms were an incessant appeal to duty and a stimulative of energy and hope. The reports of the inspectors of the Academy lay particular stress on the great effectiveness of Bernard Naudin's poster and that of Abel Faivre which represents a young « poilu », his eyes aflame, shouting his confidence in victory : « Subscribe... and we shall have them!- »

And to conclude, a few days before the loan

was closed, M. Paul Painlevé, Minister of Public Instruction, addressed another eloquent and vigorous appeal to the members of our teaching profession.

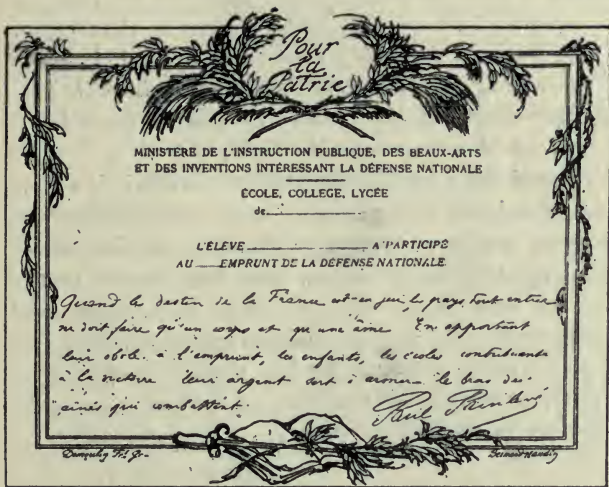
*Paris, October 23, 1914.*

The Minister of Public Instruction, of the Fine Arts and of Inventions applying to National Defence, to the professors and teachers of France.

In a few days the subscriptions to the loan will be closed. The confidence and patriotism of the country have fully responded to the appeal of Government; but it is essential that the financial power of France should, after two years of war, affirm itself as victoriously as the power of her arms.

It is on our schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, it is on the teachers in all the grades of our education, it is on their moral authority, on their ever persuasive and effective propaganda, that it is incumbent to urge the backward to their duty. He who is capable of subscribing to the loan and does not subscribe, is a deserter: he abandons his brothers at the front. Far from shortening the war, as an infamous movement claims, he prolongs it: if he does not rob us of victory, which can no longer escape us, he makes her approach more slow and sanguinary.

In penetrating the souls and hearts of our youth with these truths, our masters do not accomplish a merely educational task. Their influence spreads far



Certificate awarded to pupils Subscribing to the National  
Defence Loans.

beyond the walls of their classrooms. Numerous as are the schools which have agreed to contribute directly to the defence of the country, it is not by the sums paid into the Treasury that the magnitude of the duty accomplished is to be measured, but rather by the value of the example and its echo in all classes of the Nation.

The National Assembly used to accord the honours of the sitting to the deputations from schools bringing their money to the country in danger. Such deputations would be innumerable to-day.

To establish a lasting souvenir of this patriotic effort, I have decided, in agreement with the Minister of Finance, to give a diploma of honour to all the educational establishments which have contributed to the national loan. Each of the young subscribers will further receive a smaller diploma certifying that, rich or poor, child or youth, he has made his offering to furnish the arms of his seniors with still more powerful weapons for the decisive victory.

PAUL PAINLEVÉ (1).

The Minister of Public Instruction was justified in saying that the subscriptions of the schools were chiefly valuable for their example. But if the grandeur of the duty is not measured by the sums paid into the Treasury, yet from the material point of view the result has passed the most optimistic expectations.

(1) The diploma of which M. Painlevé speaks is the work of the artist, Bernard Naudin. It is of classical simplicity and elegance and recalls the style of the great masters of the XVIII th century.

Not a lycée, a college, a normal school, a higher primary school but has subscribed to the National loan! Certain of these scholastic institutions are honourably distinguished by very elevated contributions. Let us take for instance the lycée of Bordeaux. In 1792 the pupils of this establishment made a gift to the Country of the money allotted for the purchase of prizes. In 1916 they contributed *sixteen thousand francs*.

The primary school children have not been able individually to contribute very high sums to the loan. Still the number is quite large of small village schools which have associated for one bond.

