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SCHOOL BOARD'S DEFECTS

THE report of the survey of the public schools of Philadelphia under the direction of the State Department of Public Instruction fills four volumes containing a total of about 1500 pages.

Much of the survey is devoted to technical matters in which the public at large has little interest because it is not qualified to form an intelligent judgment on the matter.

The public, however, is interested in the recommendations covering the constitution of the Board of Public Education and the superintendent of schools.

The report says that as a matter of principle every public body with the taxing power should be elected by the people and be held responsible to them.

But the report points out that great improvements can be effected in the present system without any change in the laws.

This recommendation is in line with the best educational practice in other cities.

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is a law unto itself. It repeats all statutes, disregards all conventions and goes its shining way with its head high in the air serenely conscious of its power.

When it be, now that women have obtained all the political rights that men enjoy and have descended to their level, that the lure of beauty is to work itself upon them as it has worked upon men since Eve introduced Adam to the Tree of Knowledge?

CONGRESS CAN SINK OR SAVE OUR TRADE FLEET

The Fate of the Great New Merchant Marine is Critically Dependent Upon the Subsidy Bill

IT IS not necessary to ascribe perfection to the Ship-Subsidy Bill in order to read in its defeat, should that be accomplished, the doom of the American merchant marine.

What the Nation, acting through the special session of Congress, which opens on Monday, will be called upon to estimate is the value of a great and prosperous commercial fleet.

Switzerland has flourished without ships or salt-water ports to receive them. We will not starve if our foreign trade is entirely captured by Great Britain, France, Italy, Norway, Denmark and other nations.

There are agriculturalists inland who, so long as loans are easy and soils fruitful, are ready to rejoice at the extinction of our seafaring activities.

This is the parolous view of which elaborate exposition may be expected in Congress. The principle underlying such opposition is exceedingly simple.

Politics of this kind is a familiar product in this country, but it is particularly to be regretted that it should assume such menacing form upon an issue which warrants the most earnest and sincere consideration upon its merits, or even its defects.

Argument upon possible flaws in the ship-subsidy measure is, in a sense, beside the mark, until the Nation has made up its mind upon the broader question of the desirability of possessing its own commercial fleet.

Do we or do we not favor the maintenance of ships under our own flag? If we wish to keep them and increase their numbers, relief measures must be immediately applied.

Whatever its faults—and it would be idle to deny that so comprehensive a measure is not free from error in every detail—the ship-bill is an attempt to safeguard the merchant marine.

If those Senators and Representatives now printing themselves to oppose President Harding's program can be conceived as entertaining a passion for logic they will condemn the possession of a large and splendid ocean fleet as detrimental to the progress of the Nation.

The truth, of course, is that nations do flourish and capitalize varied resources and activities by developing their merchant marines and, when needed, directly protecting them.

Experts, whose advice was much relied upon by the Administration in preparing the measure, have long since reached the opposite conclusion. They know that the policy of protection when applied with honesty and discrimination may be a legitimate factor in widespread national development.

They know that shipping has been the Cinderella of American industries and that foreign nations have rejoiced in the chaos and obstructive nature of our laws on this subject, and are eagerly awaiting at this moment a further misuse of the magnificent opportunities which the building of a huge commercial fleet in the war period and immediately afterward brought to the Nation.

Of the salient features of the subsidy bill it may be said that they provide for an annual protective expenditure of about \$14,000,000, to be derived from one-tenth of collections on imports and from mail contract payments; that a graduating scale of assistance is devised, and that when shipping companies earn more than 10 per cent on their capital a system of disposing of a portion of excess profits will be operative until all the subsidy funds have been returned to the Government.

The measure extinguishes the unworkable discriminating customs duties provisions of the Jones act and prepares for the retirement of the Government, as represented by the Shipping Board, from the merchant

marine business. Stipulations regarding the use of the freight and passenger fleet by the Government in times of war or other national emergency are also made.

It is no secret that the measure is headed for troubled waters in the extra session, nor that the Administration is hoping to swing its still large congressional majority in line.

The chance to repair more than half a century of blundering in merchant marine legislation is here if the country is perceptive enough to think and act nationally and without township prejudices upon a vital national problem.

BARLEYCORNERS MOBILIZE

WHATEVER mention of prohibition President Harding made in his much-discussed letter to the Honorable Robert Robinson was clearly an expression of private rather than of political opinion.

The hubbub that has risen in Washington since it was breathed about that Mr. Harding believes in the "liberalization" of the Volstead act is significant for reasons not obvious on the face of the situation.

