

THE NEW AGE

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EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

EDITORIAL

The following open letter has been addressed "to the colored people in the South" by Dr. Booker T. Washington.

The problem of providing proper school facilities for our children is of greatest importance to us as a race. The thinking people of New York and of Massachusetts feel that a ten months' school system answers this demand.

The great majority of our people must depend upon the public schools for all the education they will receive. Not more than one per cent. of the colored children of school age will enter a private or an endowed school, and upon the public school rests the burden of educating the remaining ninety-nine per cent.

To fall here, then, to neglect our youth in the most formative period of their lives, is to do them an irreparable harm. To speak more definitely, I find that after careful investigation the Negro children in the ex-slave states are in school on an average of 107 days in the year, and that only one-third of the children of school age are in school; that in North Carolina, for example, the average school term is only 68 days, and that only 22.5 per cent of the Negro children attend school at all.

With these facts before us, the main question then is: What shall be done? The first answer is that we pay our taxes and thereby aid the state in supporting the public schools. Because of their poverty, and perhaps, in some cases, their indifference, the states are not supporting an effective school system for our people, especially in the smaller towns and rural districts.

In the present condition of the public schools, I would urge with all the earnestness I can summon, that our ministers, teachers, business men, leaders, parents and newspapers, insist our people shall: (1) Go before the public school authorities and ask for better school facilities. (2) See that all taxes, especially the poll taxes, which go directly, in most states, into the school fund, are promptly paid. (3) Co-operate in every way possible with the public school officials, and raise money by private taxation, or other methods, to supplement the present school funds until the school terms are extended to at least eight months. Unless the child is not kept in school for at least seven or eight months in the year, we cannot expect him to be educated.

In conclusion, I would repeat that, in the present important period in our growth as a people, immediate attention to the public schools is fundamental. If each community will do its duty the race will be lifted and strengthened; and a general quickening will be evident everywhere.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

American Husbands.

WRITER in the London Telegraph deprecates the fact that the American husband of the "middle class" does not interfere in domestic affairs and "seldom examines the accounts of the grocer, the butcher or the baker and hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food."

These are simple extracts from the writer's long article and it shows the vast difference between the American and the English husband. In England the husband thinks that he has to "keep tabs" on every penny and dole money out to his wife in gingerly portions, and to the American way of thinking, look upon his wife merely as a servant.

The natural independence of the average American girl would resent a husband's constant interference in her household duties and expenses. She considers herself perfectly capable of looking after that end of the family, and she is right. This shows the difference between American and English girls.—St. Louis Republic.

The Hero in Politics.

THE case of Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson shows that the war hero does not always have the open sesame to the prizes of politics. Young Hobson resigned from the navy a year or two ago, and announced that he intended to seek an election to Congress. One of his objects in Congress, as he recently declared, would have been to work for the construction of a bigger navy for the United States than England has.

But Hobson's war record did not prove to be so powerful an asset as he and some others supposed it would be. He has been beaten by John H. Bankhead, of the Sixth Alabama District, a very much less picturesque person, but a person who has had an experience of eighteen years in Congress, and who served in the Legislature of his State many years before going to Washington, while Hobson never has had any political service of any sort.

Like his companion in arms, Dewey, the hero of the Meritmac has had bad luck in politics. The sailors in this country have been less fortunate than soldiers. Moreover, the war in which Hobson figured has given no political prize to anybody except President Roosevelt. It furnished him the governorship of New York, and this led to the presidency. The chances are that it has no more political posts for anybody.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Will Penmanship Become a Lost Art.

DISCUSSION of "vertical writing" in the schools, which has been revived of late, naturally raises the question as to the future status of penmanship as a means of recording the facts of commercial exchange or conveying the thoughts of men.

Is penmanship destined to become a lost art. "Vertical handwriting" was introduced in the schools because it was supposed to be better adapted to the needs of our time than the old Spencerian, running hand. It is more condensed, and, if properly taught, more legible than the old style. But now comes the parental objector with the contention that the "vertical" writing disqualifies the child for clerical positions in mercantile or banking con-

cerns, that it is "not a good hand for bookkeeping." And yet it was this objection to the old, running, long hand that led to the introduction of the vertical system, whose condensed, legible form was supposed to adapt it perfectly to mercantile uses.