Old and young, the children are true to the spirit of the great revolutionary epoch. No selfish calculation in their generous movement. On the contrary, their hearts are open to every emotion of pity, and, in bringing their mite, they have always thought of the unhappy orphans to whom they have so often opened their small purses since the beginning of the war. And the gift they offer to the Country in danger is to help works of charity as that of the Wards of the Schools.

We have not the list, school by school, of all the contributions made by the children of France. But here are a few very suggestive examples.

In the Pyrénées-Orientales, 69 schools give 25,996 fr. 65.

In Ain, 28.731 fr. 75 are collected.

The schools of Puy - de - Dôme subscribe 113.172 fr. 70 : those of Orne, about 140.000 fr.

The school of Montady (Hérault) deserves a special mention : 46 pupils (9 boys, 37 girls) subscribe for a revenue of 275 fr., representing a capital of 4.872 fr. 50.

The 13 pupils of the little school of La Bou-boulic, a hamlet of the commune of Antignac (Cantal) manage to raise 87 fr. 50 requisite for the purchase of a bond.

At Paris and in the department of Seine, thanks to the patriotic ardour of the teaching staffs, the results obtained are really surprising. *One hundred and ninety thousand pupils* subscribe nearly *a hundred thousand francs*. The director of education in Seine receives touching letters from children. They offer the sous in their money boxes to enable their schools to participate in the loan and acquire a bond, the interest of which shall serve, in the idea of some, to found a « Victory Prize » ; of others, « to augment the resources of War charities ».

The higher primary schools of Paris, since the beginning of the war, have vied in the generosity of their gifts with the lycées, the pupils of which generally belong to richer families. And now again they set the example.

Some elementary primary schools also merit



special mention. Thus the boys'school of the rue Jenner subscribes a sum of 1.137 fr. 50 : the girls'school of the rue Buffault, 1.050 fr.

At the boys'school, 5 rue Milton, *two hundred and twenty* pupils contribute *two thousand one hundred* francs.

Certain directors have had the good idea of taking two pupils from each class in their school to the Bank of France. The deputation brings the subscription of their little comrades. Then a representative of the Bank shows them over the establishment and gives them all useful information.

It is singularly interesting to read the reports of our inspectors and teachers, who, in very simple language, relate actions and impulses which really call for no commentary. In this rapid summary, it is impossible to quote all the admirable instances that reveal the nobility of our children's souls. Very often too these instances resemble each other, and so, to form a general idea, one has only to select a few incidents from the official reports, for these will be sufficient to give an idea of the high moral standard of those who will form the France of to-morrow.

Here, in Meuse, you have a boy who buys a bond with the 88 fr. which he has made by selling newspapers in his holidays.

Here again, at Aurillac, a pupil of the school of the rue Lacoste is disconsolate at not being able to subscribe to the loan like his comrades. So, one free day, he goes and gets taken on at the station to help in unloading trucks. On the morrow he proudly hands his teacher the sum of one franc that he has made.

At Bannan (Cher) a small refugee, who has managed to save a few francs, goes to the postoffice to buy a National Defence bond. He has not enough money for the purpose, but he has comprehended that you must lend to the state all the money of which you dispose.

A little Parisian of twelve is remarkable for conduct that cannot be too highly praised. His mother, a widow, has difficulty in making 45 sous a day by charing work. To augment these meagre resources and render his mother's task lighter, the child goes to work every morning at a baker's from 5 to 8. Then he leaves for school. He gives his whole weekly earnings of 5 fr. to his mother, and receives 40 sous on Sunday for his pocketmoney. For a month he saves his bravely won sous, in order to be able to subscribe to the national loan.

To encourage the pupils of their schools to participate in the loan, certain teachers have shown wonderful powers of invention. Thus M. L., director of the school of Les Neiges, at

2<sup>me</sup> EMPRUNT DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

HANSI 44



Souscrivez, aidez-nous à vaincre, vous hâterez  
le jour de la Victoire et du retour au foyer.

P. J. Gallen & Co, Edite 38, rue Vignon Paris.

Hansi's picture, which has been distributed in the Schools.

Graville-Sainte-Honorine (Seine-Inférieure) sells the cauliflowers raised by his children on a field put gratuitously at their disposal. The products of the sale are invested in the national loan.

