Public Schools of Washington Are Far Behind the Times.

As Congress Makes the Laws for the District of Columbia All Citizens Are Interested in This Matter.

[Special Washington Letter.] You have often been told of the splendideducational advantages which are afforded to young men and young women in this national capital, but there is another story to be told on

that subject.

Higher education is desirable only for those who aspire to high places in public affairs and in social life. Com-mon school education is desirable for the masses. Every child should have a common school education, and it were better far that every child should learn to read and write and cipher than that a chosen few should have collegiate and university advantages.

The common schools of this city are

not worthy of the national capital, be-cause they are not conducted on common sense principles. Consequently the children receive educations which are impractical, because they do not fit the boys and girls for practical contact with the world.

In the first place, surprising as it may seem, grammar is not taught in our common schools, nor in our high schools. One of the young lady graduates of the high school, a near relative of the narrator, this evening said: "I am now going to college and am studying Latin and Greek. It is absolutely necessary to study grammar in order to learn the first principles of those languages, and hence I am study-ing grammar. I never studied grammar while I was in the public schools here, nor in the high school. What I know of English grammar was learned by absorption, by the lessons learned at home, when my speech was corrected by my father and mother. So far as the public schools are concerned, I might have been graduated in complete ignorance of the correct methods of

speaking or writing my mother tongue.
"Moreover," she continued, "they did
not teach spelling in the public schools, and very few of the high school graduates know how to spell correctly. In Latin and Greek I find that it is absolutely necessary to know how to spell every word, in order to be able to use the dictionary intelligently, when at-tempting to translate sentences and paragraphs into English. Hence I am beginning, although a high school graduate, to turn my attention to the correct spelling of the English lan-guage. Of course, I am not a poor speller, but I am not a good speller because spelling was never taught me in the public schools."

This statement is so surprising that it would not be deemed worthy of quotation or belief, but for the fact that the writer has personal knowledge of its truthfulness. High school graduates have attempted to write short-



A PICNIC CLASS

hand and transcribe their notes on the typewriter, and have demonstrated their utter inability to do even that kind of work, because they do not know how to spell.

For example, graduates of the Washington high schools acting as stenog-raphers for years for your correspondent have written out the word right," supposing that the words "all right," so commonly used, constitute but one word spelled as above. Scores of them use the word "anythink" for anything. Hundreds of them say: or "he taken" for "I took" or he took.

The young men and young women who speak and spell in that manner are griduates of the Washington high There is not a common school in the Ohio, Mississippi or Missouri valleys, or in the lake region, where the first principles of practical education are so neglected. There is probably not a teacher on the prairies who would not be ashamed to graduate pupils in such ignorance of spelling and gram-

Elocution is something of which the pupils in our schools know nothing. The teachers are graduates of our high schools. They were never taught spell ing, grammar or elocution, and hence cannot teach what they do not . Therefore it is that our boys and girls do not know how to read well. If asked to read a column or a para graph from a newspaper they stammer stumble over it like children in the

Instead of teaching arithmetic as it should be taught, the children are given lessons which they may learn or not, according to their home influences and when they have been graduated they are unfit for any business requiring computation. Hundreds of them do not know the multiplication tables, and yet they have diplomas setting forth that they have completed their

It is all right for such young men as It is all right for such young men as
Henry Clay. Abraham Lincoln or James
A. Garfield to carve out educations for

Casey—See here! that dollar ye lint
me yisterday wuz a counterfeit.
Cassidy—Well. Casey, didn't ye say themselves and attain the highest | ye wanted it bad?-Judge.

REFORM IS NEEDED. scholastic excellence by their own exertions, and it is equally all right for the sons of wealthy men to be carried through the schools and colleges. But the sons of rich men seldom amount to much, and the Clays, Lincolns and Garmuch, and the Clays, Lincoins and Gar-fields are but few and far between. The common schools and high schools should be conducted for the purpose of giving practical education to the mil-lions who will soon be men and women, bearing upon their shoulders, minds and hearts the burdens of the republic, and they should be well grounded

in the first principles of education. In all of the grades of our public schools the teachers are required, will-ingly or otherwise, to make excursions into the hills and woods surrounding this city, taking the children with them with the alleged purpose of studying botany and geology. The days thus spent are picnic days, and they come quite often. The children are obliged to pay their own car fare, no matter how poor their parents may be. is as unfair as it is unwise. The chil-dren do not need botany or geology, nor will they ever have need of knowledge of those branches in after life. But all of them will have need of knowledge of



TRYING TO WRITE SHORTHAND.

reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. And those studies are not aught them.

