

## SOUTH DAKOTA PTA

MRS. FLOYD W. NELSON, Sioux Falls, Correspondent

### Annual PTA Convention—Rapid City

Attendance of official delegates to the 16th annual state convention of the PTA at Rapid City, Oct. 16-18, totalled 226. Thirty-one state officers were present. Sioux Falls was chosen for place of the 1936 meeting.

### Resolutions

Resolutions adopted by the PTA at the closing business session of the convention included the following subjects: the extension of kindergartens; the support of the statewide campaign for safer auto driving; the support of legislation against advertisements of intoxicating liquors; effort to develop an appreciation of friendliness toward other nations as a basis for world peace; cooperation with other agencies for federal support to secure equalized educational opportunity for all children; opposition to legislation to legalize any form of gambling; support of the movement to take the offices of state superintendent and county superintendents out of politics; renewal of activity to keep the state permanent school fund intact; endeavor to secure legislation for the prosecution of adults who by means of verbal teachings contribute to the delinquency of youth; petition to urge the state office of the WPA to set up recreation organizations.

### Trophy and Banner Awards

Trophy awards were granted to the following PTA units: For highest number of new chapters—District 5; for largest percentage of increase in members among units of over 100 members—Notre Dame, Mitchell; for largest percentage of increase in members among units of under 100 members—Colman; for the largest percentage of subscribers to the national and state PTA magazines—McKinley, Huron; Ramsey, Montrose; Emerson, Sioux Falls; senior high, Pierre.

Banners were awarded units in Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Wakonda, Mitchell and Huron. Standard and superior ratings for merit work were given to thirty-eight units.

### The Bridge Over The Chasm

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Nat'l Pres.

(Excerpts from address at Rapid City)

In the last three years, it has been necessary for the keepers of the children's future, to strengthen the abutments of the school end of this bridge over the chasm, for the pounding of

waves of the depression has threatened to undermine these pillars. Day and night we have labored to build up the public demand for adequate schools for children, not only for the usual twelve grades, but for those who, in days of prosperity have been able to go into business upon leaving junior or senior high school, but who are now unable to find work. The effort has told, and a new understanding of and belief in the school is apparent throughout the land. The support of this part of our structure must never be allowed to crumble again through over confidence. But now we must remember the home end of the bridge, for this is even more important in a time of depression. The old adage, "When poverty enters the door; love flies out of the window", held a bitter seed of truth. The forces of poverty often drive whole families into quarters not large enough for decent living for one person; they develop undernourishment; they produce irritation and lack of sympathy, in spite of family affection, and turn the home into a spot where the family dreads to come together, instead of the haven of quiet joy that it should be.

Parents and children live in homes; everything in the child's life has its beginning in the home, and the home must be the background of certain virtues throughout the child's growth. Therefore this end of the bridge must not be allowed to lose strength nor steadiness. The bridge of San Luis Rey needed only one weak spot to bring catastrophe to many lives. The home and school bridge is no safer if there be one loose stone in the abutments.

The parent-teacher association is the name of this structure which spans the chasm. We invite all to use it with us; to become a part of the constant stream of those who pass to and fro with the children of the nation. The people own the bridge, as they own the homes and the schools, and it is the duty of the people to keep it strong and safe. If you have not tried this way of passage, we urge you not to keep to the old river ford, down at the bottom of the gorge, but to take, with us, the short and safe crossing of the bridge across the chasm.

### Women's Educational Camps

Two educational camps for unemployed women were established in So. Dak. on October 21 by the Federal government. One is at Sioux Falls (Columbus College) and the other is at Westington Springs College.