

HIGH SCHOOLS.

For 28 years the United States has been establishing one new high school per day. The increase in such schools from 1890 to 1918 was 452 per cent. But the increase in number of graduates was greater still, over 900 per cent. In 1918, the latest year for which figures have been compiled, 224,367 young Americans completed the high school course. One writer often has spoken of the high schools as people's colleges, and the figures given make the appropriateness of the term clear. Through these schools a quarter of a million young Americans are passing each year, not to mention those who enter but never complete the course, says Chicago Journal. A veritable army of our youth is getting in this way a broadening culture that never before in the history of the world was available to such numbers. Of course, the work of building and upbuilding high schools is far from finished. At present about one-tenth of our children graduate from these institutions. We should keep up the drive for better education until at least 80 per cent of the youth of the land takes full advantage of high school opportunities, and every effort should be made to improve the course at the same time. But the record of progress already achieved is inspiring.

This year France planted well-nigh every available acre. As a result, France will this winter supply all the wheat it needs. A country racked through more than four years by the burden of war has made this big stride back toward normal. It shows two things, at least; one is that the spirit to accomplish will do wonders in spite of the as yet unestimated cost in men and energy. The other is that here is a peaceful people intent on peace, a people who turned as one man to the task of repelling the invader, but have not been won to any pleasure in militarism or the conquests of the sword. France, like America, viewed the war as an unescapable task, an interlude in the right and proper business of living, says Milwaukee Journal. And France is turning as rapidly as it can to that proper business of living—producing the necessities of life, making the world richer.

The proposition to make a wife economically independent of her husband, even to the extent of having a separate home, is, of course, impossible if the home is to be preserved in its primitive sanctity. But, on the other hand, the right of the wife to her share in the husband's means is just as patent to the slightest sense of justice, says Baltimore American. The home in which the wife is kept so dependent upon her husband's caprice as to have no money which she can call her own, and in which she has to account for every penny she spends, is no more of the ideal than the other extreme advocated by foolish theorists.

The prince of Wales is reported to have emerged unharmed and smiling from a railroad wreck in which he was caught. To smile and look calm in emergencies is about all a prince can do to impress himself in these days of democracy when so little else is left to royal activities.

From the point of view of the professional politician, the saddest feature of these grand and awful times is the fact that the plain people now insist upon checking up the statements of their leaders before following them—and then, as often as not, not following.

Men are so busy speculating in sugar in Cuba that they refuse to unload ships, and cargoes are rotting on idle ships. So can too much prosperity prove a curse, a lesson which is not going to be learned until it forces its moral through bitter experience.

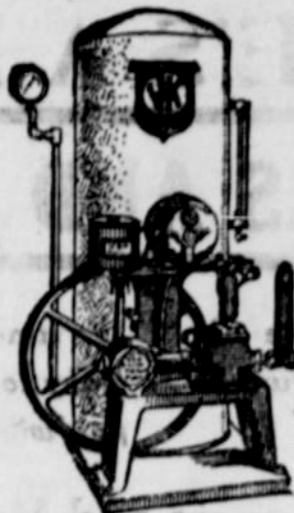
Train callers also receive 13 per cent increase, but doubtless it would be too much to expect that they will on that account deliver their messages hereafter in the English language, instead of the cultivated intonations of the bull and lion.

Regular airplane freight and passenger lines have long been in operation between London and Paris and London and Antwerp. It is time for America to catch up in the utilization of the great American invention.

In order to be a successful sphinx, a man must have a fine psychological sense that will enable him to measure accurately how long people will continue to guess what he is thinking about.

A shoe expert announces that it is real economy to buy several pairs of shoes, but it is better economy to have some other clothes to wear with the shoes and the two are not compatible in these days.

As we understand it, the teacher shortage is best accounted for by outside offers of more money and matrimony.



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LENTS**

COOTIES AND PROFITEERS.

For most of the difficult problems raised by the war human genius found a solution. Men, money, ordnance, ammunition, transports, equipment, strategy, everything pertaining to military art on a mammoth scale, had only to have its need indicated to be supplied. Yet there were two subtle foes of efficiency, the cootie and that other parasitic incubus, the profiteer, with which it was impossible to cope. Even the resourceful Ludendorff was baffled by the profiteer, as he bears witness in his memoirs: "Profiteering was the deadliest sin, and our inability to eradicate it was a matter of the greatest regret to me from the point of view of morale at home and in the field. Many times I made an effort to get to the bottom of it. The war profiteer is a loathsome phenomenon, and he and the corruption of his influence have done us incalculable harm." The war profiteer was the human cootie of the war, "a loathsome phenomenon" which no insecticide of legislation or of moral or military regulation could eradicate, says New York World. "Great fleas have little fleas to bite 'em," but this voracious flea was immune from any restraint. His gains at the expense of his country were an irritant poison to patriotism, and the corruption of his influence, as the German says, did incalculable harm. If there was no remedy for his voracity in war, can none be found in peace?

