

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Schools for the Deaf Not Charitable Institutions

GOVERNOR HANLEY OF INDIANA

In an address to the graduating class of the Indiana School for the Deaf, June 12, 1907, published in the American Annals of the Deaf for January, 1908, Governor J. Frank Hanley spoke in part as follows:

"I am glad, I am profoundly glad, that we are getting away, in Indiana, from the thought that the school for the education of the deaf and the school for the education of the blind are charitable institutions. It has been my privilege to do what I could to instill that thought into the minds of our people. I hope it may reach a conviction in Indiana. I want to say again that all may hear, that this is not a charitable institution. It is an educational institution. It is the state's effort to do its duty by you as it is doing its duty by the normal boy and girl. To me it is an incomprehensible thing that the state should give to a child possessing all the natural faculties the opportunity of a common school and a high school edu-

cation and deny the privilege to another child who lacks some of these faculties, who is unable to hear, who is unable to speak—deny to him an equal opportunity, and say to him, 'whatever we do for you is a gratuity, a charity, and not a matter of right that you may ask.' It is incomprehensible to me. It is not right, and the people for years have made a great mistake in this respect. We are getting away from it in Indiana. This today is an educational institution, and, hear me, it is going to be a greater one tomorrow."

LAW IN INDIANA.

The Indiana Legislature has by law decreed that "said schools for the deaf and for the blind shall not be regarded nor classed as benevolent or charitable institutions, but as educational institutions of the State conducted wholly as such."

Colorado has a similar law, and the Congress of the United States has officially expressed the same view.