The question suggested by the discussion of "vertical writing" is: How long will penmanship of any kind last? How long will we need to teach it in the schools? Isn't the typewriter supplanting it in all departments of business endeavor?

To discuss intelligently these questions we have first to get rid of the notion that there is anything sacred about "penmanship." Following the law of evolution, if it becomes useless, it will have to go. As a matter of fact, isn't its usefulness even now confined to social correspondence and bookkeeping? How long will it take to break down the social barriers against the use of the typewriter for polite correspondence. May not the typewriter become as common and as necessary in the home as the sewing machine?

As for bookkeeping, machines have already been invented for writing in books, and it can be but a question of time when mechanical ingenuity will supply the perfect and practical bookkeeping typewriter. And then what will become of penmanship—and the sticklers for a particular form of writing?—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mixed Marriages.

THE people who have lately been agitating the question of "mixed marriages" of various sorts—meaning by the term, marriages between people of different white races and different sects—are, of course, looking at the question from their own race or religious standpoint altogether. This is a matter in which all the bane, or all the good, depends on the point of view.

Broadly speaking, the interest of the American nation lies in a multiplicity of mixed marriages. The safety of the republic demands that there shall be no upgrowth of castes, no hard and fast delimitation of component elements. Our public schools are the greatest mixing agency on the earth. Our politics are themselves a mixed marriage of races and cults. America is the melting pot of the nations.

Our young people have taken their cue from the school and the hustings. They mix, and no one can stop them from mixing. Nine out of ten of the young families known to every reader of these words are probably in some sense fusions. Religious considerations are a more potent bar to mixture than race considerations, save when the race happens to be African. But even religious bars fall before a fusion of elements which is proceeding here on a grander scale, and in more rapid movement, than has ever before been known.

Love laughs at canons, at rules, even at anathemas. Perhaps it would often do better to obey them than to scorn them. It all depends, in the last resort, upon the individual will. And we have here a land in which Cupid is as free as air, with no will or tradition or authority to overmaster him.—New York Mail and Express.

Boy Bandits and Their Origin.

HERE is a great moral in the execution of the three Chicago boy bandits, and it shows that there is something worse for boys than cigarettes. It is the dime novel that glorifies the deeds of train robbers, bank robbers and other robbers. This may be the initiation of public sentiment building for the suppression of publishing houses that issue such pernicious books.

Four legal hangings and one prospective hanging in Illinois and Missouri and nine murders are the latest crop of this kind of printing. The criminal press becomes as much a part of the care of the state as the criminal who performs the homicides. The criminal play staged at the theater is also part of the machinery that supplies galleys' fruit. A censorship of publications and of plays is likely to suggest itself to the public mind, although Uncle Sam's supervision of the United States mails in some measure serves the purpose.

This is a free country in which no one is allowed to incite to crime by public speech. Is any one to be permitted to incite to crime by public print? Books sold under the name of "The Boy Bandits" or similar titles will continue to do their pernicious work until public authority must interfere.—Illustrated Home Journal.

CAPTURING A GIANT SQUID.

One of the most interesting objects in the Natural History Museum in Trondheim, Norway, is a large octopus. E. R. Kennedy, the author of "Thirty Seasons in Scandinavia," not only saw the octopus, but a little later heard the story of the fisherman whose boat it attacked, and also by two independent witnesses.

The fisherman was leisurely rowing on a calm day close to the rock-bound shore of one of the fjords situated some fifty miles north of Trondheim. Suddenly a long and glistening arm swept over the stern of the boat and remained fixed there.

The fisherman, astonished at this unwonted apparition, dropped his oars and sprang to his feet. Like magic another hideous-looking arm shot over the gunwale. The boat canted. The man, realizing that he was attacked by some monster against which his old fish-knife was the only available weapon, seized his oars and labored with might and main to get his boat into a crevice of the rocks, all the time yelling for his mates, who were not far off.

