

THE LITTLE HOME PAPER.

By Charles Hanson Towne. The little home paper comes to me. As badly printed as it can be; It's ungrammatical, cheap, absurd— Yet how I love each intimate word!

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 703.

To the members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

We, the undersigned, committee of Conference on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives for the purpose of considering House Bill No. 703, entitled "An act to further amend section one thousand two hundred ten and to repeal sections one thousand two hundred eleven, one thousand two hundred thirteen and two thousand eight hundred and five of an act approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws three hundred and nine), entitled "An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith," and making an appropriation," respectfully submit the following bill as our report:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That section one thousand two hundred ten of the act approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred eleven (Pamphlet Laws three hundred and nine) entitled "An act to establish a public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, together with the provisions by which it shall be administered, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing revenue to establish and maintain the same, and the method of collecting such revenue; and repealing all laws, general, special or local, or any parts thereof, that are or may be inconsistent therewith," which reads as follows: Section 1210. The minimum salary of every teacher in the public schools of this Commonwealth shall be as follows: Those teachers holding a provisional certificate, forty-five dollars (\$45.00) per school month; those teachers holding professional certificates, fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per school month, and those teachers holding permanent certificates or final normal school diplomas, sixty dollars (\$60.00) per school month."

Section 1210. One. The minimum salaries of teachers, principals, supervisors, directors of special subjects and their assistants in the public schools of the Commonwealth, according to the standard certificates recognized by the laws of the Commonwealth shall be as follows: (a) provisional certificates, sixty dollars (\$60.00) per school month, (b) professional certificates or State Normal school certificates, seventy dollars (\$70.00) per school month, (c) State Normal school diplomas, county permanent certificates, State permanent certificates or college provisional certificates, eighty dollars (\$80.00) per school month.

Section 1211. Two. Each teacher, principal, supervisor, director of special subjects or any of his assistants in school districts of the second, third and fourth class who holds a certificate other than a provisional certificate and who for the school year one thousand nine hundred eighteen and one thousand nine hundred nineteen, received a salary of less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per school month but whose salary is not increased by at least twenty-five per centum, under the provisions of clause one of this section shall receive an increase in salary of twenty-five per centum. Those receiving one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per school month, twenty per centum increase. Those receiving more than one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) and not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per school month, fifteen per centum increase. Those receiving more than two hundred dollars per school month, ten per centum increase.

Section 1212. Three. Of the salaries herein provided for teachers, principals, supervisors, directors of special subjects and their assistants of the second, third and fourth class districts, the Commonwealth shall pay as follows: (a) Those holding provisional certificates and employed in rural schools as hereinafter defined, ten dollars per school month, and to all others holding provisional certificates, five dollars per school month. (b) Those holding professional certificates or State Normal school certificates, twelve dollars and fifty cents per school month. (c) Those holding State Normal school diplomas, county permanent certificates, State permanent certificates or college provisional certificates, twenty dollars per school month and the remaining portion of such salaries with percentage of increase herein provided for shall be paid by the school district.

Section 1213. Four. In addition to the minimum salary provided for in clause one and in addition to the portion of salary required to be paid by the Commonwealth the Commonwealth shall pay to each teacher of a rural school holding a certificate higher than a provisional certificate five dollars per school month. The term "rural school" as used in this section, shall be taken to mean any school not being a High school, situated in the open country, or any school not being a High school, situated in small centers of population. The decision of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as to whether a school is a rural school, shall be final and when any such decision is required the secretary of the board shall furnish a statement to the Superintendent of Public Instruction containing such information as he may require.

Section 1214. Five. The following increases in the salaries of teachers, principals, supervisors and directors of special subjects and their assistants in the first class school districts, based on the compensation paid by the several school districts during the school year one thousand nine hundred eighteen and one thousand nine hundred nineteen are hereby made. (a) Those receiving less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per school month, twenty-five per centum increase. (b) Those receiving one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per school month, twenty per centum increase. (c) Those receiving more than one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) and not more than two hundred dollars (\$200) per school month, fifteen per centum increase. (d) Those receiving more than two hundred dollars (\$200) per school month, ten per centum increase and each school district in the Commonwealth that does not increase salaries in accordance with the provisions of this act shall forfeit its right to share in any appropriation for the public schools of the Commonwealth. Of the increases hereinbefore provided for teachers, principals, supervisors, directors of special subjects and their assistants in the first class school districts the Commonwealth shall pay one-half and the remaining one-half shall be paid by the districts.

Section 1215. Six. Like increases in salaries as provided in this section for teachers, principals, supervisors and directors of special subjects and their assistants shall also be paid to nurses engaged in any work concerning or relative to the public schools of this Commonwealth. Provided, That such nurses are regularly engaged as a full time occupation outside of vacation periods. The increases herein provided for nurses shall be paid one-half by the Commonwealth and the remaining one-half by the school district.

