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THE DEAD LANGUAGES

Superintendent Churchill in his address before the annual of the Baker High school Friday night called attention to the trouble he had in establishing Latin in the Baker High school. As has always been the case where higher education was favored there was considerable objection from people regardless of class or prejudice. They did not and could not see any advantage to be gained from the study of Latin or other dead languages.

To many good people a study of these languages seems absolutely useless, in fact many of them think the study of Latin or Greek is merely a fad. But it is not. All studies are intended to improve the brain. If a man studied nothing but mathematics he would be one-sided and although probably able to play a good game of chess he could not reason logically. It requires many studies to round out a man's mind. The dead languages have two points in their favor. The first is that a large percentage of our English words come from the Latin. They have Latin and Greek roots, some Hebrew and some French roots and a few reach as far back as the Sanskrit. When we study geology for the purpose of determining the gold bearing rocks of the Baker hills we do not confine our-



Improves the flavor and adds to the healthfulness of the food.

any age or of the modern period, or the carboniferous age, but we go away back to the very beginning of time, when the first crust was formed on the earth's surface, and we study the rocks and the formation and the life of that period. Then we pass to the next and so on until we have built up the earth's surface to its present condition. All this study is absolutely necessary if we would understand the geological formation of the earth. The same is true of our language. If we would understand English thoroughly we must first understand Latin or Greek and Hebrew and Sanskrit will help us, but Latin is an essential. From Latin we pass readily and easily to English, French, Italian and Spanish. In fact, it is well known that after a person has mastered Latin, German and French he can readily read and understand the other Romance languages. This is well known. The English has practically no grammar and we must go to the Latin to get even the rudiments of our grammar. It is safe to say that one who understands at least the rudiments of Latin grammar can never cope with the infinitives of the English. That is true to do many of the grammatical constructions become plain after the master has in. It is what we might call our mother tongue for it is the mother of our language—Baker City Herald.

The publication of General Kuropatkin's history of the Russo-Japanese war has been forbidden in Russia. It will be printed in all the other languages of Europe, however. Russia is still a long way from freedom of speech and of the press.

Booker T. Washington advises the members of his race to accept the name "negro" without objection, as an acknowledgment of their historic ancestry. He thinks that a race which has come up from savagery, through slavery, to its present standing as a civilized, and in most instances an educated, people, has done well enough and need not be ashamed of its history.

It turns out that the government is not the only big organization that has suffered from graft. The railway companies, notably the Pennsylvania, have been in the same boat. Recent developments show that high officials have received large blocks of stock in coal companies in order to influence rates and the prompt placing of cars when ordered. On the old reliable Pennsylvania road, testimony showed that the assistant to President, Cassatt received enough on the side to make his income larger than that of the president. Division superintendents came in for big rake-offs and those in charge of the freight car service grew rich. If such conditions existed in the model corporation, what must be the degree of graft in lines that have not cared to sustain a high standing for probity and correct business principles?

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