Business men need not less than 2,000 words with which to express their ideas fluently and freely. The average high school graduate in this city does not know more than 1,000 words, and does not know how to spell more than half of those words accurately. And when they come to work for men in journalism, or other literary pursuits, these high school graduates are helpless, because they do not understand the words spoken to them, any more than they would understand the words of a foreign language. These extreme statements are made as a result of personal experience in dealing with the graduates of these schools.

Inasmuch as the boys and girls are not taught to be accurate in their spell-ing, they carry through life with them plovenly intellectual habits. Some of them study law and medicine, but they do not know how to spell the technical terms used in their professions. One of them, now a practicing physician, recently gave a receipt to a patient, for "fourty-nin dolls." Another, a young lawyer, wrote to a client: "Pleas cal son as possble."

Young men so educated cannot rise.

Scholarly men know exactly where to place half-educated men. But the men of limited or slovenly education never can understand the completely educated men about them. Hence the high school graduates of this city seldom know how to choose a profession, or how to succeed in one. It is an uncontroverted truth that no man ever made an ill figure who understood his own alents, nor a good one who mistook them.

The highways and byways of history are strewn with the wrecks of the lives of men who mistook their callings, or of men who mistook their callings, or who were not well equipped educa-tionally for any calling. Many a youth who would have been a first-rate me-chanic is forced into a learned profespouring drugs, of which he knows little, into bodies of which he knows less.

"Tompkins forsakes his last and awl For literary squabbles; Styles himself poet; but his trade Remains the same—he cobbles."

Thus it appears that scores, if not hundreds, of men and women become teachers in the public schools, who might better be in trade of some kind. Thus it appears that there are superintendents or members of school boards who know little about teaching, but have power to employ teachers who less. Consequently our schools are in need of competent supervision, which will result in complete reformation of method and of or earn the money with which to carry means for giving practical education to on her work. Too often these facts

ur young people. Upon whom to fix the responsibility for the deplorable condition of our pub-lic schools the writer does not know. It is enough for the present to state the facts. The congress is the lawmaking body of this city, and the facts herein presented will be laid before the congress by a body of leading citizens, and legislation will be asked requir ing the public schools of the Dis of Columbia to teach reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic in the first, se and third grades. After that, if children require higher education, they may be taught something of the sci ences, and maybe of the dead lan-ences, and maybe of the wrought in our public school system.
SMITH D. FRY.

A Foregone Conclusion.

Cholly-Weally, Mabel, I didn't mean what I said at all. In fact, I spoke without thinking.

Mabel—Oh, I never doubted that for a moment.—N. Y. Journal.

Got What He Asked For.

EIGHTY YEARS OLD.

Miss Susan B. Anthony Has Reached the Four-Score Mark.

Suffragists Will Observe February 15, 1900, as a Day on Which to Pay Tribute to Their Distinguished Leadar's Work

The National American Woman Suffrage association will celebrate the eightieth birthday of their great leader. Susan B. Anthony, in a manner befitting her grand work for humanity. A committee appointed for this purpose is making preparations for a public meeting in honor of the event, which will take place on February 15, in Lafayette opera house, Washington, D. C.

In the evening of the same day there will be a card reception for Miss Anthony, at which she will receive with members of the birthday committee. The occasion will be one of interest in many ways. Those having the arrangements in charge are:

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, chair-

man; Rachel Foster Avery, secretary; Harriet Taylor Upton, Ohio; May Wright Sewall, Indiana; Mary B. Clay, Kentucky; Emily M. Gross, Illinois; Mrs. Senator Burrows, Michigan; Mrs. Senator Warren, Wyoming; Lucy E. Anthony, Pennsylvania, and Harriet Stanton Blatch, of England.
Prominent women representing all

phases of woman's work and experience will present to Miss Anthony their greetings, and express their sense of recognition of what her la-tors have meant to their respective efforts. There is not a woman to-day, no matter what her position, who has touched any of the really vital issues of life, who has not been helped to some degree by the efforts of Miss Anthony and her compeers.

