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**EDUCATIONAL FADDISM.**

The Common School System Engulfed in Experimental Instruction.

"Cities having undertaken to supplement the work of the states in the matter of free education have assumed a grave responsibility, and the character of the citizenship of the future, as well as the quality of the government, depends upon the correct solution of the problem involved," says Bird S. Coler in Everybody's Magazine. "With millions to spend for free schools, there opened a wide field for experiments. The education of the masses in such a popular thing that any person who proposes to contribute a plan or suggestion to the scheme is certain of a hearing, and too often of opportunity for mischief. A wave of faddism has swept over the country in recent years, and in many cities it has almost engulfed the common schools that were originally the means of the free education for which property was taxed. The proper government of any municipality requires a prompt return to a system of thorough instruction in the public schools in those studies that are the true base of all higher education. Municipal income does not justify the maintenance of any general system of so-called higher education or the teachings of fads and experiments. If there are high schools, they must be maintained to provide rewards of merit and industry in the common schools, and they ought to include a special course of study preparatory for service in the city government. But the real function and duty of good municipal government is to provide a thorough course of practical study which will enable the children of the poor to acquire the true foundation of higher education before they are compelled to go to work. The boys and girls who are forced to work at 15 may, with a little assistance, educate themselves as they toil if they have been thoroughly taught the rudiments of a practical English education. For supplemental knowledge the city can provide the means with night schools free lectures, libraries and reading rooms."

**COMING TO OREGON.**

Cheap Railroad Rates Attracting Many People to This Section.

It is astonishing how the large number of home-seekers are coming to the Pacific coast.

Mr. A. D. Charlton, Assistant General Passenger Agent of the Northern Pacific, received a telegram from Mr. Charles S. Fee, G. P. & T. A., at St. Paul today, saying that about 500 left St. Paul this morning for the West. This is on account of the \$30.00 rate from Chicago and \$25.00 rate from St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, placed in effect by the Northern Pacific Railway Company, the first excursion starting February 12th, at which time about 1,300 purchased tickets for points throughout the West, and about the same number purchased tickets on February 19th, for Pacific coast points, and from the telegrams received by Mr. Charlton today it would appear that there will be between 500 and 600 reach the coast via the Northern Pacific about Friday of this week. The eyes of thousands of Eastern people are turned toward the West and as a result of the low rates placed in effect by this company, the state of Oregon will undoubtedly receive a large increase in her population and be the means of adding very materially to the wealth of the state.

**Franchises Belong to the People.**

"The general principle that all special rights, privileges and franchises in, over or under the streets and highways of the city are the property of the corporation and the people," says Bird S. Coler in Everybody's Magazine, "has at last obtained general recognition in public opinion and at the hands of lawmakers. It does not follow, however, that any considerable number of municipalities will shortly undertake to provide transportation, lighting, or other modern conveniences; but proper government will not prevail until every franchise and special privilege granted to individuals and private corporations is made to yield a revenue based upon its actual earning value. The granting of perpetual franchises must remain an unpleasant memory of the days when American cities were ruled and robbed, not governed. No fixed law or rule can be made for the proper regulation of this important feature of municipal business, but in future the grant of any special privilege will be restricted by contracts and limitations to protect the rights of the people and secure a portion of the general income that may one day supersede all direct taxation."

**Return of the Shirley Company.**

This clever organization will play a return engagement at Cordray's theater commencing March 3. The Shirley company made its debut in Portland a short time ago at this theater. It came to Portland without being heralded as a great dramatic organization, which is something unusual, but before the week was finished the theatergoers discovered that the company was well balanced and very clever. Its business increased every night during their engagement in Portland, which was a sure indication of gaining the admiration of the theatergoing public. The Shirley company has a long list of excellent plays, and owing to the popular demand, the company has been secured for a return engagement at Cordray's theater, commencing next Sunday evening. The repertoire for the week has been carefully selected and the plays will give the company an opportunity which it has not had heretofore of showing its real worth.

**DOINGS OF THE RACE**

**General Information Concerning the Afro-American.**

TAKEN FROM OUR VARIOUS EXCHANGES

Showing the Progress of the Various Lines of Human Endeavor Being Accomplished by the Race.

Among the race are 2,000 lawyers and as many physicians—\$12,000,000 of school property, \$40,000,000 of church property, 140,000 homes and farms valued at \$750,000,000, personal property to the amount of \$170,000,000.

The National Capital Searchlight, a new educational journal, has appeared, and looks hearty enough to stay. It is edited by Mr. M. Grant Lucas, and he has plenty of patience and a capacity for hard, continuous and oftentimes unrequited work. He will make the paper a go.

Colored men are being promoted in the census office. Messrs. John W. Pope, Walter R. Franklin, Horace Sedgewick and George A. Cox were advanced last week from \$720 to \$900 per annum. Miss Della M. White, daughter of the congressman, has led her section for some time, and has been promoted to \$1,000. The highest salary is drawn by W. T. Ferguson, rated at \$1,200.