At the boys' school of Caudebec-en-Caux (Seine-Inférieure) all the pupils, by the instructions of their director M. M., obtain from their parents an advance of 3 fr. This sum they engage to pay back, and for this purpose they help on Thursdays in carrying wood for the English.

The schoolmaster and schoolmistress of Affieux (Corrèze) M. and M<sup>me</sup> B., engage their pupils to collect and sell the acorns fallen from the oaks. The sum thus collected amounts to 400 fr.

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## II. — Outside the School.

Our schoolmasters have not confined themselves to influencing their pupils: they have extended their activity beyond the walls of their classrooms, and the minister of finance has had no more determined propagators of the loan or, we may certainly affirm, more disinterested. Without wishing indeed to underrate the zeal of the Treasury officials, we think it only just to recognise the merits of a devotion which looks for its sole reward in satisfaction at the accomplishment of a duty.

The chiefs gave the example. In most departments the inspector of the academy and the director of the Bank of France issued an appeal to the Schoolmasters. This appeal was reprinted in the departmental gazette.

Lectures organised in the chief towns of cantons and in the large communes were given by the inspectors, the directors of the great financial establishments and other competent authorities, before schoolmasters and schoolmistresses specially invited to attend. And when the teachers

had acquired the necessary information, they went in their turn to preach the new gospel to the people of their village, they brought the truth home to the spirits of the timid, the distrustful and those again who, far removed from the theatre of hostilities, did not well understand the necessities of a war of which they did not suffer all the horrors.

And remarkable results were sometimes obtained.

Thus M. L..., professor at the college of Auxerre, in the evening after a lecture collects 40.000 fr. from a small village and pays it in to the Bank of France.

But private conversations and applications have been still more effective. Each man's motives for inaction are thus more easily discovered and the conclusive argument more readily found. This individual canvass is all the more necessary as in nearly all our districts a secret campaign is directed against the loan. Most of the reports of our rectors and inspectors of the Academy refer to this insidious movement which flatters the most selfish instincts. « Subscribe to the loan and you prolong the war ». Sophistry as ridiculous as it is odious, and our schoolmasters attack it with all the ardour of their intelligence and patriotic faith. Because they know the full value of example, they buy themselves one or more bonds and show

them to those whose mistrust is too obstinate.

At Plemeleuc, a little village of Ille-et-Vilaine, a peasant addresses M<sup>lle</sup> D..., the schoolmistress: « Mademoiselle, you tell me to invest, but do you do so yourself? » « My friend » she answers, « since we have been at war, you have not seen me spend a penny on a toilette, a hat, a dress, anything. I am going to make my last year's hat do just as it is for this winter, and you know I am not grasping. But I prefer to give a soldier a gun than to buy myself a dress. » And the peasant brought in all his savings as a subscription to the national loan.

Some of our schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, real lay missionaries of the loan, go from house to house fearless of rebuffs and obtain very considerable results.

This method is adopted by the schoolmistresses of Salonnet, near Digne. They write: « Having had no success, we have scoured the different quarters of the commune, trying to make each proprietor understand his duty and his interest. This time our efforts have not been in vain. We have collected the sum of 2.210 fr. in gold and have paid it in to the Bank of France at Digne. »

In other localities the schoolmasters draw up a list of the persons who are in a position to respond to the appeal of the country and accompany the Treasury officials to their houses. They have

been often complimented on their valuable collaboration.

The collector of Janzé (Ille-et-Vilaine) writes to the treasury paymaster-general :

« I beg you to be kind enough to inform the inspector of the Academy that M<sup>lle</sup> P..., schoolmistress at Corps-Nuds, M. L..., schoolmaster in the same commune and M. E..., schoolmaster at Brie, have given most enthusiastic support to the subscription of the second National Defence loan and personally contributed to its success in their communes. »

M. C..., notary at Antrain, writes to the inspector of the academy :

« I beg to call to your notice the commune of Rioum, where, on one Sunday, with the collaboration of M. C..., your schoolmaster. I got in more than 40.000 fr.

« On the previous day. M. C..., who is greatly esteemed, had gone through his commune from farm to farm and collected a fairly considerable sum ».

Where our schoolmasters are municipal secretaries or treasurers of a branch of the Savings Bank, they constitute themselves counsellors of the peasants, simplify proceedings for them and act as their agents. Thanks to them, millions upon



millions pour from « the woollen stocking » to swell the national subscription.

