

and shall endeavor to enlist the services of any and all community agencies of the state for the removal of illiteracy.

The work of the division is defined thus:

This division, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent of Education, shall have charge of the organized work of the State Board of Education for the removal of illiteracy in Alabama, and of the educational work in the special child-caring institutions of the State.

The schools for the "old folks" were popular from the beginning. In 1915 Mr. Johnson, previously quoted, said after learning to read and write: "I would be proud I have learnt this if I just knowed I had twelve months even to live." The schools have offered efficient help in real situations. In 1924 a woman attended school for the second summer. She was entering school the second time to learn enough arithmetic to keep accounts of the farm products which she raised herself. She did her farm work and drove three miles to school every day. Even a certain Mrs. Fisher gave an excellent reason for the teaching of illiterate adults. She presented her husband to the teacher of the first such school in her community with this plea:

Miss, I want you to teach Ben Fisher to read an' write. I didn't know when I married him that he couldn't read an' write. He done all his courtin' by word of mouth, and if I'd a knowed he couldn't write I'd a never married him.

For white adults fifty-two counties, and the cities of Mobile and Birmingham have conducted 658 schools for white illiterates and near illiterates and aliens.

They have enrolled 17,399 pupils. Several corporations have financed schools from which the department received no report. Three counties have had schools for six sessions and six counties have had schools for five sessions. For negro adults, forty-two counties and the city of Birmingham have had schools. A total of 686 schools have been conducted with an enrollment of 18,339 negroes. One county has had schools for six years and seven counties for five years.

The plan for making state appropriations to the counties for support of the opportunity schools for adults was somewhat changed for 1925. The number of counties to receive aid for the schools was limited to thirteen and campaigns conducted for raising funds adequate to place schools in these counties in every community having fifteen illiterates. The unification of the citizens of a county for raising funds has accomplished the two-fold purpose anticipated. Not only has the county raised the quota required by the State in giving state aid, but the educational condition of the county has been advertised where it should be in the county. Two counties will each have twenty schools for negroes, one county will have twenty schools for white people and ten counties will have schools for both races. By 1930 similar campaigns will have been conducted in each of the sixty-seven counties of the State. Illiteracy among children of school age decreases with the decrease of illiteracy among adults. This fact is conclusively proved by a study of the 1924 school census. Thirty-three counties reduced illiteracy among white children of the ages eight to twenty by percentages ranging from 84.6 to 50 during the ten-year period of 1914 - 1924. Of the 33 counties making such reduction, twenty-four have conducted schools for adults. Sixteen of the thirty-three counties, or 48.4 per

cent, are included in the thirty-three counties making the highest reduction of adult white illiteracy.

The thirty-three counties making the highest reduction of illiteracy among negro children within the same period include within the list seventeen counties that have made the highest reduction in illiteracy of those twenty-one years old and over. Chambers County has conducted vigorous illiteracy campaigns among the adult negroes for five consecutive years with increasing success, and Chambers made in the nine years 83.2 per cent reduction in illiteracy within the ages of eight to twenty years. Chambers ranked first in reduction of illiteracy among negro children, and first in actual number of adult negroes taught.

Alabama stands fourth from the bottom in the literacy rating of all the states but from 1910 to 1920 Alabama made the third largest reduction in total illiteracy. Over a period of twenty years, Alabama has made the highest reduction of any state in adult negro illiteracy.

WHAT DO WE PLANT?

By Henry Abbey.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the ship, which will cross the sea.
We plant the mast to carry the sails.
We plant the planks to withstand the gales —
The keel, the keelson, the beam, the knee;
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the houses for you and me.
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,
We plant the studding, the laths, the doors.
The beams and siding; all parts that be;
We plant the house when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
A thousand things that we daily see.
We plant the spire that out-towers the crag.
We plant the staff for our country's flag.
We plant the shade, from the hot sun free;
We plant all these when we plant the tree.

A FOREIGN WRITERS' HUMOROUS PHILOSOPHY ON LIFE

this rule.

THE ETERNAL CYCLE seems to be that everything bites its own tail and we human beings are no exception to it. Certainly we are not doing it literally — provided a man is not a snake-being or accidentally should happen to seat himself on his own image — we engage in these practices "figuratively in a certain sense" as written in a German grammar.

With all due respect it must be conceded that in type we are intellectually speaking nothing else than a tribe of tail-negroes of high caste, more or less automatic in this or that respect. Press a button and instantly there is an automatic reaction in the direction indicated. If it's a butcher, you will probably receive a pound of meat. If it's a doctor, you will likely learn that you have appendicitis or mouth-and-hoof disease. A Drygoods Merchant will possibly respond with a bill for dresses to your wife.

A left-partisan will automatically let loose a tirade of nonsense and coined expressions, a communist will create fire-works, verbally and otherwise, and a prohibitionist will drown you in water, etc., etc.

There is practically no variation in the program. It is the same phonograph record played uninterruptedly. Year in and year out the needle of time scratches the worn record while we poor hearers sit like statues listening to the noise of all this unmelodious discord that is called life.

— (Translated from Korsaren.)