

**LESSONS IN CITIZENSHIP.**

**LESSON X.  
Our Public Schools.**

How is the Public School system of the State now governed?  
 Answer: One universal code now governs the entire Public School system of Pennsylvania; it is based upon an Act of Assembly of the Legislature of 1911.  
 How does this code divide the schools?  
 Answer: Under this code the State is divided into four districts:  
 First Class School districts where the population exceeds 500,000.  
 Second Class School districts where the population is between 30,000 and 500,000.  
 Third Class School districts where the population is between 5,000 and 30,000.  
 Fourth Class School districts where the population is under 5,000.  
 Who is at the head of the Public Schools of Pennsylvania?  
 Answer: The State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed by the Governor is at the head of the Public Schools of Pennsylvania.  
 Who is the present incumbent of the office?  
 Answer: Dr. Thomas E. Finegan is the present Superintendent of Public Instruction in this State.  
 What are his duties?  
 Answer: He directs the general policy of the schools, supervises the State Normal Schools and issues the certificates to teachers from these schools.  
 He also directs the distribution of the State appropriations, which supplement the local taxation in maintaining the Public Schools.  
 Who are at the head of the schools in the various districts?  
 Answer: In all of the districts, except Philadelphia, there are directors elected by the voters of the district.  
 What power have these boards of School Directors?  
 Answer: Each of these boards of School Directors is a corporate body with power to execute contracts, hold property and conduct all the business of the schools in their district. They select teachers and arrange for their compensation; erect new school buildings and maintain those already erected.  
 They also elect the County Superintendents, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.  
 How are the schools in Philadelphia governed?  
 Answer: The head of the schools in Philadelphia is a Board of Education appointed by the Board of Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for a term of six years, and may be re-appointed indefinitely.  
 Is there no County Superintendent in Philadelphia?  
 Answer: The Board of Education in Philadelphia selects a Superintendent of Schools and four Associate Superintendents.  
 What are the duties and powers of the Superintendent in Philadelphia?  
 Answer: The Superintendent of Schools in Philadelphia meets with the Board of Education and may suggest, but cannot vote, on any action in reference to the schools.  
 Is Philadelphia a large school district?  
 Answer: Philadelphia is the largest school district in the State, comprising one hundred and ninety-six elementary, eleven High Schools and one Normal School, also art and trade schools, and a number of continuation schools, and has over four thousand teachers and 200,000 pupils.  
 How many districts does the Philadelphia school district comprise?  
 Answer: There are nine districts in Philadelphia, each with a District Superintendent.  
 How much money was spent on the Public Schools in Philadelphia during the year 1919?  
 Answer: The budget for 1919 was eleven millions eight hundred thousand dollars, while the budget for 1920 is fourteen millions.  
 Does this mean that the schools in Philadelphia are in a flourishing condition?  
 Answer: It does not; many of the school buildings are old and in bad repair, and are entirely inadequate, while many thousands of the children are on half time and all the class rooms are over-crowded.  
 Are the teachers throughout the State paid a fair salary?  
 Answer: They are not, but in this Pennsylvania is not alone at fault. The United States Commissioner of Education, Philander Claxton, made a public statement before the war, to the effect that ditch diggers received better compensation than school teachers, while it is a well known fact that locomotive engineers receive for higher wages than professors in our High Schools.  
 What action has just been taken by the city of Chicago as regards the salaries to be paid to their teachers?  
 Answer: An announcement from the Superintendent of Schools in Chicago states that all teachers in the Public Schools of that city will be given an average increase of fifty dollars a month after February first of this year.  
 Has Pennsylvania taken any step in this direction?  
 Answer: Yes, in 1919, the Legislature passed a law authorizing an increase of one mill in taxes for school purposes and made provisions for large appropriations to all districts that would raise the salaries of their teachers.  
 Has this been ample to properly compensate the teachers?  
 Answer: It has not, and either something much more substantial must be done or our State will lose many of its best teachers.  
 What other law was passed at the last Legislature which will greatly benefit the schools of the State?  
 Answer: The Woodruff bill was passed, providing for special schools for all mentally deficient children.  
 What other recent improvements have been made in the schools?