When you turn over the reports addressed to the Minister of Public Instruction, when you read names and figures of such moving eloquence, you understand better what a force there would be in the activity, when organised, of our modest and estimable schoolmasters.

Here again we must limit ourselves to a few incomplete but suggestive details.

The schoolmaster of Vauls-Milieu (Isère) raises 24,550 fr.

The schoolmaster of Trescleoux (Hautes-Alpes), a little commune of 410 souls, collects 55.000 fr. : his colleague of Caveirac (Gard) stimulates the commune to purchase a revenue of 2.385 fr., equivalent of a capital of 50.427 fr. 50.

At Guegnen (Ille-et-Vilaine), the schoolmaster collects 20.000 fr. : at Lédénou, 28.625 fr. 50.

By the agency of our schoolmasters in the department of Aude, 958.587 fr. are collected.

The schoolmasters of Sardent and Lafat (Creuse) raise, the one 33.075 fr., the other, 50.000 fr.

The schoolmaster of Villaudemard, a commune of 82 inhabitants, gives notice that he has called on each proprietor and explained « the great advantages of subscribing to the National Defence loan. » He adds : « Several have handed me their savings to pay in, and, though there are only

subscriptions for 5 to 10 fr. of revenue, the total amounts to about 25,000 fr. »

At La Motte-du-Caire (550 inhabitants) the number of subscribers is 97 and the total of subscriptions 117,862 fr. 50.

In the department of Somme, communes of Saint-Sauveur, Saint-Vast-en-Chaussée, Campsen-Amiénois, Rambures, Béthencourt-sur-Mer, Beauquesnes and Rubempré, the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses collect 140,055 fr.

In the department of Doubs, 252,065 fr. are handed in to the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses for the purchase of bonds.

The schoolmasters of Cours-Cheverny, Coutras and Montils (Loir-et-Cher) succeed in raising 500,000 fr. : of Millancay, 10,000 fr.

At Montreuil-sur-Maine (Maine-et-Loire) 22,500 fr. are subscribed to the loan by the agency of the schoolmaster.

At Sceaux, Panner, Corbeilles, Courtenay and Bouchet (Loiret) the schoolmasters each collect from 100 et 200,000 fr. of capital.

The schoolmasters of Faucompierre, La Forge, Les Gouttes d'Arnault, les Poulières and Charmais-l'Orgueilleux pay direct to the collector or at the receiver's office at Remiremont the sum of 44,975 fr.

A schoolmaster of the Vienne manages to raise

POUR LA FRANCE  
VERSEZ VOTRE OR.



L'Or Combat Pour La Victoire

LES MONNAIES D'OR SONT ÉCHANGÉES A LA BANQUE DE FRANCE

Abel FAIVRE'S poster for the gold campaign.



outside his school 56 subscriptions amounting to 83.300 fr.

The professors of the Franklin school at Rouen, by their campaign, bring in to the Treasury the sum of 99.050 fr.

In Tarn-et-Garonne the energy of the schoolmasters raises 10.000 fr. revenue : i. e. a capital of 175.000 fr. One of the schoolmasters addresses the people of his village in poetry. He concludes thus a patriotic sonnet :

For our sous will be converted into cannons and shells,  
To slay the slayers of our brave children,  
And to save us many tears over graves.

The activity of our schoolmasters is exercised in yet another form In many places it decides municipalities, old boys' associations, schoolmasters' friendly societies etc. to participate in the loan.

Thus the schoolmasters of Vignier and Hières (Isère) induce their municipalities to subscribe for 1.350 fr. and 2.550 fr. of revenue.

In the department of Ain, thanks to the influence of the schoolmasters, the friendly societies of Collonges pay in 10.500 fr. : and the municipalities of Saint-Bénigne, Manie-de-Chevroux and Arbigny subscribe for 18.000 fr. of revenue, representing a capital of 235.000 f.

In the Orne, the round total of subscriptions to the loan effectuated directly by the Schools and the Primary Instruction mutual societies and of subscriptions raised in families by the direct intervention of the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses amounts to *643.463 fr. 40*.

