

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.

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FRENZIED EDUCATION.

A lousy howl has gone up from New York school headquarters because statistics recently compiled show that pupils are dull and that 25 to 50 per cent are from two to six years too old for the classes in which they are being taught.

Poor little folks. They did not know that education is now done up in packages, just like trousers in a clothing store, and that the lad of 10 should take a certain size, and a boy of 12 another size, and it has become disgraceful and almost a crime if the older boy is unable to fully occupy the educational suit that is marked in plain figures for him.

What is all this hurry? Since when has it become wise to give a boy or girl the book of wisdom of a sage at 20? It may be possible to make mental prodigies of the bulk of children; to jam them full of arithmetic and grammar and how far it is from Port Arthur to St. Petersburg, and more intricate problems that can wait. But is it good for them?

The world needs learning. The fight against ignorance should be steadily and persistently waged. It needs as well a race of men and women stronger than the generation that is passing. They must have clear brains and fine physiques, and lungs like bellows, and the ability to carry loads that are always increasing in weight and that will surely be laid upon their shoulders.

If they are forced in school too early and have too much learning hammered into them, America will be cursed with large additions to that great army of sickly, pale wash-out looking specimens who know much and can do little.

Before the cramming process is inaugurated in any school, it would be wise to ascertain if the pace is not too fast, and if development is not being secured at the expense of brawn.

THE COMING SCHOOL ELECTION.

Although more than two months will elapse before the coming school election in this district, there are already two petitions out asking citizens to become candidates for director to succeed Henry Fletcher, whose term will expire this year, and who is said not to be a candidate for re-election. At whose instance these petitions are being pushed it is not known, but as both seem to emanate from the high school, and are being circulated by high school children, it is presumed that they are in that interest, whatever that may be.

STREET PAVING AGAIN.

Unauthorized reports are abroad that a committee of citizens has agreed upon paving the business streets of Salem with macadam or crushed rock. It is a known fact that secret meetings for this purpose have been held, but the interested parties decline to reveal what their plans are, and it is hardly fair to presume what they may want or not want? Whatever the situation may be it is a fact that our business streets need improvement and that of a substantial character. But unless some investigations are being made beyond mere theory there is not much to be hoped for from such a movement, for when it comes to the practical working out of mere opinions there is apt to be some unforeseen obstacles.

THE PROBLEM.

There are few people in Oregon really poor in the necessities of life. But the spiritually impoverished are many. The solution of the problem of poverty the world over, and especially in our larger cities, must come about through a change of heart on the part of both rich and poor. In the person of C. Esser Walters, who works among the poor of London,

the Chicago American finds a clergyman who knows how to take a straight view at conditions and truths.

We shall quote a few of his statements. They will interest a good many of those who have a conscience extending beyond their own doorstep. They will interest others—the very queer class that like to hear about individuals and nations worse off than themselves.

Certainly England is infinitely worse off than America, as you may judge. We quote the reverend gentleman:

"London is the wealthiest city in the world; its poverty is more hopeless than is to be found anywhere else.

"Thirteen hundred thousand persons in London live below the line of the very poor. Think what that means.

"One in every five persons you meet in the metropolis will die in a work-house, lunatic asylum, or some public institution.

"In one East End parish more than half of the people are buried in a pauper's grave.

"And the reason is that 1,000,000 rich persons receive more than twice as much as the 25,000,000 who form the manual class."

Here, fellow citizens, the reverend Englishman hits upon a little fact that interests us at home.

Don't forget the big American fact, which is that in this country 1 per cent of the population owns 50 per cent of all the property—and 50 per cent of the population owns nothing.

But let the clergyman proceed with his interesting facts and statements:

"The condition under which a million people receive more than twenty-six millions forms a strange comment, surely, on our boasted civilization. Not only that, but a strange comment upon our religion.

"I think that this exposure of our social inequalities is very difficult for the Christian to meet.

"The churches have relied upon philanthropy, where the poor need justice.

"Religious people will say: 'Here is a slum—let us start a soup kitchen.'"

"It is very kind, and the motive is altogether worthy. But the true method would be to say:

"Here is a slum—let us sweep it off the face of the earth."

"We are on the wrong lines. Lodging houses and shelters and free meals and wood chopping do not really cure the increasing source of vagrancy; they keep the sore open. We ought to realize fully and frankly every man's right to work; we ought to realize the sacredness of man, because he is a man."

There is a clergyman whose talk takes you back to original principles.

It would not be a bad thing if he could come over here and preach to Mr. Rockefeller and the others.

But there is plenty of work for him in England, where parliament talks fine platitudes within gunshot of the starving wretches of Whitechapel, and within a short distance of Ireland, where a nation of genius is kept poor by misgovernment.

If we could have a few clergymen of the type of the man we have quoted in this city—to help on the earnest clergymen we already have here—it would not be a bad idea.

We are inclined to think that such a clergyman as the gentleman quoted would not ever have to preach sermons on the question: "Why don't the workmen come to church?"

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP WAVE.

It is the legitimate and logical outcome of corporation greed that a wave of sentiment for municipal ownership of public utilities is sweeping over the country.

Bad light and poor street car service affect the people so directly that they are deciding to take these matters into their own hands. The bulk of municipal corruption can be traced almost directly to the public service corporations.

No other field offers such harvests to the hoodler or gives the willing victim such an opportunity to recoup himself, with rich interest, at the expense of the people. It was a street railway bribe that brought down the rotten structure of municipal vice in St. Louis. It is the gas ring that holds Philadelphia in thrall.

Restrictive legislation, like the cries of socialism from a stock-laden press, have been powerless to stem the tide. In vain have the paid shouters pointed out that by some particular method of figuring they could prove municipal ownership a failure.

The answer has been found in practically every city experiment that better service was obtained at a lower cost. It is now past the experiment stage.

If Europe did not prove enough, America has her own examples. Seattle has a municipal light plant, and other cities are preparing to follow the example. Chicago, having proven the light question, is getting ready to settle the bad street car service in the same manner.

That the people are tired of paying dividends on watered stock is further shown by the municipal ownership movement in New York, Baltimore, Milwaukee and many smaller places.

Detroit knows, for her light plant is one of her proudest achievements. Working people are recognizing the direct importance of the movement to their cause. It means the establishment of a system of shorter hours and better wages, applying to thousands of their co-workers, and this, in turn, strengthens their cause by example.

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Captain Dove Dead. Captain E. P. Dove, who died in Portland on Friday night, was a pioneer in Oregon, having crossed the plains with his parents when a small boy. He lived for many years on the Dove farm in Polk county, between Salem and Independence, where he was a successful farmer and hop raiser until some years ago, when he met with serious financial reverses through the sudden break of the hop market. Through this he lost his property, and later his health failed, so that he could not recuperate his fortunes. He was also interested for some time in steamboating on the Upper Willamette, and was familiarly known as Captain Dove. He was stricken with paralysis over a year ago, suffering a repeated stroke a month or so ago, when he was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland, where death relieved him of his sufferings. There was no better-hearted or more honest man than Ed. Dove, and he enjoyed the hearty good-will of all who knew him. He was a member of the Odd Fellows, and was buried under the auspices of that order at Independence yesterday afternoon. He leaves to mourn his demise, a wife and three daughters, Miss Thecla, a stenographer for the Booth-Kelly Co., at Eugene; Mabel, a stenographer, of Salem, and Rachel, employed in the telephone office. They have the sympathy of numerous friends. CHILDREN CRY FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.

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