The "Pan-American Coons," a colored show of some note, will open at Niagara Falls, Ont.; it will be under the management of John D. Toll. The show will be staged under the personal direction of Clarence Ciesel, while Billy S. LeVard is stage manager. The roster of the company is: John son and Verona, Billy S. LeVard, Wilson Brothers, Sadie Reeves, Ward and McLeod, Silver Bell quartette, Bee Moore, Kitty Wilkes and her Eight Comedy Koons and a band of ten pieces. They will play all summer and are booked well in all the leading parks and fairs.

Fayetteville, N. C., has a silk factory owned by the Ashley & Bailey Co., of Paterson, N. J. It is managed by Rev. T. W. Thurstone, colored. The building is of brick, three stories high, and the mill has 10,000 spindles and employs 400 operatives, mainly boys and girls between 10 and 18 years old. The first floor contains the reeling department over which Mr. J. H. Scarborough, a young German, is foreman; the second is devoted to winding and doubling, and Gertrude Hood, daughter of Bishop Hood is in charge; and the third, weaving, with Harry Fieldhouse, an Englishman, as foreman. The mill has the appearance of a well regulated school. The operatives are thoroughly organized and work with perfect system.

What the Negro has done for the South; so says Professor W. H. Council, one of our foremost educators: Reduced Negro illiteracy 45 per cent in 30 years. Children in the common schools, 2,500,000. Students in higher institutions, 45,000. Teachers, 35,000. Students learning trades, 30,000. Students pursuing classical courses, 1,500. Students pursuing scientific courses, 1,500. Students pursuing business courses, 1,000. Graduates, 20,000. Volumes in libraries, 300,000. Number of higher institutions, 175. Negro doctors, 600. Negro lawyers, 300. Books written by Negroes, 400. Negro banks, 3. Negro magazines, 3. Negro newspapers, 400. Value of libraries, \$500,000. Value of school property, \$15,000,000. Value of church property, \$40,000,000. 150,000 farms valued at \$450,000,000. \$325,000,000. Personal property, \$165,000,000. Raised for his own education, \$13,065,000. The 4,000,000 slaves had a taxable value of \$3,500,000,000. The Negroes have accumulated in 37 years nearly one-third of that amount. Slavery was 250 years accumulating \$3,500,000,000 in human flesh. Negro education will add double the value to the material wealth of the South in less than a hundred years. The Negro churches, schools, colleges and thought power in which the South is becoming rich cannot be estimated in dollars. The best thought of Europe and America—the wealth of Europe and America, has been directed toward education in the South and toward the material development of the South.—Indianapolis Freeman.

**Popular Agent for a Popular Route.**

The elegant new offices of a number of the railroads centered in this city, which have recently been opened in the new Falling building, corner Third and Washington streets, speak in no uncertain way of the prominence which Portland has attained in the matter of railroads in the past few years.

One of the handsomest and most conveniently arranged of any in "railroad row," is the local ticket office of the Great Northern, No. 123 Third street. This company in keeping with its well known progressive ideas has fitted up quarters second to none in the city, or in fact in the northwest. But that fact alone will not do business unless there is associated with it courteous and capable gentlemen behind the counters. In this respect the Great Northern is the happy possessor of one of the most popular and genial city passenger and ticket agents in the city, and the feeling toward this company which is shown by the liberal patronage of the people of Portland is due to the personal efforts, uniform courtesy and general popularity of Mr. A. B. C. Denniston.



**CITY NEWS**

C. A. Ritter, Society Editor.

We shall know no favorites, and shall be absolutely impartial. To insure publication, all local news must reach us not later than Thursday morning of each week.

Mrs. Annie Newsome is improving slowly.

Mrs. M. E. Sykes continues to improve in health.

Mrs. Sarah Gayles is quite ill at her home with pleurisy.

Mrs. Clara Campbell left for her home in Fort Smith, Ark., this week.

Mrs. T. D. Thomas, Robert Hill and Thos. Marsten were reported as slightly indisposed this week.

If things turn out right Mr. R. Crawford thinks he may be able to secure his pay for the flat irons.

Owing perhaps to the lenten season, there has been an utter dearth of social happenings for the past week.

Mr. Thomas Davis, who is in the employ of the engineer corps of the O. R. & N. Co., spent Thursday in our city. He left for Walla Walla.

We have met a few Afro-Americans this week who are keeping a weather eye open for some benefits from the changes expected to be made under the new charter.

Mr. Ed. Williams, who has been employed in an Astoria saw mill for some time, is in the city looking for employment. Should he be successful, he will move his family to Portland.

The juvenile choir recently organized under the auspices of the A. M. E. Zion church now numbers 20 voices. They will make their first public appearance on Sunday, March 3, at 8 P. M. An excellent programme has been arranged for the occasion.