The schoolmasters of the Sarthe, who fulfil the functions of under-cashier at the Savings Bank have obtained the following very considerable results :

Le Luart . . . . .	140.700
Marçon . . . . .	112.000
Condrecieux . . . . .	107.000
Thorigné . . . . .	106.000
Saint-Maixent . . . . .	80.000
Saint-Georges-de-Rosay . . .	76.000
Saint-Michel-de-Chavaignes .	70.000
Brûlon . . . . .	59.000
Mayet . . . . . r . . .	55.000
Le Bailleur . . . . .	51.000 etc.

The mutual society of the schoolmasters of the Meuse brings in to the state the sum of 113.750 fr.

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### III. — The gold campaign.

Since the beginning of the war, the Bank of France, that admirable institution which puts all its financial power at the service of the State, has made every effort to increase its enormous gold reserve (1). In augmenting, this prodigious reserve, it has augmented its own, and at the same time the national, credit.

At its appeal, Gold Committees have been organised at every point of the land, and here again it is the schoolmasters who have been the best artisans of the national effort. Thanks to them, no-one is ignorant to day of the enormous part played by gold in the defence of the Country. « The more gold, the less blood », it has been rightly said. Being the only international coin-

(1) M. de Ribes-Christophe, treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce at Paris, gives some figures that enable one to form an idea of the bullion reserve of the Bank of France.

It would fill 270 trucks (5 tons to a truck).

The 20 franc pieces that the reserve represents would cover a length of 4350 kilometres if laid out in a line, and would attain a height of 135 kilometres if piled up in a column.

A man working twelve hours a day would take thirteen years to count the coins at the rate of one a second.

age, it permits us to buy from abroad the raw materials of which we are short, it develops the power of our machinery and armaments and thus saves the precious blood of our soldiers.

These mathematical truths do not readily penetrate into the spirit of our peasants, who have the same unreasonable veneration for gold coins as certain savage tribes for their fetishes. They must be patiently told these facts again and again. They must shown that their interests and their duty go hand-in-hand. Their hearts must be moved in order that their understanding may be more easily convinced.

In a popular song, which the children's voices carried to the parents' ears, M. Jean Aicard said :

We do not take your gold from you, we change it for you,  
If you were conquered the enemy would take it.  
To keep it for William is a strange investment...  
Quick! go and fetch it from the strong box,

Gold is a weapon : it is an arm we need,  
To hunt down, strike and expell the German ;  
Hide it, and you help your enemy against you ;  
Deprive our soldiers of it, and you meanly betray them.

These lines were commented on by the schoolmasters and illustrated by Abel Faivre's



fine poster, which the Bank of France had attached to the walls of every school and « mairie ». Thus the active campaign of the schoolmasters in favour of the loan was continued and completed by the gold collection. The precious coin came forth from its mysterious retreats and the provincial « woollen stocking » little by little poured its savings of milliards into the lap of France.

Here again from the abundance of documents we limit ourselves to a few interesting extracts.

In Morbihan, the children of the little mixed school of Evriguet bring their mistress 300 fr. in gold : at Saint-Brieux-de-Mauron, 610 fr. in gold 10 fr. pieces : at Plumelin, 300 fr. : at Plumelec, 350 fr. : at Helléau, 410 fr. : at Lanouée, 100 fr. : at Saint-Léry, 56.000 fr. Special mention must be made of the schoolmaster of Arradou, who scours his commune and collects 65.000 fr.

In the department of the Vosges, the schoolmasters receive 14,940 fr. : in Gard, 31.930 fr.

A schoolmistress of the hamlet of Sénas (Hérault) gets 3.000 fr. in gold from one single woman-proprietor.

In Tarn-et-Garonne, the schoolmasters collect 90.000 fr.

The schoolmaster of Rumilly (Aube) receives 4.160 fr. from his pupils : of Iuvanzé, a little commune of 47 inhabitants, 1.850 f. At Millancay, Chissay and Pray, communes in Loire-et-Cher,

the collection attains the total of 11.080 fr. :  
 at Saint-Marc-sur-Couesnon (Ille-et-Vilaine),  
 18.260 fr. : at Minnihic-sur-Rance, 15.000 fr. :  
 at Bonnat (Creuse), 2.000 fr.

