

HERE IS EXPERT OPINION ABOUT BUILDING SCHOOLS

Because everybody in Salem is interested in the city school buildings, the ones built, and building, and yet to be built. The Statesman presents the following authoritative discussion of types of buildings, by a capable authority on materials and building conditions. Generally the public has agreed with the Salem school board in its deferring of the Grant school building at the present time, for the various reasons of excessive cost that will perhaps be reduced within the next few months, of doubtful suitability of the plans proposed, and of the practicability or necessity of some of the fine things incorporated in the Grant school plans. Nearly everybody can build a schoolhouse exactly right, except the directors who actually have to make the contracts. But here are some of the conditions as the local architect above mentioned, finds in the building outlined:

"As there seems to be considerable controversy over the erection of this building and some criticism of our local school board for their having proposed the erection of what is termed by some of our citizens an elaborate school building, it is believed to be the proper time to enlighten the general public on the matter.

"As a matter of fact it is said by those well qualified to read plans and pass judgment on the merits of the building which such plans represent, that this proposed new school building is in no way elaborate though it may seem as such to those not posted in modern school house construction.

"This building as planned is of the same type as the school buildings now being erected throughout the United States and particularly on the Pacific coast, in cities of the size of Salem. The plans for this building were recently examined by John G. Donovan, a prominent California architect and a recognized authority on school buildings, who pronounced the scheme and type of building proposed as being exceptionally good.

"This building as proposed is the first unit of what is intended to be a complete and modern school plant. It being the first unit necessarily makes it more expensive to build than any of the future units should be as in addition to the school building itself is provided a boiler house large enough to house the heating and ventilating not only for the first unit but for the completed plant, including an 80 foot smoke stack of brick which will take care of all future boilers and quite an item in itself.

"While not entirely fireproof this building as proposed is what is termed a semi-fireproof structure. In many cities no larger than Salem all school buildings are made entirely fireproof, not only for the protection of the children but because buildings of that type have proven to be the best investment in the long run due to the lower cost of maintenance and the absence of necessary repairs.

"The reason some of those who have examined the plans for this building are opposed to its erection is probably because it is so far superior to any of our present school buildings that to them it seems elaborate, yet it is of the same class and type of building as has been adopted and erected in most cities where permanent schools have been erected within the last few years.

"It should be remembered that Salem has not erected any school buildings since 1915 and also that our present school buildings in most cases were not really modern schools even at the time they were erected and have since been found to be lacking in many respects and consequently if new modern schools are to be erected they cannot be compared either in cost or planning to the present buildings.

"The cost of the proposed new Grant school has been compared by some of the cost of the new addition to the present high school. It is in reality impossible to compare these two buildings because of the fact that the proposed new Grant school building is of a much higher class than the new addition to the high school and also because the published cost of the Grant school was for a complete building including everything necessary to put the building in shape for occupancy, whereas, the published cost of the high school addition did not include the cost of many items which are necessary to complete a modern and up to date school building and which were included in the published cost of the new Grant school.

"In order to give the general public and those of what the proposed new Grant school will be when completed and why it necessarily will cost more to erect than the high school addition, the following comparison is given:

"As before stated it is necessary to build a boiler house with an 80 foot smoke stack at the new Grant school, which however, is large enough to house all of the boilers and ventilating fans for all of the future units. The erection of a new boiler house and stack is not necessary at the new high school addition as the new boiler can be housed in the

present boiler room. A complete mechanically operated ventilating system is to be installed in the new Grant school while this is not the case with the new high school addition. This is an important item as thorough ventilation is without question one of the most important features of a modern school building.

"All stairs and stair halls in the new Grant school are to be absolutely fire-proof while in the new high school addition and in all of the present schools as well the stairs are all of wood construction. This is of great importance for in case of fire the stairs must necessarily provide a means of exit for the majority of all students within the building for steep and narrow fire escapes have proven to be inadequate means of escape from a burning building housing hundreds of school children.

