

Education Expenditure: *None Can Top the U. S.!*

1860s

The amount which is expended upon public education in the United States is greater than in any European nation, except, perhaps, Portugal. In his work upon popular education, M. Emile de Laveleye tabulated the amount of public school expenditure in different countries. In Upper Canada it amounted, in 1863, to 4 francs 16 centimes per head of the population; in Lower Canada (1863) it was 4fr. 40c.; in Denmark (1867), 5fr. 28c.; Saxony (1867), 2fr. 17c.; Sweden (1867), 1fr. 23c.; Norway (1863), 1fr. 50c.; Luxembourg (1867), 3fr. 10c.; Netherlands (1868), 2fr. 72c.; Bavaria (1864), 1fr. 50c.; Belgium (1869), 2fr. 60c.; France (1864), 1fr. 56c.; England (1870), 2fr.; Spain (1866), 1fr.; Portugal (1864), 32fr. ⁽¹⁾ In the Cantons of Switzerland, the expenditure varied considerably. In Neuchatel it was 4fr. 62c.; in Zurich, 5fr. 37c.; in Lucerne, 2fr. 60c.; in Basle (Ville), 7fr. 50c.; in Geneva, 2fr. 30c. ⁽²⁾

The above figures include the total expenditure upon public education. A reference to the table on page 71 *ante*, will show that *the amount raised by taxation only*, for public education in twenty-six of the United States, averages six shillings and ninepence, or eight francs, per head of the population.

1890

Education, so conceived and so shaped, has made an irresistible appeal to every civilized nation. During the century education has definitely become a state function, not as a dole, but as a duty. Consequently, the public expenditure for education has become enormous. In the United States it amounts annually to \$200,000,000 for the common schools alone, or \$2.67 per capita of population. This sum is about one-tenth of the total wealth of Indiana or of Michigan as determined by the census of 1890. In Great Britain and Ireland the total public expenditure on account of education is over \$88,000,000, or \$2.20 per capita. In France it is about \$58,000,000, or \$1.60 per capita. In the German empire it is over \$108,000,000, or more than \$2 per capita. These four great nations, therefore, the leaders of the world's civilization at this time, with a total population of nearly 210,000,000, are spending annually for education a sum considerably greater than \$450,000,000.

The annual expenditure of the United States for common schools is quite equal to the sum total of the expenditures of Great Britain, France, and Germany combined upon their powerful navies. It is nearly four-fifths of the total annual expenditure of the armed camps of France and Germany upon their huge armies. It is a sum greater by many millions than the net ordinary expenditures of the United States government in 1880. This expenditure for common schools has nearly trebled since 1870, and during that period has grown from \$1.75 to \$2.67 per capita of population and from \$15.20 to \$18.86 for each pupil enrolled.

1909

In the United States as a whole there are 107 illiterates among every 1000 persons. In Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark there are about two in every 1000. In the state of New York there is one illiterate in every eighteen voters. Among recruits in the German army there is one illiterate in every 2500, and among volunteers in the German navy one in every 10,000.

This is striking, and what is more it is humiliating to our national pride. But it is still more remarkable and still more humiliating that in the United States as a whole, among native white children of native parents forty-four in every 1000 are illiterate, while among native white children of foreign parents nine in 1000 are illiterate.

1964 First International Mathematics Study of 12 Countries:

TABLE 13.12. *Public Expenditure on Education.*

Country	Per Inhabitant in Dollars	Per Pupil in Full-Time Schooling in Dollars	As Percentage of Gross National Product	
			Current Expenditure	Total Expenditure
Australia (1963)	51.2	240		3.0 (approximate)
Belgium	60	288	2.63	2.79
England	56	348	3.02	3.67
Scotland	78	361		
Finland	33.8	129.6	United Kingdom	
France			2.72	3.50
Germany	47.5	212.5	2.11	2.79
Israel	48			
Japan	22	81		
The Netherlands	48	191	3.48	4.23
Sweden	48.2	483	3.35	4.14
United States	138	545	3.61	4.53

TABLE 1.1. *Total Mathematics Test Score Distributions^a 13-Year-Olds.*

Population 1a.

Score	Australia	Belgium	England	Finland	France	Japan	The Netherlands	Scotland	Sweden	United States	Total
0	1.0	0.6	3.0	0.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
1-5	13.0	8.0	21.0	1.0	13.0	7.0	10.0	17.0	15.0	19.0	16.0
6-10	14.0	7.0	13.0	7.0	15.0	7.0	15.0	14.0	19.0	16.0	13.0
11-15	13.0	9.0	12.0	11.0	17.0	7.0	11.0	14.0	19.0	14.0	14.0
16-20	12.0	8.0	10.0	16.0	16.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	15.0	13.0	12.0
21-25	12.0	11.0	7.0	21.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	10.0
26-30	10.0	11.0	7.0	17.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.0	9.0
31-35	9.0	11.0	6.0	12.0	6.0	11.0	8.0	7.0	5.0	6.0	8.0
36-40	7.0	12.0	6.0	9.0	5.0	11.0	7.0	6.0	3.0	5.0	6.0
41-45	4.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
46-50	2.0	7.0	5.0	1.0	2.0	9.0	5.0	3.0	0.8	1.0	3.0
51-55	2.0	4.0	2.0	0.6	1.0	8.0	2.0	1.0	0.1	1.0	2.0
56-60	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.3	5.0	2.0	1.0	0.1	0.3	1.0
61-65	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.3	1.0	4.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4
66-70	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Mean	20.2	27.7	19.3	24.1	18.3	31.2	23.9	19.1	15.7	16.2	19.8
S.D.	14.0	15.0	17.0	9.9	12.4	16.9	15.9	14.6	10.8	13.3	14.9
Number of cases	2,917	1,686	2,949	747	2,409	2,050	429	5,256	2,554	6,231	27,228

^a All scores have been corrected for guessing. Entries are percentages of the total group. Values greater than 1.0 are reported to the nearest whole percent.