

# ZION SCHOOLS FIGHT SCIENCE

## Glenn Voliva Puts Radical Ideas Into Practice in Church Schools

### TAUGHT 'EARTH IS FLAT

### School Teachers Tell Youngsters That All Modern Theories Are Wrong

ZION, Ill., Nov. 17. — Zion schools, of which Wilbur Glenn Voliva, the overseer of the colony,

is president, have adopted his new theories of a flat world and the absence of gravitation, and the 1000 grade and high school pupils believe them implicitly, according to their teachers.

The public school maintained by the state board of education and attended by the children of non-members of Voliva's Christian Catholic Apostolic church still teaches however, that the world is a globe moving through limitless space and that it was the attraction of gravity which caused the apple to fall on Isaac Newton's head.

**Study Course Shown**  
At the Zion schools the new course of study teaches that:

The earth is a flat, circular world, with a north pole in the exact center, no south pole, and surrounded by a wall of ice which keeps venturesome mariners from falling off the rim.

That the earth has no motion, but remains stationary in space.

That the sun is not millions of miles in diameter and 91,000,000 miles away, but is really a little orb 32 miles across and only 3000 miles from the earth.

That the law of gravitation is a fallacy and when objects are thrown into the air they continue to rise until the force which propelled them is expended, and then fall back to earth because they are heavier than air.

**Mercator "Erred"**

A standard map of the world, on Christopher's projection, is used in the schools to demonstrate the flat world theory. This map, which is used by navigators and scientists in making time and longitude calculations, differs from the usual Mercator's projection on familiar in other schools, in that it shows the earth as it would look to an observer directly above the north pole, with the continents and seas projected on a flat plane. As a result the north pole is in the center, and instead of a south pole the Antarctic regions are indicated by a white ring about the outer circumference of the circle. This ring, according to Voliva, is the ice barrier which keeps mariners from falling off the edge of his flat world.

**Polar Regions Eliminated**

The Christopher projection was made 30 years ago, prior to the discovery of the South pole and before much was known about the Antarctic regions, so only a bare outline of portions of the southern ice band is shown.

Miss Mary Thompson, principal of the Zion school system, and an ardent believer in the Voliva theories, has propounded a question which she believes will trip scientists and navigators. Showing on her flat map that the tropic of Cancer, 43 degrees from the north pole, was a much smaller circle than the tropic of Capricorn, 47 degrees farther away, Miss Thompson says:

**No Curvature**

"Navigators on a globular earth would find if they were to sail completely around either of these tropics that they would be identically the same length. On a flat earth, however, the tropic of Capricorn would be much larger than the tropic of Cancer, and would take much longer to sail around, because on a flat earth Cancer would be nearer the center, or north pole. Why don't some of the globular earth believers try sailing around the two tropics and find out whether they or we are correct? The globular people certainly can't prove curvature of the earth."

Miss Eva Baker, teacher of geography, demonstrates to her classes that the sun is only a tiny orb a few thousand miles away. Instead of an orb millions of miles in diameter and 91,000,000 miles from the earth, if the sun was so large, she says, it would light up all the world, instead of confining its hottest rays to a 3000 mile wide belt between the two tropics.

Voliva himself, in a recent sermon at Shiloh Tabernacle, said God certainly would not have made a sun to light the world and then placed it so far away.

"A man would be a fool," the

## Specialized Training Would Relieve Unemployment Says Keystone Educator



Believes There Will Be Few Men in the Bread Line Who Know How to Do Some One thing Well



DR. THOMAS E. FINEGAN, Pennsylvania State Supt. of Public Instruction

If more men had special training in some one line of work, the country would not be worrying so much about its unemployment problem.

This opinion was advanced by Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, Pennsylvania State Superintendent of Public Instruction, after a recent inspection of the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton.

"There is a very real relation between unemployment and education," said Dr. Finegan. "If more men had devoted their spare time to study during the last decade there would be fewer out of employment today. The trained man is the last one to be laid off, and the first one to be hired again. Employers regard trained men as assets — hold them as long as it is

humanly possible. Periods of unemployment threaten them far less than the untrained worker.

"Some young men fail to recognize how earnestly their employers want them to devote their spare time to specialized training and preparation for advancement. They might be impressed if they could talk with the many employers of Pennsylvania who are paying for any correspondence school and university extension courses their employees wish to take, and who regard this cost of training their men as a good business investment."

"The workers who have taken advantage of some one of the many opportunities for specialized training are usually found on some payroll today."

overseer added, "to build a house in Zion and place his parlor light in Kenosha, Wis."