"The cement stair treads with steel nosings in the new Grant school mean many years of service without repair and the maple flooring which the plans provide for will outwear four or five fir floors as are to be found in all of our present school buildings, including the new high school addition. We need only to visit our present school buildings and note the condition of some of the fir floors and fir stair treads to realize the folly of installing fir lumber for these purposes in what is intended to be a permanent school building. In the new high school addition all wood floors are to be of fir including the gymnasium floor. Every school building erected in the city of Portland in the last several years has been equipped with hardwood floors.

"The new Grant school is made semi-fire-proof by the use of metal lath which in case of fire would retard its spreading while in the new high school addition and in the present schools all lath is of wood. All plastering in the new Grant school is to be what is known as a smooth troweled putty finish which is much more durable and sanitary than the rough sand finish specified for the new high school addition.

"A considerable saving is made in the cost of the addition to the high school as compared to the cost of the new Grant school in that it being only an addition to the present building only three exterior walls are required. Also the gymnasium occupies the entire third story wherein no plastering or interior finish is required.

"All toilet room floors and base in the new Grant school are to be of ceramic tile which has been found to be one of only two materials satisfactory for this purpose as it is absolutely impervious to water, acid or stains of any nature and will remain sanitary while cement floors as specified for toilet rooms in the new addition to the high school are subject to disintegration from the effect of the acid with which they necessarily come in contact and therefore is not a sanitary and suitable material for this purpose although much cheaper than tile.

"It is necessary to provide two complete toilet rooms in the new Grant school as against only one in the new addition to the high school. All toilet stall partitions and doors in the new Grant school are to be of steel with baked enamel which is about the only material that will withstand the abuse to which they are subjected in a public school building and are far more durable and sanitary than wood doors and partitions. All toilet fixtures in the Grant school are to be of vitreous china including the urinals which are more expensive and far more sanitary than slate urinals as specified for the addition to the high school.

"The roofing as specified for the Grant school is of the asphalt and gravel type, more expensive of course, but far more durable and fire resisting than the wood shingle roof specified for the high school addition.

"Coppered steel chains which never wear out are specified for the window sash in the Grant school as compared to cotton cord specified for the high school addition.

"All window glass specified for Grant school is double strength as compared to single strength specified for the high school addition.

"Genuine slate blackboards are specified for the Grant school and included in the published bids while no black-boards at all were included in the bids for the high school addition. It will be necessary for the school board to furnish these as an extra.

"The painting specified for the Grant school includes the painting of all plastered walls with a wall paint which while more expensive than the ordinary cold water paint specified for the addition to the high school is much more durable and sanitary. All wainscotings in the Grant school are to be covered with canvas to protect the plastering and finished with a paint job that can be kept clean and sanitary. The

TEN DEAD, MANY INJURED IN CHICAGO FIRE.



The three story apartment house in Federal street, Chicago, where fire trapped 160 negroes and caused the death of ten persons and injured a score. The cause of the fire is believed to have been the explosion of a moonshine still. Many of the occupants of the building jumped from the upper floors and some of these, with their clothing afire, burned to death on the sidewalk.

wainscotings in school buildings are subjected to much abuse. This is not to be done in the addition to the high school.

"The electric wiring specified for the Grant school includes a complete system of power wiring and motors for the ventilating system, a complete fire alarm system, a complete program and secondary clock system and a complete telephone system. These different electric systems are all found in the modern school building of today but are not included in the published cost of the high school addition.

"The hardware specified for the Grant school is of a good serviceable quality and includes panic bolts on all exit doors which simplify and make positive the opening of the doors in case of fire. These panic bolts are required by law on all exit doors of schools in all cities which have an up to date building ordinance, but are not specified for the addition to the high school or in many of our present schools. Also most of the doors throughout the Grant school will be equipped with door checks which insure a positive and quiet closing of the door.

"The brick specified for the Grant school are not an expensive imported brick but a brick that is manufactured in Salem.

"By a careful study of the above description of the two proposed new school buildings it can readily be seen why the cost of erection of the new Grant school is greater than that of the new addition to the high school as it is clear that the proposed new Grant school is a superior class of building.

"All items mentioned in the above description of the new Grant school with the exception of the plumbing and the heating and ventilating systems are included in the low bid of \$81,426 for the general construction of the building.