This celebration will follow the close

of the National Woman Suffrage convention, which will be in session in Washington from February 8-15.

When Miss Anthony began her work woman was a chattel in the eye of the



SUSAN B. ANTHONY. (For Fifty Years Leader of the Suffrage Movement.) Woman'

higher education and opportunities in the industrial world; an utter dependent on man; occupying a subordinate position in the church; restrained to the narrowest limits along social lines; an absolute nonenity in politics. To-day American women are envied by those of other nations, and stand comparatively free individuals, with

the exception of political disabilities.

During the 50 years which have wrought this revolution, Miss Anthony is the one woman in all the world who has given every day of her time, every dollar of her money, every power of her being, to secure these results. She was impelled to this work from no per-sonal grievance, but solely through a deep sense of the injustice which, on every side, she saw perpetrated against her sex, and which she determined to combat. Never for one short hour has the cause of woman been forgotten sion, and "with all his blushing hon-ors thick upon his vacant head" set-tles down to kill people scientifically, either of affection or business, which would interfere with this supreme purpose. Never a speech has been given, a trip taken, a visit made, a letter written in all this half century of her efforts that has not been done directly in the interest of this one object. There has been no thought of personal comfort, advancement or glory; the self-abnegation, the self-sacrifice have been absolute-they have been unparalleled.

Future generations will wonder what manner of people those were who not only permitted this woman to labor for humanity for 50 years almost unaided, but also compelled her to beg are forgotten or ignored by those who have been most benefited bors. They see glory in the fact that money is entirely their own now to do with as they please, but do not know, or will not admit, that the statutes which guarantee this independence were passed by the efforts of Miss Anand her compeers.

That they may express in some small degree their appreciation of Miss Anthony's life of self-sacrificing labor, in their behalf, the women have arranged celebration to take place upon her eightieth birthday.

Women Making Uniforms.

Over 1,600 women are at present making uniforms for English soldiers. Khaki is a dyed cotton, but what it is dyed with the government officials themselves do not know. The firm that discovered it keeps the secret very much to itself. To guard against misfits the English army clothing stores make the uniforms in no less than 36

different sizes.

Hot Water for Hendaches Ordinary headaches almost always eld to the simultaneous application of hot water to the feet and back of the

RAILWAY TRUST

A Gigantic Combine of Trunk Lines Is Planned.

Railway Magnates are Said to be Working on a Scheme to Unite the Great Roads of the Country Into the Biggest of All Industrial Consolidations.

Chicago, Jan. 19 .- The Tribune says: In order to carry out their anti-commission agreement it is proposed bow to combine all the railroads in the country in a big passenger pool and operate it in such a way that each road will get an agreed percentage of the earnings. By such action no pos-sible profit can accrue to any of the roads from ignoring the agreement. Each road is to be allowed to carry all the passengers it can secure, but any road that should manage to get more than its allotted proportion would have its labor for its pains, as the profits would go to the competing roads which have failed to carry their proportion of the business.

The eastern roads have all voted in favor of this scheme and a committee

favor of this scheme and a committee of western railroad executive officials is now at work to get all the western lines into the combination.

lines into the combination.

The railroad magnates do not admit that the formation and maintenance of a passenger pool would constitute a violation of the law. It has always been the contention of the railroads that the section of the inter-state commerce act forbidding pools relates only to freight traffic and does not affect passenger business in any way, and it now seems to be their determination to act and fight it out on this nation to act and fight it out on this nation to act and fight it out on this presumption. The fact that President Felton, of the Alton, is chairman of the committee insures the co-operation of the Alton and Union Pacific railroads, which have been opposed to pools heretofore. The Great Northern, which always has been a stumpling block in the way of rooks and bling block in the way of pools and steadfastly refused to join the combi-nations of that kind, is said to have been won over.

The Chronicle says: As a result of the recent consolidations and agreements among the owners of the great trunk railways east of Chicago the en-tire transportation system between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic seaboard is to be reorganized, involving the following changes: The abandonment of the city ticket offices of all the roads in the syndicate in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Baltimore, Washington, Pitts-burg, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Peoria and St. Louis and Indianapous, Peoria and St. Louis and the substitution of joint offices in each city. The discharge of all city, general, traveling and district freight and passenger agents and solicitors of the eastern roads in all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe. This will affect nearly 50,000 men.