The Lucy Thurman League of the W. C. T. U. held a large and interesting meeting at the parsonage of the Zion A. M. E. church last Wednesday afternoon. The next meeting will be held at the parsonage of the Bethel A. M. E. church, Wednesday, March 6, at 3 P. M. As business of great importance will be presented the officers ask a full attendance.

Interest still continues unabated in the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Literary Society. The debate at the last meeting was spirited, while the new feature introduced at the meeting this week proved to be all that the committee desired and the members have called for another trial of the "progressive convention," which will be on the programme March 7, with some slight variations.

We want your trade. Music hall prices; musical instruments of all kinds, cash or installments. H. H. Wright, wholesale and retail dealer in music and musical merchandise. The Music building, 349 Washington street, Portland, Oregon.

**Eugenie Blair at the Marquam.**

Eugenie Blair is featuring "Carson" in her repertoire this season, giving an entirely new and original version of the dramatic possibilities of Prosper Merimee's tragic love romance, which gained its first renown when made into a grand opera with the musical setting by Bizet. Miss Blair will produce "Carson," in addition to her other great success, "A Lady of Quality," during her engagement in this city at the Marquam Grand. Friday night and Saturday matinee, March 2, "A Lady of Quality," will be the play; Saturday night, "Carson." Lovers of beautiful gowns will experience a bountiful feast for the eyes, as in both plays Miss Blair makes several complete changes in costume. The advance sale of seats has been heavy.

Mr. W. H. Clark, who is secretary of the "Rival Oil Company," one of the recent great promoters and successes in the business of locating and drilling for oil on the Pacific coast, has established a branch office in this city. There is no representative of that business west of New England who is better informed on the matters to which he is devoting his energies and none anywhere whose reputation for honorable work is more perfect. The New Age recommends him cheerfully, because it knows him and suggests that those who desire to invest in stock in oil wells should call on Secretary Clark, in room 1, Multnomah block, Fifth and Morrison.

No doubt the stockholders of the Rival Oil company will be pleased to know that the company is drilling on well No. 1, and have passed the first oil sands, with oil. Stock can be had for 50 cents per share. They own their land, and will make for the stockholders many times their investment. Mail orders will receive prompt attention, and parties interested are invited to call at the company's office, room 1, Multnomah block, Portland. They refer, by permission, to Merchants National bank, Portland; E. W. Godfrey, stamp department, post-office; H. J. Martin, druggist, corner Washington and Sixth.

The Burlington company has placed an order with the Pullman company for five dining cars. The cost, including china, linen, silver, etc., will be about \$20,000 each. The cars will have the new empire roof, and will seat 40 passengers. The furnishings will be rich, yet severely plain. Instead of using mirrors and flitres work to enhance the appearance of the cars, the builders will achieve the desired result by the use of polished woods.

Spranger's Arcade, E. H. Spranger, Proprietor, southwest corner Sixth and Couch streets. New and strictly up-to-date. Ladies' annex elegantly furnished and secure from intrusion. Reading room, pool and billiards.

NEW NORTH-west Lodge, No. 2554, G. U. O. of O. F. meets at 205 1/2 Second street, corner of Salmon, first and third Tuesday of each month. All Odd Fellows in good standing are cordially invited. F. D. THOMAS, E. WATSON, P. S.



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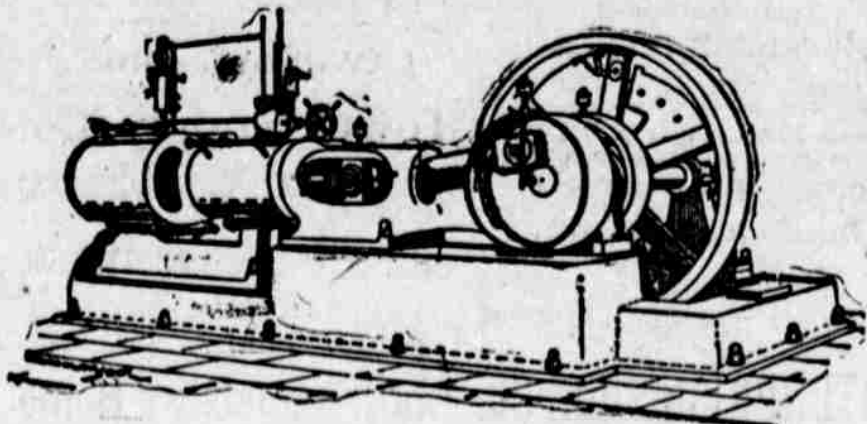
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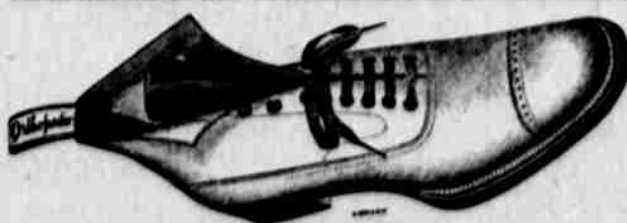
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