"It has been said that the local school board employed an architect for this work whose buildings all ran higher in cost than the buildings designed by other architects. This is found to be untrue if the buildings compared are of the same class. For instance, bids were opened recently for the erection of a new boys dormitory at the state school for the Blind in this city, as designed by an architect who ranks high in his profession. This building is of the same class as the proposed new Grant school, and the lowest bid received was at a cost of 25 cents per cubic foot exclusive of plumbing and heating as against a cost of 22 1/2 cents per cubic foot exclusive of plumbing and heating for the new Grant school. Therefore it can be seen that the local school board is not endeavoring to build any better class of building than the state is building for its schools.

"Due to the present cost of building construction the cost of

erection of the proposed new Grant school was found to run \$193,000 including the architects fees and all expenses connected therewith which is \$11,000 above the original estimate for the completed building of \$92,000. If it is necessary this \$11,000 can be eliminated by cutting some features; but no more eliminating or cutting should be done than is absolutely necessary, for this building as planned would give Salem its first really modern and up to date school building. It would mark the beginning of a new era in school building in this city, for within one year after completion it would no doubt prove its worth and also prove that the first cost is not all that should be considered in the erection of permanent buildings.

"It is necessary to cut down the cost of this proposed new building, and as a cut to the original estimate would not cut its desirable features to any great extent, would it not be better to cut the cost and erect a permanent building than to erect more temporary structures?

"While there is an indication of a drop in construction costs it is said by those posted in the matter that a drop of more than 10 per cent cannot be expected and probably it will not be that much.

"If the half million dollars recently voted is to be expended for Salem schools, would it not be well to make the first one modern and up to date as the proposed new Grant school would be and such as other cities are building? The general tendency in erecting buildings in Salem has always been to make them just barely good enough to get by and let it go at that. The quality of the buildings erected in Salem has always been below the standard set by other cities of the size of Salem. With the erection of the new schools to be erected here we build better buildings."

Swains Propose at 24; Maids Are Won When 21

LONDON, June 30.—High taxes and unemployment cannot stop Dan Cupid, or at least they did not in 1921, which is the last year for which full vital statistics have been completed in Britain. That year the marriage rate was 1.9 persons per 1000, a rate that has not been exceeded since 1874, except for the war and post-war years of 1915-1920.

The usual ages for the newlyweds were 24 for the men and 21 for the women. Divorces were more numerous than ever before. Except for the war years, the birth rate of 22.4 per 1000 living was the lowest recorded since 1837.

About 15,000 boys and almost 50,000 girls married before reaching 21. Sixty men and 12 women married after attaining the age of 80.

SNAKE POISON IS SENT SCIENTISTS

W. A. King of Snakeville Collects Venom From Southern Rattlers

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., June 29.—Three glass jars, hermetically sealed, each filled with yellowish crystals, repose on a shelf in the office of W. A. ("Snake") King, at "Snakeville," on the outskirts of Brownsville. The crystals in each jar represent the collection of poison from approximately 8000 rattlesnakes, and, according to Mr. King, there is enough poison in the jars to kill several regiments; if it were properly applied.

King annually buys and sells thousands of rattlesnakes, and at "Snakeville" there are at all times hundreds of rattlers of all sizes and descriptions. For several years he has been collecting poison from the reptiles, crystallizing it in a small kiln sending the crystals to scientists in all parts of the world who are endeavoring to find a remedy for snake bite.

Few people in Brownsville realize the volume of business which flows through "Snakeville." They daily see scores of boxes labeled "Dangerous Reptiles Handle With Care," leave and enter the express office, but it is an accustomed-sight. Dozens of Mexican snake catchers are required to keep the stream of reptiles moving into King's pens.

"I have never charged cent for the poison crystals, nor do I ever expect to charge anyone for the antitoxin," King states. "I have saved the poison and crystallized it for the benefit of science, and I have the antitoxin for the benefit of any one bitten by a rattlesnake."

"Scientists throughout the world have asked me for crystals, and I have never failed to respond provided I was assured they were to be used for legitimate scientific purposes only."

