

COMMON SCHOOLS LOSE ATTENDANCE

Educational Report Shows the Higher Institutions Well Patronized.

Washington, July 20.—Are fewer children born? Do larger numbers die per million of population now than 20 years ago? Or is the average length of human life materially increasing? These are questions suggested in the introductory statement of the report of the United States bureau of education for 1911, following the statement that the percentage of the total population enrolled in the schools in 1910 was less than in 1890.

It is pointed out that important methods of gathering statistics account for a part of the loss, but on the other hand other authorities note that compulsory education laws and like social agencies are bringing a greater and greater proportion of children to school. The introductory statement to the education bureau's document says in part:

Common Schools Lose.
"There was an apparent decrease in the percentage of the total population enrolled in the schools as a whole from 22.54 in 1890 to 21.54 in 1910. The loss may be given in numbers as 919,723. In other words, the grand total of school enrollment in 1910 would have been 20,731,645 if the percentage of 1890 had been maintained, in place of the 19,811,922 grand total.

"All this loss and more is suffered by the elementary schools, for the higher institutions made substantial gains and the secondary schools show marked increase in enrollment as compared with the total population.

Fewer Children Reported.
"There is no reason for the belief that the schools have lost ground in reality. This comparison is with total population, not school population, and it is probable that there are relatively fewer children now than formerly.

"If there are not so many children proportionately, there will naturally be proportionately fewer pupils. Furthermore, it is well known that the constant improvement in statistical methods has resulted in the elimination to an increasing extent of duplicate enrollments. The decrease that results is apparent only and causes no concern."

Decrease Is Relative.
In further support of the contention, figures are cited which show that had the apparent relative decrease of 919,723 in enrollment been real, the loss would have been more than made up in the increased efficiency of the common schools, for the per cent of average daily attendance increased from 68.61 in 1890 to 71.30 in 1910; the average length of school term increased from 134.7 days to 157.5 days between the same dates. At the same time the average number of days' schooling received by each child of school age increased from 52.2 in 1890 to 80.5 in 1910, while the average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled increased from 86.3 in 1890 to 118.0 in 1910.

Portlander Visits in Washington.
Washington Bureau of The Journal, Washington, D. C. July 20.—H. A. Townsend, a real estate dealer of Portland, is visiting here, after making a tour of New England.

Family Is All Together First Time in 29 Years



Members of J. C. Johnson family in reunion at Salem, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson shown in center.

Salem, Or., July 20.—A family reunion at the home of J. C. Johnson on Winter street in Salem, brought together the family for the first time since the marriage of the oldest daughter, 29 years ago. There were present J. C. Johnson, the father, who was born in Pike county, Illinois, on May

29, 1842; Violetta Johnson (nee Gun- saules) the mother, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, on April 19, 1846, and the following children: Lizzie A., wife of J. H. Daniel of Eugene, Or.; A. J., of Corvallis, Or.; Etta A., wife of J. C. Simpson of near Alirle, Or.; C. V., of Portland, Or.; Pearl L.,

wife of A. S. Shaw of Salem; also the husbands and wives of the above children and 15 grandchildren, making a total of 27. This is one of the early pioneer families of this state, the parents having come across the plains, the father in 1847 and the mother in 1853, both families settling in Marion county, near Jefferson.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WORLD'S NEWS

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

week of the arbitration committee appointed to settle the differences between eastern railroads and 39,000 locomotive engineers who voted overwhelmingly to strike last March, is regarded as the most important effort at peaceful arbitration of a labor dispute ever made in the United States. Contracts with the coal miners in Wyoming and Montana will expire on September, after having been in effect for the last five years, and demands for a general increase in wages are anticipated by the operators. By an almost unanimous vote, the Western Federation of Miners, in session at Cripple Creek, decided that local unions could make long time contracts. The action was precipitated by a discussion of the action of the Butte, Mont., union in making a three year contract.

Miscellaneous

MANY sections of the country were visited during the week by torrential rains, cloudbursts and disastrous floods, causing loss of life and immense damage to property. A cloudburst sent a wall of water 25 feet high through Denver, Colo., during which three persons were drowned, 300 houses swept away and the city damaged \$1,000,000. At Alton, Ill., the principal streets were flooded to a depth of nine feet, causing the death of four persons and doing \$500,000 damage. A 10 inch rainfall in the vicinity of St. Louis did damage estimated at \$1,000,000, while a tornado at Grand Rapids, Mich., left 40 injured persons in its wake and enormous property damage. Washington city was flooded by a five inch rainfall and the government suffered heavily

from loss of goods in submerged basements. The greatest damage was done in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, where cloudbursts wrecked two cities and many small towns, killing 1000 persons and destroying all crops within an area of 1000 square miles.

Thirteen persons were killed, eight of them women, and more than 40 were injured in a wreck on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad at West- burn Springs, a suburb of Chicago, due to a dense fog which hid the signals.

John Armstrong Chaloner has deeded his entire property, amounting to \$1,500,000, to the Virginia Trust company, in trust, to make certain that no part of it got into the hands of his New York relatives, who have been trying to prove him insane. He retains a life interest in the estate. Specific bequests are made to half a dozen institutions of learning.

Ex-Senator John L. Wilson is now sole owner of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, having purchased the minority interest of William Wallace Chapin, who resigns as general manager.

