

# INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

## *Agencies Educating for a New World*

*By*

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Excerpts

*The World Federation of Education Associations.*—Owing especially to the vision and efforts of the National Education Association of the United States and the efforts of Dr. Augustus O. Thomas, Commissioner of Education for Maine, the World Federation of Education Associations was formed in San Francisco, California, in 1923. The American School Citizenship League was also active in co-operating to found the new organization. Since its creation, the World Federation has held biennial congresses, the second meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1925; the third in Toronto, Canada, in 1927; and the fourth in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1929, at the Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute, on the invitation of the International Bureau of Education. The program for 1929 was directed toward a co-ordination of the work of teachers and schools with the aims of international *rapprochement* and understanding.

The ideals of the World Federation are expressed by Dr. Thomas, the president, as follows:

\* If there are those who think we are to jump immediately into a new world order, actuated by complete understanding and brotherly love, they are doomed to disappointment. If we are ever to approach that time, it will be after patient and persistent effort of long duration. The present international situation of mistrust and fear can only be corrected by a formula of equal status, continuously applied, to every phase of international contacts, until the cobwebs of the old order are brushed out of the minds of the people of all lands.

This means that the world must await a long process of education and a building up of public conscience and an international morality, or, in other words, until there is a world-wide public sentiment which will back up the modern conception of a world community. This brings us to the international mind, which is nothing more or less than the habit of thinking of foreign relations and business affecting the several countries of the civilized world as free co-operating equals in aiding the progress of the human race.