It is a curious fact, King points out, that the poison used to produce the antitoxin works well only when it comes from the family of snakes from which the bite has come. In the case of a rattlesnake bite, King asserts, the serum used is made from the blood of a horse inoculated with rattlesnake poison injected into the blood as near and as soon after the bite as possible.

When the snake farm at Sao Paulo, Brazil, was established by the Brazilian government and placed in charge of advanced scientists, King was asked by them for some crystals and antitoxin. King supplied several quarts of the crystals, representing the collection from about 20,000 rattlesnakes.

King has branched out his business to include birds and animals of diversified variety. Parrots, iguanas, ant-eaters, horned toads,

wildcats, Mexican dogs, leopards and scores of other species of animal life of Mexico and the southwest, are found on his farm.

HE DIED GAME

The book agent was dying. (They are tough, but they do die.) "It is hard, very hard," he muttered, "to have death come just as I had been given the exclusive right to canvass Hayseed County for Rippsortner's Universal History—a work that was bound to sell like hotcakes."

Then glancing at his sobbing friends who stood around his bedside, he said: "Soon all that will be left of me will be a sainted memory. I shall have departed, as Shakespeare—whose works, in fifteen volumes, half Russia, come at \$2 a volume, or \$24 the set—remarks, 'to that bourne from which no traveler returns.' But do not weep. I have only one last request to make. Promise me that you will grant it."

"We will," replied all present, in choking accents.

"I have your word—yours, Aunt Maria, and Bill's and Cousin Jimmie's and Dr. Slaughter's."

"You have," was the unanimous response.

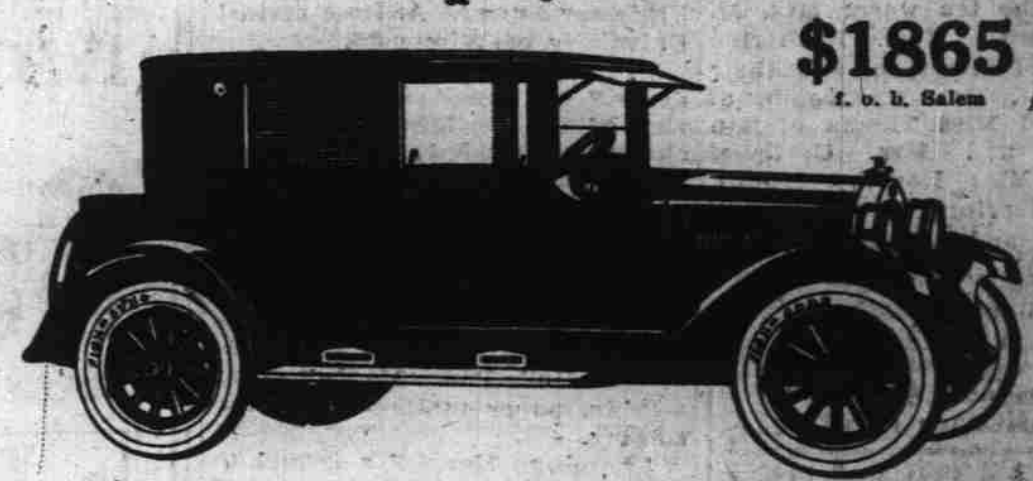
"Then," said the dying man, with a look of contentment, "I shall have you all put down for a set of Strawpaper's magnificent History of Fakes and Superstitions, in 12 volumes, full morocco at \$36 the set. The entire work will be delivered to you within a week."

One by one the sorrowing friends filed out, too full for utterance.

"That little stroke of business will get me an A1 monument," said the book agent to his wife. "And now suppose you send round for the undertaker, and I'll see if I can't land him for a set of the Blarney Library at \$60, and get him to take it out in trade."

Quick Drop in Price
"Yes, sir," bragged the artist, "I value this painting of mine at \$10,000."
"I thank you for your frankness," responded the stranger. "I am the tax assessor."
"At \$10,000 from an artist standpoint," went on the artist without a break. "Of course you know, however, that a painting is actually what the materials cost. In this case that would be \$2 for canvas, and for paints, say

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