In the department of Calvados, the collection  
 of gold at and by the schools has been fruitful :

Fontonernant. . . . .	9.790 fr.
Caumont . . . . .	870 fr.
La Folie. . . . .	580 fr.
Grandcamp. . . . .	500 fr.
Vaudabon . . . . .	9.500 fr.
Bricqueville . . . . .	4.730 fr.
Aigueville . . . . .	6.650 fr.
Gareilles - Sacqueville. . . . .	3.500 fr.
Hérouville . . . . .	4.500 fr.

The total of the gold handed to the school-  
 masters of Orne and paid in by them to the  
 Treasury amounts to 36.425 fr.

In the department of the Hautes-Pyrénées,  
 1.200.000 fr. in gold have been collected, and the  
 inspector of the Academy remarks : « This result,  
 very satisfactory in a small department, fairly  
 poor for the most part, is due to the efforts of  
 the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses. »

The schools of the district of Coutances (Man-  
 che) have collected 29.180 fr. In the same

department the schoolmaster of the little commune of Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët receives 6.585 fr. from the parents of his pupils.

At Belfort, the provisor of the lycée and the director of primary instruction, in company with two other lecturers, have spoken in 23 communes, and the gold collection has been very considerable.

Answering with enthusiasm to the appeal of their masters, the pupils of a single division of the lycée Victor-Hugo at Besançon have made an ardent campaign among their parents and acquaintances to stimulate the incoming of gold. A schoolmaster's son has particularly distinguished himself. Not only has he personally collected 750 fr. in a little village, but he has given information that has enabled his master to get together 4.700 fr. As total for a fortnight, the initiative of certain pupils has brought 5.890 fr. into the coffers of the Bank of France.

The primary schools of the department of Doubs « have done the work of branches of the Bank of France », as the inspector of the Academy at Besançon happily expresses it. The children themselves have brought in 23.205 fr. in gold.

The schoolmasters of this department have had sufficient influence to obtain payments in gold to the sum of 395.035 fr. This is a striking proof of

the moral authority that our schoolmasters exercise on the families of their pupils. The official reports record suggestive incidents on this subject.

A primary inspector of Besançon writes : « Some days ago, M<sup>me</sup> B., directress of the maternal school, walking down a street, was hailed by a lady, who said : « Madam, we have a high opinion of you, and when we saw your name on the gold committee, we resolved to give you the coins in our possession to change. Here they are.

« M<sup>me</sup> B. received 450 fr., among them a fine 50 fr. piece which she showed me half-an-hour later at an examination. She had given neither receipt nor notes ».

The schools of Paris, which have made and are making such generous efforts for the war charities have taken a very active part in the gold collection.

Since the beginning of hostilities, numerous children have come to the Bank of France, bringing the few pieces of gold that they guarded with jealous care. It was charming to see them at the counter where their gold was changed, becoming suddenly grave, as is right when one is discharging a patriotic duty.

Sometimes, with the packets of gold, the master who accompanied the children handed in a letter from the director of the school, promising to continue the campaign and do still better.

The sums so collected are estimated at more than half a million.

Certain schools have obtained results which it is only just to record :

*Communal boys' schools*

Rue de la Plaine. . . . .	4.550 fr.
Rue Bignon. . . . .	6.000 fr.
Rue des Bourdonnais. . . . .	6.460 fr.
Rue Camou. . . . .	7.420 fr.

*Communal girls' schools*

Rue Camou. . . . .	5.810 fr.
Rue de Patay. . . . .	8.520 fr.
Boulevard Raspail . . . . .	23.005 fr.
Rue des Volontaires. . . . .	23.195 fr.

The campaign is not yet ended.

For instance, the Director of the Higher Primary School Turgot continues his activity and, in the last three months has collected 18.000 fr.

The Director of the Higher Primary School

Colbert has, in a fortnight, collected more than 40.000 fr. among his pupils.

The influence of the teaching staffs is strikingly evidenced in the very numerous letters that accompany expeditions of gold to the Bank of France.

Many begin.

« Our teacher tells us that the country has need of her gold, so I send you my savings », or,

« To obey our mistress and hasten victory... »

Some of these letters are touching, on account of the nobility of their sentiments and their charming naivety of expression. Here for instance are the terms in which Esther, Gabrielle and Pauline, little French girls of 10, 8 and 6, offer the precious contents of their moneybox.