Thus we are told that the Soldier Bonus Bill could be made workable by "heavy taxes" to be levied on light wines and beer.

Plainly, the drinks of Barleycorn are beating for a forward march to battle in the new Congress. And it would be as well to understand at the beginning just what the "wet" victory would leave us, even though the prospects of such a victory are dim.

Let us suppose that \$2,000,000,000 would be required to meet the provisions of a Soldier Bonus Bill during the forty years to come and that light wines and beer were to be restored under a 10 per cent tax.

Plainly, the drinks of Barleycorn are beating for a forward march to battle in the new Congress. And it would be as well to understand at the beginning just what the "wet" victory would leave us, even though the prospects of such a victory are dim.

Upon a revival of the saloon depends every plan advanced thus far for reform of the "dry" laws. The overzealousness of the Anti-Saloon League is in part responsible for this.

Charles Emory Smith brought him to Philadelphia from the New York Tribune, where he was an editorial writer under William Reid.

He was a modest, diffident, kindly gentleman, a graduate of Brown University and an exceedingly able man.

He was slightly deaf, which, in a measure, added to his diffidence.

Mr. Hamm's collection, which he began in the city of London, was prior to his departure to England, given to Columbia University, I believe.

The collection was arranged in small wooden boxes about 8 by 2 by 2, by States and containing a complete alphabetical index for economic and statistical purposes.

With this material constantly at hand and kept up to date, Mr. Hamm was enabled to furnish generally a degree of accuracy upon political questions that was practically unknown in other journals.

It was his wide knowledge and detailed information that gained for the Philadelphia Press its just and famous reputation as a political newspaper.

It embraced everything in that line that could be obtained and upon every subject, it is filed and catalogued so thoroughly that it is possible for the visitor to secure material desired with the least possible loss of time.

Why should not the Philadelphia Free Library, as it is established in its new home, begin the compilation of a newspaper-clipping library or department?

There is no great library in the United States, so far as we are aware, that has a department of this kind.

WHY NOT HARRISON DAY?

C. C. Harrison's Golden Jubilee Year at the University—Walter C. Hamm's Death—A Free Library Clipping Bureau

By GEORGE NOX MCMAIN

FORMER Provost Dr. Charles C. Harrison is celebrating this year the golden jubilee of his association with the University of Pennsylvania.

His connection with the institution began as an undergraduate. For forty years he has been a trustee. It is the longest and most distinguished service of any individual connected with the University.

From 1884 to 1911 he was provost. During that period he individually raised \$10,000,000 and made marked and permanent improvements in the institution's equipment.

Among his notable achievements he inaugurated the system and built the present dormitories. He built and paid for the Engineering and Law School Buildings.

He secured and preserved all of the ground east of Thirty-fourth street to the uses of the University.

In the general rebuilding over the erection and dedication of the magnificent stadium, this work of the former provost has been overlooked.

He was graduated in the fall of 1867 with the degree of A. B. Standing at the head of his class, it was his honor to deliver the Greek oration at commencement.

The Henry Reed prize for the best essay in English was also awarded to him. The degree of master of arts was bestowed on him in 1867.

He became a trustee of the University in the fall of 1884. Particularly noteworthy was his work as a trustee on the Committee on Finance during the term of his classmate, Dr. Pepper, as Provost.

When he became head of the University the assets of the institution were less than \$2,000,000.

On his retirement, in 1911, the student registration in all departments was 5100, and the teaching staff 500.

Meantime the assets of the University had increased to more than \$17,000,000.

Over 315,000 books were in the library where there had been but 40,000 before. The University free of debt in every particular.

Under his direction the Flower Astronomical Observatory, the gymnasium, the Morgan Library, the new school buildings, the Veterinary School buildings, University Settlement House and the John Harrison Laboratory of Chemistry were erected.

Dr. Harrison's golden jubilee should mark an epoch in the history of the University of Pennsylvania.

It should set aside a "Harrison Day" this semester.

WALTER C. HAMM'S will was probated in this city last week. He died in New England, where he was born and where he first began his newspaper career.

He was for years the general political editor and economic writer on the Philadelphia Press.

He was a modest, diffident, kindly gentleman, a graduate of Brown University and an exceedingly able man.

A NARSTY TUMBLE

POPULARITY

BRITISH ELECTIONS



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

HUGER ELLIOTT

On Art and the Average Person

THE general standard of public taste in the United States is rising, according to Huger Elliott, principal of the School of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art.