The abolition of all forms of com-missions heretofore paid for the sale of tickets over these roads will affect the incomes of 10,006 agents and eliminate the scalpers.

A number of through fast passenger trains put in service during the past few years as the result of sharp com-petition will be abandoned, together with all fast freight trains.

All the big competitors of the big systems are in with the combining movement and stand ready to go into any deal that will maintain rates and reduce expenses. Several small inde-pendent roads in the west and north-west are to be purchased. The failure of congress to legalize pooling is given as the cause of the consolida-tion, as the owners are determined to pool if the purchase of every railroad in the country is necessary to obtain

THE CABLE BROKE.

Two Men Killed and Three Badly In-

jured by an Elevator Accident. New York, Jan. 19.—Two men were killed and three possibly fatally in-jured in the falling of an elevator yes-terday in the storage warehouse of O'Reilly Bros. At the time of the accident the elevator was at the ninth floor of the building and had just been floor of the building and had just been loaded with five wheelbarrows filled with firebrick. There were five men on the elevator. Just as the elevator started downward one of the cables broke, letting the elevator loose, and it went down to the basement with frightful rapidity. The total distance of the fall is 140 feet. The elevator was crushed to splinters. On the way down it tore out the brick partitions and did so much damage that the iron counterbalance weights were loosened. allowing them to fall on top of the el evator. The weights killed the men in the elevator. The dead men were crushed in a frightful manner.

The injured men bore no marks or their bodies, nor were any of their bones broken. They were all uncon-scious, however, and were removed to a hospital. They are in a precarious condition. The superintendent of the building, Thomas Berry, was arrested. He claimed that the elevator was regularly inspected by licensed inspectors and that no warning was given of the parting of the cable.

A Remarkable Case.

Baltimore, Jan. 19.—The post-mor-tem examination of the body of Charles F. Seeberger, the electrician, who was shot last Saturday night at Brunswick, Md., by Conductor Swartly, and died Tuesday, revealed the fact that Seeberger fixed 60 hours with a bullet hole through the center of his heart.

A Street Car Dynamited.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 19.—A car the Consolidated Street Railway was dynamited last night in the busi-tess portion of the city and near po-ice headquarters. The fore trucks lice headquarters. The fore trucks of the car were broken and several windows and the track torn up.

Smallpox in Indiana.

Indianapolis, Jan. 19.—The state poard of health has received word that 5 new cases of smallpox have appeared in Clay county. Nine new cases were reported yesterday from Vander-burg county. The disease prevails in 14 counties of the state.

ASKS FOR AN INJUNCTION.

Missouri's Attorney General Requests the Supreme Court to Stop the Operations of the Chicago Drainage Canal

Washington, Jan. 18.-The state Missouri by its attorney general, E B. Crow, has made application in the supreme court and asked leave to file a bill praying for an injunction against the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago to restrain them from operating the recently opened drain-age canal. The court took the mo-tion, but did not indicate when action would be taken.

The principal ground of objection The principal ground of objection raised by the bill of complaint filed by Mr. Crow is that the sewage from the canal will pollute the water of the Mississippi river. It is set forth that there are several cities and towns on the Mississippi below the mouth of the Illinois river which derive their water for drinking and other purposes from the Mississippi and that these water for drinking and other purposes from the Mississippi and that these waters are "indispensable to the life and health of thousands of inhabitants of the state." It is contended that Lake Michigan is the natural receptacle of the drainage of Chicago, and that unless diverted it would find the way into the lake instead of the its way into the lake instead of the Mississippi river.

Mr. Crow also represents that not only will the current filth of 1,500,000 people be turned into the Mississippi through the canal, but also that which through the canal, but also that which has accumulated on the banks of the Chicago river for years past, amounting daily to about 1,500 tons of "poisonous and noxious matters." If this is permitted he says the waters of the Mississippi "will of a certainty be poisoned and polluted and rendered wholly unfit and unhealthful for drinking and domestic uses;" also that it will render useless the various waterworks plants on the Mississippi vaterworks plants on the Mississippi waterworks plants on the Mississippi below the entrance of the Illinois. On this account it is urged that the health and lives of the people will be endangered and their business inter-ests irreparably injured. He asks for both a temporary and permanent in-

Junction.