A Yale professor who is interested in taxation methods gives the country the interesting news—Washington having failed to report it—that the auditing of federal tax returns is three years behind the procession. Thus,

while the citizen is paying his 1920 taxes and congratulating himself that that irritating business is over, leisurely clerks at the national capital are examining his papers of 1917 with the hope of finding mistakes in his arithmetic. Three years from now, unless the present pace falls off, the 1920 reports will receive the minute attention of the experts, says Toledo Blade. It used to be said, "Nothing is certain except death and taxes." Anyway, nothing is so deadly certain as the fact that you'll never know when your taxes are all paid.

It is reported that imports of raisins from Spain have increased 1,400 per cent in six months. Next thing we may expect to hear that congress has appropriated a large sum for a special commission authorized to summon witnesses and to take such other action as may be necessary to investigate and report on the mystery surrounding that increase.

Villa advised the throng of spectators witnessing his surrender to quit politics and go to work. If he had followed his own advice, he would have spared himself and two nations much superfluous trouble, and if his advice is taken, Mexico may yet become a great country.

A light is shed on English methods in British dependencies by the fact that a campaign is being organized in England against the caning of girl pupils in elementary schools by men teachers. When "frightfulness" begins at home, it is apt to gain impetus when carried outside.

Army nurses are to have the same rank as commissioned officers and are to be entitled to the same obedience from the enlisted men. Consequently, when an enlisted man refuses to comply with the nurse's orders, he will be obliged to take his medicine.

Despairing of having the ban upon absinthe lifted, a Paris distiller is now using his stock to run his automobile. His machine will very likely turn out to be in the class which runs away and tries to climb telegraph poles.

Belts for men started out as a fashion and soon took the form of luxury. Then the women quit sewing on buttons and belts have become an essential to those who are sticklers about keeping their pants on.

The old battleship Iowa, which was "Fighting Bob" Evans' flagship in the Spanish war, is to be turned into a target for naval gun practice. After all, that is an end which keeps her in service to the last.

The government is preparing to publish a list of draft evaders. It will be prudent in the war department first to make certain that none of those named happen to have service stripes or decorations.

A horn for the rear of an automobile that will signal when it is backing up, has been invented. And it ought to work to perfection until it humps into one signaling that it is coming ahead.

RED CROSS CHEER IN SOLDIERS' HOSPITALS

Cretone Curtains, Pianos and Phonographs Remarkably By Writer.

By J. F. LANDER

"As dreary as a hospital." It's an often-heard statement, originating probably with someone whose father or mother or baby had lain in a hospital for days—someone whose experience had stamped on his mind forever a picture of white, plain bed; white, plain room; white, silent corridors deserted by all but white-clad, silent nurses. There are many such.

Hospitals now are being established by the score, institutions of the United States public health service which are to care for the former service men who need medical or surgical attention. Some of the patients will make short stays. Some will be there years. Many are tuberculosis wrecked, with none too much joy in life ahead at best.

The public health service has a full-sized task on its hands in actual medical and surgical work. There must be something more if these institutions—some of them here in the Northwest, at Tacoma, Boise, Port Townsend—are different from the hospitals too many of us have known.

The Red Cross is that something more. I learned that when I went out to the old Cushman Indian school, now a new public health service hospital. The buildings were old and alteration work had progressed just far enough to permit of the reception of forty-odd patients who couldn't be crowded into the older institutions; paint was lacking everywhere. It looked dreary enough to be a hospital.

Then I found the Red Cross building, headquarters for the social service workers assigned to the institution. I found the recreation hall—cretone-curtained, equipped with piano, phonograph, books, and furniture which wasn't white and square. I found it filled with "walking cases" listening to Ted Williams' Jazz Band and Al Jolson.

I went with the Red Cross workers to boys who two years ago were fighting men but who now spend day and night in bed. They were not nurses' visits; they were the talks of friends. I saw the auditorium; the motion picture machine from the national Red Cross; books, music, nice things to eat, magazines, tobacco, from the local chapter of the organization. I saw a strange thing—hospital patients who all were happy.

After all, they really don't need to be "as dreary as a hospital."



Measuring the Baby

Red Cross Aids Mothers in Directing Proper Care and Attention for Children.

RED CROSS RUSHES AID IN EXPLOSION ON WALL STREET

According to the superintendents of the Broad Street and Volunteer hospitals of New York, the work of the Red Cross after the recent Wall street explosion proved almost invaluable. The explosion happened at noon on September 16. Red Cross ambulance units with those of downtown hospitals and the police department, were on the scene in time for first aid work. But the principal activity of the Red Cross was to assist the hospitals to which the injured were taken. Before the afternoon had passed 92 nurses had gone to aid the regular forces at the Broad street and Volunteer hospitals. Eighteen Red Cross field directors assisted in hospitals and in compiling and furnishing information concerning dead and injured. Large quantities of hospital supplies and apparatus were furnished, as well as food. Three ambulances and two trucks were on duty, and through the Red Cross social service the matter of getting in touch with the families of victims was competently handled.

The Red Cross Remembers. Ever since demobilization the Red Cross has kept in constant touch with the families of 800,000 soldiers and sailors and marines. This service has embraced almost everything from supplying first aid to seeing a man through to a better job than he ever had before.

When Disaster Comes. Last year in the United States, the Red Cross aided more than 30,000 victims of flood, fire, tornado or other unavoidable disaster in 150 stricken communities.



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