Through the Weeks' bill, passed for the purpose of protecting the headwaters of navigable streams, Oregon has received \$10,000 for forest fire protection. A force of 60 men under the state forester will be distributed in the timbered sections.

Five were added to the death roll this week of those attempting to conquer the air. At Palo Alto, Cal., Victor Morris Smith, Jr., was instantly killed while his mother, two brothers and fiancée looked on; the noted French aviator, Olivares, fell 500 feet at Paris, and on the same day Lieutenant Czekust lost his life by a fall from a military aeroplane at Sebastopol; at Quincy,

Mass., Lawrence Stafford fell 2000 feet into Quincy bay and Lieutenant Pressen of the German army, was killed when his monoplane collapsed at Leipzig.

In the national typewriter contests at Spokane, held under the auspices of the National Commercial Teachers' Federation, Miss Florence E. Wilson of New York, copied 7219 words with 68 errors, from unfamiliar copy, breaking all world's records.

Fifteen bodies have been recovered and many more are believed to be buried in the debris of a cloudburst 20 miles from Lovelock, Nev., Thursday night, which destroyed the mining camp of Mazuma and partially destroyed the nearby camp of Seven Troughs.

Because the city council of Charleston, Wash., had granted a fourth saloon license against the emphatic protest of the National Commercial Teachers' Federation, the city council of the Puget Sound Navy Yard closed to all sailors and marines, thus practically cutting the town of Charleston off from all trade of the yard.

PUBLIC BUILDING PLANS LACK DEFINITE POLICY

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, July 20.—Extravagance and waste in public expenditures for buildings is charged in the report of the house committee on public buildings, just submitted to congress. Possibilities of fraud are also pointed out. The committee recommends that government buildings be standardized and endeavors to point out what it considers the folly of maintaining a big force of draughtsmen and architects to make plans for every building constructed by the government. The report finds that since 1902 721 buildings have been erected and that there are now pending bills for 750 buildings, to cost an aggregate of \$70,000,000.

DIKING PROJECT SAVES LOWLANDS

Kelso Experimenter Proves Value of New System of Treating Land.

(Special to The Journal.)
Kelso, Wash., July 20.—Success in the diking of lowlands in the Columbia river valley has sent up the hopes of those who have been urging the work of reclamation. For years many people have questioned the wisdom of attempting the work of diking the lands in the vicinity of this city, the claim having been made that the seepage through the dikes would be too great for an ordinary pumping plant to handle. Engineers were never consulted as to the feasibility of reclamation by diking and the theory was allowed to retard progress until recently, when an experiment was made by W. J. Machette, one of the most enthusiastic believers in the cultivation of the soil as the prime element in the development of southwestern Washington, proved highly successful.

Practical Work Shown.
Mr. Machette is postmaster at LaDu, and a southwest Washington fair commissioner. This year Mr. Machette constructed a dike at his farm that is successfully resisting the rising waters of the Columbia. There are 20 acres enclosed by the dike and Mr. Machette says the seepage is so slight that he intends to construct a greater dike next year. The present dike was built at a very small cost—20 days' work for one man and a team being required to complete a wall 15 feet wide at the bottom, four feet across on top and 3 1/2 feet high.

Ditch for Seepage.
The dike at the Machette place will protect the inclosure and reclaim 17 acres of swamp land, three acres of the land enclosed being land that does not overflow. Inside the dike a foot-deep ditch has been dug, into which all seepage flows, to be turned by a pump into a gasoline plant. Mr. Machette has a six horsepower engine and two inch centrifugal pump, but asserts that a two and one half horsepower engine would easily do the work pumping only one hour a day, the larger motor having been put in for other work that is heavier.

Good Crops Grown.
The reclaimed land has this year been planted in potatoes, artichokes and turnips, and Mr. Machette is looking for splendid crops, as the reclaimed land, having been enriched by annual silt deposits from the Columbia river for many years, is the best on the farm. Mr. Machette says that while such a dike as he has constructed would probably not withstand the wash of a swiftly moving stream, it could be easily and cheaply built where backwater alone inundates, and thus reclaim some of the finest of the land.

ACTOR CHARGED WITH KILLING SWEETHEART

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Allentown, Pa., July 20.—Shot down, it is alleged, by a jealous actor, Lovanda Caynes, a 23-year-old girl, is dead, and

William Free, a prominent business man of South Bethlehem, is dying here today. They were found last night lying side by side in the girl's apartments. Patrolmen were attracted to the scene by the sound of five revolver shots. An actor was seen to leave the girl's apartments on the run. Free, though fatally wounded, was able to tell the district attorney that he was calling on the girl, and while they were conversing the actor appeared, fired five times at them and fled. It was reported that Miss Caynes killed the actor yesterday.

Stanley Issues Denial.
(United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, July 20.—Charging that certain interests have been circulating "distorted and misleading information"

concerning the contents of the forthcoming report of the house steel investigating committee, Chairman Stanley today emphatically denied that the report would recommend the dissolution of the steel trust.

WOMEN DRIVE BURGLARS WITH VOLLEY OF SHOTS

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Berkeley, Cal., July 20.—Two burglars are being sought by the police here today, following an attempt to rob a house in which Mrs. N. Carson and Mrs. James Sells reside. The women heard the burglars in the early hours this morning and drove them from the house with a volley of shots.

Journal Want Ads bring results.

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