Lockport, Ill., Jan. 18.—The bear trap dam separating the drainage canal from the Desplaines river was lowered by the sanitary district trustees with the consent of the canal commissioners and Gov. Tanner yes-terday and 200,000 cubic feet of water per minute rushed into the Desplaines river on its way to the Gulf of Mexi-co. The bear trap dam is the largest of its kind in the world. It is 160 feet in width and has an oscillation of 17

Chicago, Jan. 18 .- Attorneys representing the city of St. Louis yesterday made application before Judge Kohl-saat, of the United States district court, for an injunction to restrain the board of trustees of the sanitary district from turning the sewage of the Chicago river into Desplaines river, Judge Kohlsaat set January 20 the date for hearing arguments on the question.

RAILROADERS GET MORE PAY.

The B. & O. and Pittsburg & Lake Erie Roads Advance the Wages of Em-

Pittsburg, Jan. 18.-Firemen and Pittsburg. Jan. 18.—Firemen and possibly conductors and engineers all over the Baltimore & Ohio railroad system proper are to be the subjects of a substantial wage advance dating from January 1. The advance will be close to 10 per cent. It will vary, it is understood, on different parts of the system so as to equalize the scale, and for the most part the advance will be about 8 per cent. It goes to all firemen, however, the men of the yards and the men of the road.

The Pittsburg & Lake Erie management sent out notices yesterday to the

ment sent out notices yesterday to the various division headquarters announcing what will be a sharp advance to all its yardmen. This is also in the nature of a readjustment of wages, the plan being to advance as near to a common standard the men of all the wards. In general the advance of all the wards. of all the yards. In general the advance averages about 10 per cent. All yardmen, including conductors, engineers, firemen and switchmen of the yards, will be paid the advanced scale

from January 1. from January 1.

It is understood that the new scale will fix the wages for the men of the local yards of the Pittsburg & Lake Erie as follows: Day conductors 25 ents an hour: night conductors 26 cents an hour; day brakemen or switchmen 19 cents an hour; night brakemen or switchmen 20 cents an hour: engineers 29 cents an hour.

KILLED THEIR JAILER.

Two Inmates of a Missouri Bastile Murder Its Custodian and Escape. West Plains, Mo., Jan. 18.—County Jailer Alfred Henry, while feeding the prisoners in the Howell county jail

yesterday, was overpowered and kill-ed by two prisoners, Ben Richardson and Ed Grady. Richardson was under sentence to the penitentiary for burglary and is an escaped convict from the Tennessee penitentiary.

Henry had gone to the jail to feed the prisoners and, not returning home at the accustomed time, his wife became anxious and sent a neighbor in search of him. His body was found in a pool of blood on the jail floor. The prisoners had escaped and locked the door after them. A posse was organized and is scouring the woods. A reward of \$1,000 is offered for their cap A report by telephone announc ed their appearance two miles south of here, headed for Arkansas. Intense excitement prevails and talk of lynch-ing is freely indulged in.

The "Liberty Alliance."

Chicago, Jan. 18 .- The Times-Herald A movement which is being carried on in the name of the Liberty Alliance to give aid to the Boers has been on foot in Chicago for ten day Associated with it are a number of Associated with it are a number of well known citizens of Chicago. Several United States senators, it is said, have signified their intention of giving the organization support. When asked if the alliance was recruiting men for service in South Africa, one of the promoters said, "No." He added that the organization was merely "colonizing" for the Trapsyaal.

ROTTEN MESS.

A Few Samples of Putrid Politics in Montana.

A PUGILISTIC PREACHER.

He Gives Racy Testimony in the Clark Bribery Case.

A LAWYER DEFINES A LIE.