He had to strain every nerve to drag his hideous cargo after him, for the suckers never relaxed. When, half-exhausted, he got the bow of his craft within reach of willing hands, it took the three men to haul it up a slight incline, for the monster still hung on, even over the bare rocks.

Then they belabored its head with oars and clubs. Having safely secured it, they sent off to the nearest station and telegraphed concerning their prize. It was at once purchased by the museum, and carried there after it had been photographed.

They stretched its arms out before preparing it. The longest were each five feet, or ten feet four inches, in length. Over all, together with the great carapace body, the monster measured thirty feet across.

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FEED CALVES COD-LIVER OIL.

Animals Make Great Gains on This Kind of Nourishment.

An attempt is being made to substitute cod-liver oil for the natural fat of milk in feeding calves, according to the Philadelphia Record. Milk contains, as is generally known, all the nutrients necessary for the full development of young animal life. If one of these elements is removed it has to be replaced with a substitute of like kind in order to insure thrifty development. Butter fat and cream, of course, are the most highly prized and valuable of dairy products, and some resourceful individual suggested that these might be extracted by pressing the whole milk through a separator and their loss be made up to the calf by adding an equivalent amount of cod-liver oil, another fat nutrient.

Experiments have accordingly been in progress for some time at one of the agricultural colleges in Yorkshire and recent reports seem to indicate that they are entirely successful. There is but little labor involved. The cod-liver oil and skim milk is a cheaper feed than the whole milk and the calves appear to thrive on it. During a feeding experiment embracing some 28 weeks it was found that the average daily gain of the calves fed on whole milk until they were weaned was 2 pounds; those fed on skim milk and oil and continued on an oil ration, 2.4 pounds, while those which had been fed oil and milk but from which the oil was subsequently withheld gained only 2.1 pounds.

ONE PENALTY OF WEALTH.

Indigestion Afflicts Many Men Who Have Immense Fortunes.

One curse of riches which, it is said, has come to quite a large number of Americans who have, during the past few years, made considerable fortunes, is indigestion, due to what may be termed good living. The sudden transition from a simple life, where hard work was required early and late, to a life of luxury with but little hard work, has proved a change too great to be healthfully made. It is a change which has come to many who have not during their previous life had to take into account that where

SOLDIERS SEATED WITHOUT CHAIRS.



Soldiers in the French army have a drill to perfect them in the art of sitting down comfortably without chairs. A dozen or more men stand in a circle each facing the back of the next in line, at a carefully calculated distance apart. At the word of command they sit down, each resting on the knees of the man behind him. In this way, as the accompanying picture illustrates, the weight is distributed around the entire circle.

physical exercise does not come with a man's daily pursuits some means of obtaining it through out-of-door sports of a greater or less athletic character is essential if good health is to be maintained.

To eat and drink, possibly to excess, to live luxuriously—that is, to satisfy all one's desires without material physical exertion—is almost certain to be physically demoralizing and the number of those not beyond the middle period of life who have in the last few years acquired great wealth, who are now under medical treatment, not so much for nervous ailments as for what may be termed an excess of luxury, is said to be exceedingly large.

There is, perhaps, this compensation in life, that the man of moderate means, who is compelled by the necessity of the case to live in a reasonably simple manner, is more likely to enjoy better health while he lives and continue on to a good old age, than is the man who does not have to place the least restriction upon his expenditures and who cannot withstand the temptation to consume all of the dainties procurable by money.—Boston Herald.

COST OF CANADA'S CANALS.

Enormous Outlay for Water Ways that are of But Little Commercial Value.

For many years the government of the Dominion of Canada has devoted much labor and an enormous amount of money to the improvement of the

water ways of the country. While these have undoubtedly had their effect in cheapening the cost of transportation, it is the opinion of many that the compensation has scarcely justified the cost.

According to the minister of railways and canals, the government has already spent on canals \$102,481,545, an amount slightly in excess of the outlay authorized for the improvement of the Erie canal by the much larger population of New York. It is the time-honored policy of Canada to improve its natural water ways and construct artificial ones.