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MANY HEAR OF OREGON

Oregon still is getting a great deal of publicity as a result of the passage of the compulsory public school attendance law last November. The publicity, however, is not of great value from the advertising standpoint.

Oregonians had opportunity to know what the educational world in general thinks of the law when Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of Cornell university, who visited in the city last week, declared that "A measure so un-American as your so-called compulsory education law cannot hope to exist—it is iniquitous. We have no fear of such an act being perpetrated on the people of our state (New York) for it is clearly unconstitutional."

An eastern paper, discussing the proposal in the Oregon legislature to prohibit the marriage of persons who showed "a mental age" of less than 16 years, advises unmarried persons in Oregon to hurry up the weddings because the passage of the school law shows that a large part of the population of this state will be unable to qualify should the proposal become a law.

THE REAL PROBLEM

Next to the Lake Superior iron region the Lorraine field is the most productive in the world; in fact these two fields stand apart from all other ore fields in present productivity. The entire Lorraine field is in French hands but before the war Germany got one-third of its iron from Lorraine. Before the war the German coal reserves were more than double those of England and in spite of the losses to France and Poland Germany retains the most important coal measures of Europe.

Notwithstanding the boundary drawn by the peace treaty between Lorraine iron and Ruhr coal French and German industrial magnates agree that the two regions must be exploited together. But they disagree as to which group shall manage the enterprise and reap the profits. This and not the question of reparations makes the real problem of Franco-German relations. News reports indicate that the reparations problem could be quickly settled if the German magnates agreed to let the French iron-masters have 60 per cent of the European iron and coal trust which the two groups are negotiating to establish. If the French fail in the negotiations they will be tempted to separate the Ruhr valley from the remainder of Germany by force.

Aside from the military situation the advantage lies with the Germans because German coal can attract iron from Sweden and Spain, but French iron needs German coal. In general the coal attracts the iron, as may be seen in the Pittsburg region where iron ore comes from immense distances to the great smelters and steel mills.

Military power and political power in the present-day world must rest in the long run on coal and iron. The overlordship of Europe is bound up with the future control of the Ruhr coal mines. If we keep this fact in mind we can understand to some extent the intensity of the conflict now being resolved in western Europe.

SUSPENDING THE LAW OF GRAVITY

The chamber of commerce of the United States has received from its special education committee a majority report opposing the Sterling-Towner bill which would establish a federal department of education and appropriate \$50,000,000 "for equalizing educational opportunities in the states" and a similar amount for other educational purposes. The Portland chamber of commerce has accepted the findings of the majority of the committee of the national chamber and it is hard to see how any other action could be taken after a perusal of the majority report.

The report points out that no state has made a request for the kind of appropriation contemplated in the bill and no attempt has been made

to show that any state is too poor to maintain an adequate educational system. This being so the committee is able to put the whole argument in a single sentence when it asks: "Is it not fundamentally unsound for the federal government to go to a state or local community with a sum of money and say: 'We know you could perfectly well maintain adequate schools just as well as many other communities all over the country are actually doing, but as you won't make the sacrifice, here is some money we have taken away from these other people for you to use for the purposes.'"

When the Towner bill was first formulated four or five years ago objection was made that the proposed federal department of education would be given effective control of the various state school systems. The revised measure seeks to avoid this criticism by a provision maintaining state educational autonomy. The committee is not impressed by this provision because the bill in other sections sets up various standards which the states must meet in order to receive funds. The committee points to the federal government's experience with its good roads appropriations as showing the way the matter will go. The good roads appropriation, begun in 1916, is on the same fifty-fifty basis as that contemplated in the educational field. President Harding in his message to congress April 12, 1921, said of the road program: "Large federal outlay demands a federal voice in the program of expenditure. Congress cannot justify a mere gift from the federal purse to the several states, to be prorated among the counties for road betterment. Such a course will invite abuses which it were better to guard against from the beginning."

This is the natural and right view for the federal government to take of its appropriations for whatever purpose and it is the view that will prevail in the end, in spite of any self-denying words put into the bill for the purpose of allaying fears of federal encroachment. The committee puts it this way: If we are drawing the specifications for a bridge, we cannot make it safe by inserting words saying that the law of gravity is suspended.

NOTES AND NEWS

Here is a news item which tells why farmers leave home:

"Minneapolis.—One dollar and thirty cents was the net return N. P. Nelson, Leal, N. D., farmer, received from a carload of potatoes shipped from Leal to the Minnesota potato exchange, a buying agency here. Practically all of the balance of the \$336 value of the potatoes at the present market price of 80 cents a hundredweight was eaten up by freight charges.

"The highest charge itemized on the invoice accompanying his check for \$1.30 was \$180 for freight charges. Other charges were: Commission, \$42; inspection, \$4; option, at 7 cents, \$29.40; heater detention, \$2; allowance account quality, 5 cents per hundredweight, \$21; shrinkage, \$27.22; scale, 28 cents.

"Many of the farmers, realizing that they would be losing money by even digging potatoes last fall, left them in the ground, where they have frozen.

Representative Herrick of Oklahoma has introduced in congress a resolution directing the president to collect the war debt from France and placing at his disposal the army and navy for that purpose. It will be well to wait, however, to see how France makes out with a similar collection scheme in Germany.

SHORT STORIES

He—I offer you my heart's first fresh young affections.

She—George, I have often thought I'd like to teach; but I never cared for kindergarten work.

Two hobos met on a blind siding. One had been a salesman whose hours were 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. The other one didn't have any money either.

—Manchester Herald.
Woman (to beggar at door)—No, I ain't got nothin' for you.

Bostonian Bill (reproachfully)—You might refuse me grammatically, at any rate.

"Why are you so late with our milk this morning?" an old lady inquired of her milkman.

"Well, you see, mum," he answered, "it's like this. The law allows us 25,000 bacteria to the gallon, and you wouldn't believe how long it takes to count the little beggars."

She—What is the trouble between Millie and Arthur? Have they had a new quarrel?

He—No; the patch came off their old one.

"Are you a tramp?"

"No, mum! I'm a food conserver. Have you got any old food you don't want wasted?"

Conundrums

Why are the tallest people the laziest? Because they are always longer in bed than others.

What is the proper length for ladies' skirts? A little over two feet.

Why is a dyer's life an enigma? Because he lives when he dyes and dyes when he lives.

What is the greatest affair of the hour known to science? The circulation of the blood.

Why is a cat which catches his tail like a good manager? Because he makes both ends meet.

What is that which we often return but never borrow. Thanks.

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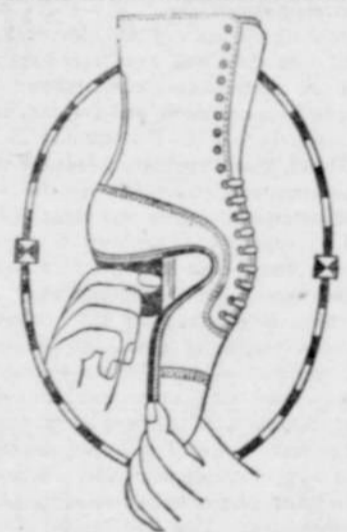
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