Section 1216. Seven. No payments on account of any increases shall be made by the Commonwealth where the compensation of any teacher, supervisor, principal, director of special subjects, or of nurses is reduced for the school year nineteen hundred nineteen and nineteen hundred and twenty or in any subsequent school year below the compensation paid for the school year nineteen hundred eighteen and nineteen hundred and nineteen.

Section 1217. Eight. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to interfere with or discontinue any salary schedule now in force in any school district so long as such schedule shall meet the requirements of this section nor to prevent the adoption of any salary schedule in conformity with the provisions of this act.

Section 1218. Nine. On or before the first day of October of each year each school district of the Commonwealth shall file a certificate with the Superintendent of Public Instruction in such form as he may prescribe and on blanks to be furnished by him showing the number of principals, teachers, supervisors, directors of special subjects and their assistants and of nurses in its employ, and the compensation paid them for the school year one thousand nine hundred eighteen and one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

Section 1219. Ten. Upon receipt of said statement the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall ascertain and determine the amount payable to each school district in accordance with the provisions of this section and appropriate and allot the same to and among the respective districts.

Section 1220. Eleven. When the amount payable to each school district has been ascertained and determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction he shall certify the same to the State Treasurer and Auditor General who shall place the amounts to the credit of the respective school districts and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall transmit to each school district a statement showing the amount which has been apportioned and allotted to it.

Section 1221. Twelve. The amount apportioned and allotted to each school district shall be divided into equal semi-annual instalments and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall draw his requisition upon the State Treasurer in favor of each district semi-annually for the amount to which it is entitled and upon approval by the Auditor General in the usual manner payment thereof shall be made.

Section 1222. Thirteen. Any school district authorized to make payments of any such additional salaries in advance of the receipt of the moneys therefor from the State Treasury.

Section 1223. Fourteen. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act for the two fiscal years beginning May thirty-first one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby specifically appropriated and in addition hereto and in lieu of the sum heretofore paid by the Commonwealth for the support of the public schools to the several school districts as the Commonwealth's share of the minimum salaries of teachers the sum of four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000.00) of the sum appropriated by the General Assembly of one thousand nine hundred and nineteen for the support of the public schools or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby specifically set apart out of said appropriation for the payment of the Commonwealth's share of the salaries and increases herein provided for.

Section 1224. Fifteen. That sections one thousand and two hundred thirteen and two thousand eight hundred and five of said act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 1225. Sixteen. The provisions of this act shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 1226. Seventeen. The provisions of this act shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

The State of Pennsylvania has inaugurated its campaign against venereal diseases by the establishment of forty clinics in which those unable to pay are rendered non-contagious and are cured.

These clinics are conducted by men who will receive special training in the treatment of these infections; their duties include not only the treatment of such patients as present themselves, but also the discovery through the evidence from these patients and of others of sources of contagion, the examination of these sources to determine whether they are or are not diseased, and if they be of such character as to make it probable that they will continue to be menaces to public health the quarantining or sequestration of them until they cease to become carriers.

The laws of the State give full authority for quarantining and sequestration should be assured where needful by the local ordinances.

The major source of venereal infection is the prostitute. Practically all of them are diseased and no campaign against venereal infection can be successful without their elimination.

Syphilis and gonorrhoea are curable. Even in its worst form syphilis can be rendered non-contagious in less than twenty-four hours, but continued treatment for the complete eradication of the infection which may last for months or years is essential if the late results of a failure to cure, such as paresis, hardening of the arteries, apoplexy, heart break down, diseases of the bones and joints, and other forms of crippling are to be avoided.

The first step in the State campaign is, the elimination of the prostitute. This implies appropriate ordinances and their enforcement; and a mechanism by which these unfortunates may be given a means of livelihood not disastrous to public health.

The third step, perhaps the most important of any from the standpoint of public health is the use of an early treatment package following exposure. The bacteria which cause these diseases are deposited on the surface and these bacteria are readily destroyed by antiseptics which are harmless to the individual. In the course of hours the bacteria penetrate beneath the surface, cause inflammation and can no longer be reached by an antiseptic substance.

Against the sale of these packages it may be urged that a knowledge of the immunity given by their use will encourage immorality. Such has not been the effect; moreover an absolute guarantee against infection cannot be given even though the packages be used.

Through you the Department wishes the public to learn that such packages exist, that they are harmless, that they are effective, and that they may be obtained at any drug store.

Visiting the Frog. The frog is the vivisectionist's favorite victim, not because his structure is at all human-like (though he is built somewhat like a man), but for the reason that he will endure being chopped up to a remarkable extent and still retain life.

Advertisement — "Furnished room with large widow looking out on the park." But wouldn't the large widow rather shut out the light?

U. S. AS A FARMER OF FOXES.

Like everything else, blue foxes are going up. A good skin of this much-prized animal will cost you at least \$200 in the coming winter.