Answer: Medical inspection is provided in all the Public Schools of the State, and also physical training.  
 In country places many small schools have been closed and transportation has been provided to take the children to graded and High Schools.  
 What special branches of instruction have recently been introduced in the various districts of the State?  
 Answer: Vocational, Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural classes have been introduced throughout the State.  
 Can the schools be improved in this State?  
 Answer: The schools in Pennsylvania can be greatly improved, if the people of the State could be aroused to the importance of Public Schools.  
 Are the Public Schools vital to the welfare of our State?  
 Answer: They are; there is no safety in a democracy unless the people are intelligent. Our Public Schools are the great melting pot for our foreign born children. In these schools children of all classes meet, and through their mingling and the instruction of American teachers, will become good American citizens.  
 The results of civilization are brought to the child and the child is developed so that he can make his contribution to the good of the country and civilization.  
 What has given impetus to moral training in the Public Schools?  
 Answer: The great war has given an impetus to moral training in the schools as a necessity to the proper formation of character.  
 Is moral training necessary in the Public Schools?  
 Answer: Yes, the principles of psychology prove that if a man is to be morally upright the youth must be trained in morality as carefully and as systematically as he is trained in mathematics or the classics.  
 What is requisite in order to have moral principles taught in such a manner in our schools?  
 Answer: If moral characters with all those habits of self-government and restraint are necessary for the general well-being of society are to be formed in the lives of our boys and girls, then there must be teachers who manifest in their lives the lessons they would inculcate.  
 Why can the Public School, if it have proper teachers, produce a race of pupils with correct ideas of life and conduct, better than any select school?  
 Answer: The select school has one code of morality for those of its own class, and a different code for those of another class, and we know there can be no true code of ethics until humanity triumphs over class.  
 Who is the highest exponent of this principle of equality and morality?  
 Answer: Jesus Christ taught the purest code of morals that has ever been given to the world, and it seems reasonable that lessons in morality should grow out of the scripture reading, and these readings can undoubtedly furnish excellent opportunities for inculcating purity, courtesy, temperance and kindness to animals, as well as a spirit of fair play to our fellows, and surely none, no matter what their religious beliefs, could object to such teaching.  
 How many children are there in the United States of school age?  
 Answer: There are estimated to be over twenty millions of children of school age in America.  
 What do we mean by school age?  
 Answer: In Pennsylvania we have compulsory attendance at school between the ages of six and fourteen, and compulsory attendance at a continuation school for six hours weekly between the ages of fourteen and sixteen.  
 Are continuation schools valuable?  
 Answer: They are, for many reasons. While the "leaving age" remains at fourteen, many thousands of our pupils in the elementary schools are launched upon the world at this tender age and soon have the moral and intellectual impressions gained in the school room erased from their minds, hence the advantage of continuing both mental and moral instruction for at least two years longer.  
 What should be our attitude toward our schools?  
 Answer: We should not only be interested in them, but should be enthusiastic about them, and we should be willing to work for their advancement, ever remembering that our schools should furnish the very best opportunities to the young lives which through them, and we must see to it, that the reading of the Bible is never discontinued in the schools of our State.

—If you want all the news you can get it in the "Watchman."

**PORT MATILDA.**

Mrs. Alverda Blazosky visited friends at Bald Eagle over Sunday.  
 Clark Goss and lady friend, Miss Margaret Lyons, and Jack Hoffman were guests at the Goss home over the Christmas holiday.  
 Mrs. Almada Homan died on Tuesday morning of last week, following an illness of some weeks, leaving to mourn her death a husband and six children. Burial was made in the Black Oak cemetery at 1:30 o'clock on Thursday afternoon.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Adams and family celebrated Christmas day by butchering two fine porkers. Included in the butchering party were their two daughters, Misses Laura and Virginia Adams, home on their vacation; Mr. and Mrs. William G. Spicer, Clifton Goss and Clarence Walk, all of Tyrone; John Blazosky and sister Mary, John Vail, Percy Rhoades and Thomas Crego, of Philipsburg; Lawrence Moore, Lem Reese, wife and family, Clair Cowher, Fred Laird, Edith and Esther Cowher, John Adams, Thomas Richards, Percy Wertz and sons. Naturally the dinner served was a regular Christmas feast.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Adams' daughters are both school teachers in Blair county, and rank high in their profession. Only a portion of their vacation was spent at home, Miss Laura being enticed to spend some time with friends at Martha Furnace and Miss Virginia going to Portage to be with friends over New Years.

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Men's heavy dickey kersey pants, several shades, \$5.00 grade now \$2.98.	Men's corduroy pants reduced, \$4.50 grade, \$3.29, \$5.50 grade \$3.98, \$7.00 grade \$5.48.	Men's cotton worsted trousers made with cuffs, \$3.00 grade \$1.89.	Men's worsted trousers, many shades, well made, \$4.00 grade \$2.79.
Men's heavy gray flannel shirts, all sizes \$3.50 grade now \$1.98	Men's flannelette shirts, \$300 grade now \$1.79	Men's R. R. shirts, 2 collars, 3 shades - \$1.59	Men's ribbed or fleece union suits, extra heavy or medium weight - \$1.89
		Men's extra heavy shirts or Men's heavy fleece shirt	

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