

"SPELLIN' BEE" SHOWS PUPILS UNFAMILIAR WITH WEBSTER

"Rattle" for W restle. "Anzeity" for Anxiety and Many Other Weird Combinations of Letters Given at Fox Chase School, but Average Is Good

Remember the winter afternoon when the teacher announced that she would call off the regular session in order to have a "spellin' bee"?

Oh, boy! wasn't it a grand and glorious feeling, especially when you spelled down all the class except your hated rival, and then he stuttered and failed over "eleemosynary," and you had the victory in your grasp, only to catch sight of some flavan curls and fall down miserably on an easy one like "raspberry" by omitting that pesky "p"?

Spelling bees are not so popular as they used to be, but occasionally even in these days of modern educational theories they have a little revival all their own.

Such a revival stirred the Fox Chase Public School out of its placid course on January 11. They are still talking about it, out there, and Henry G. Bornheim, the principal, is planning a repetition in the near future. Incidentally, he is justly proud of the spelling ability of the 400 and more pupils. The school's average on the spelling match was 70 per cent, and the words they spelled were not what the boys call "puddins" either.

All classes participated from the eighth grade down to the first, the words graduating down in their simplicity. Each section was given twenty-five words from their own course, and twenty-five more that they had had, or were supposed to have had, the previous term, making fifty words in all. Fourteen girls and boys in all had absolutely clean slates. Some of them—but why rub it in?

The eighth grade had the most trouble with one long and one compound word, short words they literally and figuratively wrestled with the word "wrestle," which turned successively into

"rassel," "masel," "pocel," "pocel" and "rassel." The other word which spoiled many a clean slate was "eleemosynary," whose middle "n" proved a Waterloo of many hopes. On the other hand, that old bugbear, "raspberry," seemed easy, only a few spelling bees, as their mothers and fathers used to do in the older spelling bees.

In the seventh grade, there was one terrible word which the boys and girls alternately jumbled, boxed, mutilated and mangled. That was anxiety. Among the truly weird spellings that appeared on papers were anzeity, anzeity, anzeity, anzeity, anzeity, anzeity, anzeity.

Rhubarb Lacks an "H" Spelling generally lacked an "H" and rhubarb lacked an "H," but such words as "mortgage" and "business" which father and mother use so often, were generally spelled correctly.

Rheumatism was the stumbling block for the sixth grade pupils. According to them, it was a great many things which would have made Webster shudder and turn in his grave, such as rhumatism, ramatism, reumatism, rly-

HUMANISMS : Inner Lights on Lives and Whims of Personages in the Public Eye. By WILLIAM AHERTON DU PUY

WANT NEW POLICE STATION First Ward Delegation Tells Mayor 25th District Is Insanitary

Twenty-five citizens from the First ward visited Mayor Moore today and secured an appropriation for erection of a new police station for the Twenty-fifth district, at Third and Dickison streets.

They said the present structure, one of the oldest police stations in the city, is insanitary, and is not worthy of the first ward.

The delegation was headed by William Goldberg, secretary of the Jewish Citizens League.

Franklin Adams is counselor of the Pan-American Union and a great authority and enthusiast on Latin America. He constantly preaches the gospel of the opportunity for the enterprising which lies to the south.

No habitual is this frame of mind with him that the colored boy, who acts as messenger for him, recently fell victim to it.

"There is a great opportunity in Haiti for you," Mr. Adams told George. "If you would study farming, scientific farming, you could go to Haiti and make your fortune."

A few weeks later George confided to Mr. Adams that he had started to school. He had paid down his \$18 for the course. The words, he said, were

awful hard and he could not remember them "a tall."

"What is it you are studying?" Mr. Adams asked, quite forgetful of his former advice.

"Just what you told me," said George. "Pharmacy."

Congressman George Holden Tinkham, representative at Washington of Buck Bay, Boston, admits that he is an international criminal. He is a confessed violator of conventions signed at The Hague in those days a decade and a half ago when the world was groping toward international peace agreements.

The lawbreaking took place on the river Piave in Italy late in 1917. We had not been at war with the Central Powers for long and had not got into

the fighting. The congressman was traveling along the front for look-see purposes. The Austrians were making their big drive on the Italians. The fight was in progress.

Mr. Tinkham was watching an Italian big gun in action. The gunner was ready for a shot. Then the visiting American appeared and was invited to fire the shot. He stuffed cotton batting in his ears, stepped right up and pulled the string. He was the first American to fire a gun at the enemy.

He was a civilian. The Hague conventions set it down that a civilian has no right to fire an armed and uniformed troops. He had broken the law of nations. When he tells it, however, he fails to register the haunted look usually associated with violators of the law.

Robert W. Williams, solicitor of the Department of Agriculture, indulges in birds as a hobby. Down at Tallahassee, Fla., where he comes from and where he owns a home, he maintains a bird sanctuary. While it is guaranteed that no member of the feathered

kingdom shall be disturbed, in Washington he is a member of a club of bird lovers that has purchased a wooden island in Potomac river, and here also is there safety for birds.

Though Mr. Williams is the man in whose hands is placed the enforcement of fifty federal laws, of which the pure food law is a type, and although he has handled the task successfully, it is not because of this, but because he is a lover that he was admitted into the most exclusive of intellectual circles, the Cosmos Club of Washington.

Whenever a bird sanctuary is established, Mr. Williams says, those little creatures of the wild soon learn where the line is drawn. Outside the sanctuary they flee in terror at the approach of man. Over on the side where they are protected they are so tame that they almost step on them.

Scouts Honor Their War Martyrs Boy Scout Troop 129, composed of the boys of the Jewish Foster Home, Church Lane and Chew Street, conducted a competitive drill last night in memory of the four boys from the home who were killed in the world war. Captain Harry Edwards, assistant drill master of the police department, told George Potts, a well-known scout worker, told of trips through the submarine-infested waters.

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