It should not be confused with the silver fox, which is a phase or variant of the common red fox; the same animal, that is to say, with a freak color (black with white-tipped hairs), which may be perpetuated from generation to generation by selecting and breeding.

The blue fox is, in the same way, a variant of the white Arctic fox, which has a brown and tawny pelage in the summer time. In other words, its color, which is a dark blue-gray, is abnormal and rare. But, for some unexplained reason, most of the foxes on the Pribilof islands, in Bering sea, are of this color.

Hence the fox-farming operations in which Uncle Sam is engaged on those islands. The skins (of which he will have about 1000 this year) are sold at auction in St. Louis, and the next batch will probably fetch an average of \$100 apiece. Retailers will double the price.

Before we bought Alaska a Russian-American company held rights to the foxes on the Pribilof, and from 1842 to 1880 took an annual average of more than 1800 skins therefrom. No care was then taken of the animals, which were wild, feeding on birds and on seals left on the killing fields.

Since 1896 the foxes have been regularly fed in the winters, and on one of the two islands (St. George) they may be said to be semi-domesticated. Refuse meat and offal from the seal killing is stored for them, either salted or preserved by drying, and is doled out to them during the cold season, when otherwise many would starve.

On the other island (St. Paul) they are helped in the same way, but there they are caught in steel traps for market, whereas on St. George their capture is effected in such wise that they are neither frightened nor hurt until humanely slaughtered, and consequently have become so tame as to frequent the neighborhood of houses, occasionally jumping through the kitchen windows.

The islands are small. St. Paul is thirteen miles long and St. George twelve miles. On the latter the foxes are far more numerous, largely because of extensive rookeries of sea birds, which in spring and summer afford them a plentiful food supply. Very few white ones are left on St. George, for the reason that they are systematically destroyed lest they impair the purity of the blue breed.

On St. George millions of augs, puffins and murres build their nests among the cliffs, over which the foxes in pursuit of feathered prey climb to places seemingly inaccessible to a quadruped. They store many of the eggs for future meals by burying them in moss. In winter they catch fish and an occasional dead sea lion, whale or walrus, cast up by the sea.

An old boathouse on St. George island serves the purpose of a feeding place and at the same time that of a trap. The food is placed in one of the rooms, in and out of which the foxes go freely. Thus they lose all shyness, and when it is desired to capture a lot of them all that is necessary is to wait until many are in the room and then pull a rope that shuts the door.

All feeding and trapping is done at night. The food is stored in the same building, where, in another room, the skins are stretched immediately after being taken. Each fox before being killed is held up by the tail and examined. If it be crippled or diseased it is killed. If it be not full grown or in poor condition it is released. If it be an exceptionally fine specimen it is liberated, because valuable as a breeder.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

NO PERSONS need hope to be successful unless they enjoy their work more than any recreation they can find. Recreation is all right occasionally, but as a steady diet give up work in which we are interested and in the doing of which we are happy!

The United States Fisheries Bureau is anxious to make fish tails fashionable. It urges that some fish tails are very handsome, and that, supplemented with fins, they would furnish most attractive ornaments for women's hats. With an incidental trimming of the beautiful and delicate water-weed recently discovered in extensive beds on the bottom of the Chesapeake, they might—both fins and weed being dyed—lend a marine effect extremely fetching.

Care of the Umbrella.—The many who receive umbrellas or parasols for gifts, as well as those who buy the high-priced silk article, will memorize these rules concerning this useful article and its holder.

When putting it into the stand be careful not to thrust it through the covers of other umbrellas there, thus spoiling them beyond repair.

When coming in from a storm carry the ferrule upwards till you have placed the umbrella in the stand, thus avoiding the unpleasantness of trailing the water over the carpet.

Wool Lace is Good.—A considerable disparity, both in line and treatment, is to be noticed in street and indoor garments, or in morning and afternoon types, to be more exact. The chemise frock is still very good, with an emphasis on the long waistline, which is delineated for the most part with a wide soft ribbon, a cold girdle or a narrow leather belt.

Collarless effects still predominate, but very often the harsh neckline of a serge or satin frock is softened by narrow hand-embroidered collars of batiste or organdie, or frills of lace or net.

Materials are not very different from what we have been using. There is talk of more broadcloth, which is welcome news. Plush and long-napped velvets figure prominently. Embroidered crepes and crepe brocades are included among the handsomer fabrics.

Shooting With Silk. During the war great quantities of waste silk—"floss" from the outside of cocoons, not available for spinning—were purchased by the United States government in China.

Every particle of the smokeless powder (which is as powerful as gun-cotton) is instantly converted into gas. There must be no smoldering residue of the bag tissue left in the powder chamber of the gun, else it might set fire to the next charge, causing a disastrous explosion.

Advertisement — "Furnished room with large widow looking out on the park." But wouldn't the large widow rather shut out the light? —They are all good enough, but the "Watchman" is always the best.