"Every man, woman and child in the United States is continually exercising his or her artistic judgment," said Mr. Elliott.

"The general level of taste is rising. Our china, glass and silverware, our furniture, carpets and other textiles, in the main, are far better than they were twenty years ago."

"The phrase, 'Of course, I don't know anything about art,' is immediately used when you ask the opinion of the average man concerning a picture, a statue or an object of household use, he is exercising artistic judgment."

"The result of this unfortunate modern tendency to think of works of art as something disconnected with everyday life—something far off and unobtainable—has been to increase the enjoyment of such things to his opinion as the trained expert. When he can be persuaded to use his eyes and exercise his critical perception, his judgment will continually improve. He will also increase the enjoyment of such things from the contemplation of things of beauty."

"We must rid ourselves of the habit of thinking of art as something which has nothing to do with our everyday world; it is of necessity a part of the life of every civilized human being."

"I feel that the newspapers can do more than they are doing. For one thing, when a building or a monument or a memorial window is dedicated, the name of the architect, sculptor or designer is rarely mentioned, and surely he is as important as the man who presides at the ceremonies."

"Furthermore, these productions are never criticized adversely; the building, statue or window may be beautiful, but the artist's work of art, but the public is not associated in its judgment by a frank statement of the merits or the failings of the piece. Feelings, word of course, be hurt by any kind of condemnation, but the artistic qualities of future structures would be improved were there intelligent public criticism."

"In this connection I am reminded of the procedure in Florence in the fourteenth century. The Cathedral, then a matter of civic as well as of religious interest—was building. One pier of the nave was built, and the citizens were asked to approve or disapprove it before the others were erected."

"There is no such thing as 'commercial art'—art cannot be commercialized. It is fortunately true that artistic principles are applied to many objects produced by machines; that commerce uses the taste and skill of the artist in advertisements and posters; but a product of artistic worth remains work of art no matter how used. The term is extensively employed by those who profess to teach or desire to study the art of making advertising drawings; such

SHORT CUTS

New Brunswick counts that day lost that doesn't provide a new witness.

Only the heat caused by friction of wheels over rails can thaw out frozen lanes.

Whether Clemens speaks for France or merely for himself, he is sure of a respectful hearing.

David Lloyd George says he is anticlerical with the election. That would appear to make it unanimous.

Benito Mussolini has an hour's spare fencing daily. Thus he keeps in the pig and his enemies blue.

Most of the American unofficial observers at Lausanne will undoubtedly observe at long range through the press.

"Stick to the truth," said Will Hays to the movie ad men; to which they might have added, "And make it palatable."

New York's new museum of the American Indian will not be complete without a collection of cigar signs of thirty years ago.

One thing that particularly distinguishes witnesses in the Hall-Mills murder case is their backwardness in coming forward.

It occurs to us that Miss Mary Sandell of New York, may have put her foot in it when she says women do not think sufficiently.

The Ku Klux Klanners who brandished Hagerstown, Md., man with a "K" sign to suggest the way they themselves should be treated.

Hilinois Congressman says he spent no money and was captured twice, but that is an implied promise here he will find it hard to keep.

"America has always stood for justice," said Woodrow Wilson. "She has stood for prohibition," complainingly said Demosthenes McGinlin.

We learn with some regret that Dedwood Dick was not a childhood hero of W. W. Atterbury. It cheers a sad populace to know that some of its best-known citizens have a streak of juvenile cunningness in 'em.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. For what purpose were the pyramids of Egypt built?

2. Who wrote the rhymes of "Moby Dick"?

3. Who was Vice President of the United States in the first administration of Andrew Jackson?

4. How many wars in which the United States was concerned were ended by treaties framed in Paris or its environs?

5. What well-known poem was written by Theodore O'Hara?

6. What color is the port light of a ship?

7. Scrimshaw is a neat example of what?

8. The game of lacrosse is of native American Indian origin.

9. Lagato in music means a smooth, cat-o-tune manner, as opposed to staccato.

10. The fortified town of Lambert, in Pennsylvania, was captured twice during the World War—in September, 1914, by the Russians, and in June, 1918, by the Austrians and Germans.

11. Three plays by Edmond Rostand are "Cyrano de Bergerac," "The Roman Tragedy" and "The Grand Old Man of Italy." Is Giuseppe Verdi a native-born Italian?

12. Laburnum is a European tree with yellow flowers and hard, dark wood. The game of lacrosse is of native American Indian origin.

13. The greatest depth of the Pacific is 5248 fathoms.