Miss Thompson, principal of the schools, says the children prefer their new flat world to the old fashioned round one in which Columbus believed.

"The students in the Zion schools," she says, "grasp the theory of the flat earth readily because their minds are not full of globular earth teaching such as older folks have had drilled into them. Therefore, they accept the flat earth teaching without questioning, not because they have to, but because it appeals to them as rational. I don't believe there is one student in the grades who has questioned it. The flat earth seems more reasonable to them. The globular, unreal."

Wilbur Glenn Voliva, who succeeded John Alexander Dowle as overseer of Zion on the latter's death in March, 1907, was born near Newton, Ind., March 10,

1870. In 1897 he received his B. A. from Hiram college, Ohio, and in the same year a degree from Union Christian college at Merom, Ind. In 1889 he had been ordained a minister in the Christian church at the age of 19, and held a pastorate at Linden, Ind., from 1889 to 1892; Urbana, Ill., 1892-3; studied theology at Stamfordville, N. Y., 1893-94 and supplied the pulpit of Chestnut Street Christian church at Albany, N. Y.; filled a pulpit at York Harbor, Me., the following year; and was pastor of the Christian church at Washington C. H., Ohio, in 1897-99.

In 1899, Voliva joined Dowle's church and was ordained an elder and placed in charge of the Zion tabernacle in Chicago. In 1900 and 1901 he represented Dowle at Cincinnati, and then was sent to Australia as overseer of the Dowle settlement of Zion there. He returned to Zion, Ill., in 1906 as assistant to Dowle.

## Attractive Display Seen At Valley Motor Company

The display of the Valley Motor company showing just how comfortable a closed car may be in winter, is attracting much favorable comment.

Just to make the atmosphere true to a winter scene, there is what appears to be real snow, not only partly covering the car, but the scenery surrounding.

And to make the scene more real and lifelike, the display shows a woman comfortably clad, but without hat, seated at the wheel, just as pleased at the surroundings as if she were in the comfort of her home.

The entire scene is one to impress the average driver that for real comfort in driving there is nothing more to be desired than a closed Ford car, especially for driving during the winter months in this part of Oregon.

of laps they have covered and the like.

"Would you advise me to travel for my health?"

"No," replied the doctor. "A man wants to be in first-class physical condition before he takes on the worries of travel now-days."—The expositor.

## San Francisco Opens Newest Auto Speedway

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31.—Preliminary speed trials will be held December 1, 1921, on the new automobile speedway being built near here by the Greater San Francisco Speedway association. It was announced recently. Drivers intending to enter the first speedway race, December 11 must make at least 100 miles an hour in the trials December 1.

Speedway association officials have announced that an electric scoreboard, to be operated at the track, will show the speed being maintained during the race by the various drivers, their relative position in the race, the number

of laps they have covered and the like.

"No," replied the doctor. "A man wants to be in first-class physical condition before he takes on the worries of travel now-days."—The expositor.

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## Motorcycling the Children to School

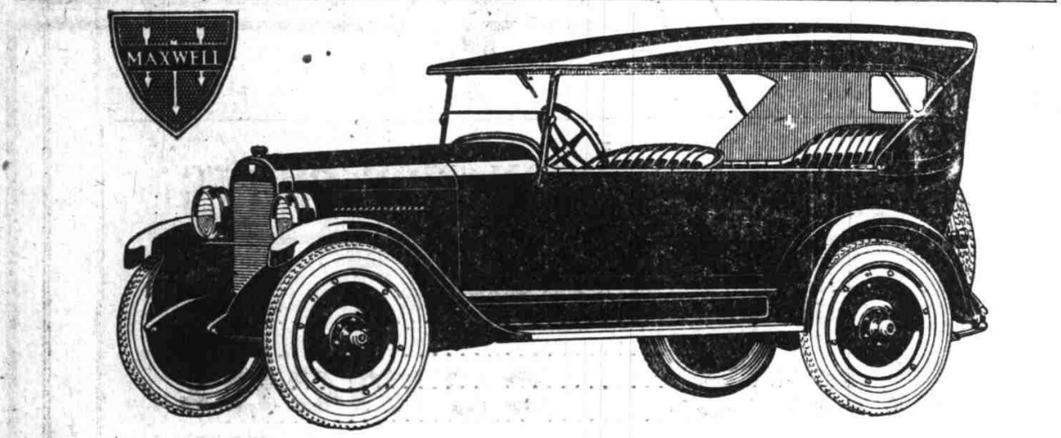
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