*Argenteuil, July 23, 1915.*

Mr Director of the Bank of France,

It is with great pleasure that my two sisters and I have broken open our little joint moneybox, for I must tell you that we thought very much of it, especially since the beginning of the war, for this moneybox reminds us of a great event. When our father went away on the second day of the mobilisation, he went with great courage, but we shed many tears on seeing him go, our dear papa. To give us a little courage, he put into our moneybox, where there was nothing very much, a gold

20 franc piece and another of 10 francs, telling us to keep them as a souvenir of him.

Really, I assure you, my sisters and I were glad to see these pretty coins again, and, in spite of all the pleasure we should have felt to keep them, we send them to you, for we know now that gold is the main sinew of war, and that the more gold we have, the more shells we shall buy to drive away more quickly the savage Boches who have come to kill our fathers and brothers. We hope you will accept these two coins, for our father will certainly be very pleased with our action.

Long live France and her Allies, and may victory soon come!

Three little French girls,

(Signed) : PAULINE, ESTHER, GABRIELLE.

In sum, throughout almost all the communes of France, schoolmasters and schoolmistresses have vied in patriotic zeal and largely contributed to aliment the finances of the country.

A brave peasant of La Mazière (Dordogne), an old soldier of 1870, brings the schoolmaster 1.900 fr., all the gold he possesses, proposing to lend it without interest for the duration of the war.

The schoolmaster of the commune of Nostang (Morbihan) relates a touching incident that merits to be recorded :

« One Sunday », he writes, « an old farmer comes to see and ask my advice. He wishes to invest. He has a savings bank book and some gold.

I propose to transact the business on his behalf.

« But », I remark « I must have your gold ».

« I will give you it », he answers.

I make an appointment with him for Wednesday evening, October 11, at his daughter's. He arrives with a basket on his arm containing the precious hoard. I line out the coins on the table and count them.

Then the old man says :

« Fine coins, sir, but they have cost much labour. »

And he weeps, The tears run slowly down his tanned and wrinkled cheeks.

I am really touched. In these tears there is the regret of the peasant for his yellow gold that he will admire no more, but there is also great sincerity, for these coins represent the savings of years of stubborn toil.

And this old man has given to the country his son, his only son ! »

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## CONCLUSION

The preceding pages enable us to appreciate the efforts of our schoolmasters and their influence on the family. They show us particularly what may be expected from their unselfish activity when it is decided to coordinate their energy and encourage their initiative. The campaign of our masters should not indeed be merely occasional, it must be continuous. In most of our villages, they are the enlightened counsellors of the family: their words may have great effect in the floating of the bonds and debentures of the National Defence. It will not be given to all to obtain the same important results as the schoolmaster of the commune of Sciez (Haute-Savoie) who, between May 1 and October 30, 1916, was responsible for the investment of 73.300 fr. in Defence Bonds. But even in the poorer villages, the Schoolmasters may act to the advantage of the State.

In the schools, the educator must lay stress on the necessity of husbanding the resources of the

country with a view to the decisive victory of Justice and Right. The Treasury cannot be enriched by the little savings of village schoolchildren, and at first sight it seems as if a large number of small schools can never subscribe enough for an investment. This however is not the case. The children will not refuse to save their sous to buy one or more Defence Bonds and, at the right moment, it will be easy for them to subscribe to the loan. They should be inspired by the example set by the third-form girls of the Lycée Edgar-Quinet at Bourg (Ain), who have bought an income of 20 fr. with the capital acquired in two years by the sale of needlework and paintings executed under the direction of their mistress. Every school of France may in such ways become the proud possessor of a diploma of honour.

We cannot better terminate this rapid sketch than by quoting a few lines from the report of a primary inspector of the Meuse to the Minister of Public Instruction.

« I am pleased to think that you will appreciate the patriotism of our schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in this matter, and you may count upon them, if necessity again arises, to be equal to any task that has for its aim the consolidation of the financial force of France. »

These words might be written by all the inspectors of all our departments.

France may indeed count upon the instructors of her youth to collaborate with one soul in the maintenance of her moral force and the augmentation of her material resources.



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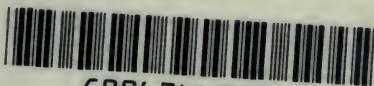
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