

ED UCA TION



University and College Union



Let's make sure that history doesn't repeat itself:

'No public servant is so completely exposed to an epidemic of his nature as is the schoolmaster. Day after day an average of 35 very active sources of infections sit, often in an over-crowded room facing the teacher, and severally and in groups they cough and sneeze out the germs of more "flu" cases. That one teacher withstands the onslaught is a triumph of resistance and a veritable defiance of the laws of hygiene.

How provision is made by law for the relief of the many teachers who succumb? None at all. Upon his or her slender resources the burden falls. How heavy the load is, a brief consideration of the demands upon salaries will determine. Social demands require the teacher "dress and look the part"; travel to and from school and home is expensive; and the high cost of everything leaves a small margin at the best.'

An excerpt from Kansas school teacher's diary commenting on the Spanish flu of 1918 Dec 1st that killed 50 million people worldwide.