He Identifies a Letter Written by Him and Then Admits that Every State-ment Contained Therein was a False-

Washington, Jan. 20.—The hearing yesterday before the senate commit-tee on elections in the case of Senator Clark, of Montana, developed four new witnesses. They were Represen-tative Cooney, T. E. Butler, a preach-er named Warren, who was chaplain of the Montana house of representa-tives, and a lawyer named Cason. Mr. Warren said that he had resign-

Mr. Warren said that he had resign-Mr. Warren sand that he had resigned his ministry in the Methodist church after giving his testimony before the Montana supreme court because of scandalous reports that were put in circulation about him. He said that previous to going to Helena he had had a difficulty at Symatters. said that previous to going to Helena he had had a difficulty at Sweet Grass. "A man called me a bad name," he said, "and I knocked him down and gave him a thrashing."

"Isn't it a fact," asked Mr. Faulkner, "that you were charged by members of your congregation with embezzlement and fornication?"

Mr. Warren replied in the negative, saying there had been no official

saying there had been no official charge. He said that the stories circulated after he had given his testimony charged him with drunkenness, embezzlement and immorality.

Z. T. Cason, an attorney at Butte, told how he had been sent for to come to Heleng to use his influence with

told how he had been sent for to come to Helena to use his influence with Representative Marcey, of Custer county, and that when he went there he saw Senator Clark, who told him he would like to have him see Marcey and talk with him and that Mr. Marcey had not been approached; that service being left to him (Cason), as he could headly him better.

service being left to him (Cason), as he could handle him better,
"He authorized me to say to him that he would pay him \$10,000 for his vote for him (Clark) for the United States senate," said the witness.

Mr. Cason said he had seen Marcey several times and after satisfying himself that Marcey would vote for Clark, had so reported to him. He had not, however, made any suggestion of a money consideration to Mr. Marcey. Afterward Marcey had voted for Clark and on February 4 he (Cason States) Mareey. Afterward Mareey had voted for Clark and on February 4 he (Cason) had received a letter from Mr. Clark enclosing a check for \$500 for "professional services." This letter was produced and identified and Mr. Cason said that the only services he had rendered Mr. Clark were in connection with the senatorial was

had rendered Mr. Clark were in nection with the senatorial race, nection with the senatorial race.

Mr. Cason identified a letter he had written to Albert G. Hall, of Washington, D. C., a brother-in-law of Senator Clark, who had originally introduced him to the senator. This letter thanked Mr. Hall in profuse terms for Cason's introduction to Mr. Clark and spoke of that gentleman in the most eulogistic terms. eulogistic terms.

eulogistic terms.

Mr. Cason identified the recanting letter he had given to a Mr. Root. It covered three pages of foolscap and was read by the witness amid roars of laughter by all present, this laughter being to the abject character of the language used.

language used.
"Do you pretend to say that when you wrote that letter you knew it was not true?" said Mr. Faulkner.
"Why, certainly," responded the

"Then you confess here to having written and signed three pages of lies in that letter," said Mr. Faulkner. In his reply the witness gave the second unique definition of a lie that

"No, I do not," he replied. "I confess to writing the letter, but I don't

think any statement is ever a lie which is made with the understanding that it is false."

Famine Confronts 49,000,000 People.

Calcutta, Jan. 20.—The council yes-terday considered the famine situation. The official estimates show that the cost to the government of the re-lief works to the end of March will be 40,000,000 rupees. About 22,000,000 persons are now affected in British persons are now alrected in Blitish territory and about 27,000,000 in the native states. The viceroy, Lord Cur-zon, said that the famine area had exzon, said the worst fears and they were now facing a eartile, water and food scarcity of a terrible character. About 3.250,000 persons are now receiving relief.

Killed His Family and Suicided.

North Brookfield, Mass., Jan. 20.— Martin Bergen, the catcher of the Boston baseball team of the National league, killed his wife and two chil-dren and committed suicide at his home Friday. An ax was the implement used in taking the life of Mrs Bergen and one of the children, while a razor was employed to cut the a razor was employed to cut the throat of the other child, a little girl, and of the man himself. It is thought the action was due to insanity.

Payne's Free Trade Bill.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Representative Payne, of New York, chairman of the ways and means committee, has introduced a bill in the house to extend the customs laws to Porto Rico. The effect of the enactment of this bill into law would be free trade between the United States and Porto

Broad's Victory.

New York, Jan. 20.—"Kid" Broad, of Cleveland, defeated Joe Bernstein, of this city, in a hard fought battle of 25 rounds before the Broadway Athletic club last night.