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**THE WRONG WAY TO EDUCATE.**

The cry "mental discipline" evidently finds little favor in the mind of George Horace Lorimer, editor of the Saturday Evening Post, for in a recent issue of the "read by more than a million and a half" weekly he attacks the present system of education in the following language:

"Is mental wood-sawing useful? Are the intellectual faculties of a child strengthened by sheer drudgery? Does brain-muscle increase by dogged pecking away at a task that fails to excite the slightest interest?

These questions are not new, but the judgment of Chicago's school superintendent against compound interest, compound fractions and memorized historical dates in the elementary grades naturally raises them afresh. The conventional answer is that the exercises named, while admittedly useless in themselves, furnish splendid mental discipline—the harder and drier the task, the more benefit a child derives from it. The pupil will certainly soon forget how to work compound fractions for nobody ever does work compound fractions, but he will have gained much brain-muscle.

Is the mind of a child, we wonder, very different from the mind of a man; and what intelligent man ever seeks mental improvement in a task which does not interest him? What adult, for example, will read an absolutely uninteresting book? The old-fashioned educational theory was a sort of continual driving of an unwilling horse to water; and it is still suspected that the impression that a given task makes upon the mind of a child is in proportion to the effect put forth to master it—easy come, easy go. But every reading adult, we imagine, knows that the book to which he drove himself with a club was precisely the first one to fade from his memory, and that his mind retains things in about the proportion to the pleasure experienced in acquiring them. You can drive the horse to water, but can you make him drink?

The domesticated berry is now having its inning but it will not be many weeks until the far-famed Blue Mountain huckle berry will be enticing people to the mountains by the hundreds. Reports say prospects are good for a big crop.

It now develops that the farmers had their scare for nothing and that there will yet be a great harvest of both wheat and barley as well as a monstrous crop of grain and alfalfa hay.

That school election yesterday was as harmonious as a democratic "assembly" in Oregon or a meeting of the Umatilla county republican central committee.

It is probably fortunate for the home folks and the servants at Oyster Bay that Teddy had a chance to relieve his mind in Africa and Europe.

Press dispatches say the people of Nevada are enthusiastic over the probable staging of the big fight in their midst. In many respects Nevada is still a frontier settlement.

Nicholas Z. Miranda in his race for the presidency of Mexico, has adopted the campaign slogan, "Three cent beer." Evidently Miranda is a student of human nature.

One great need of Pendleton is a Y. M. C. A. building where young men could find wholesome employment for their leisure hours.

Now that Roosevelt is home the cable companies will be able to reduce the number of their operators.

Teddy is now domiciled at Oyster Bay away from the maddening crowd. Requiescat in pace.

Many wonder if Teddy Jr. shares his father's views on race suicide.

That was a mighty good ball game, even if the other fellows did win.

Eastern Oregon weather can usually be depended upon.

The harvest of the golden fleece is ended.

Two more stars in Old Glory.

**The Motor Was Working Well.**  
A bailiff went out to levy on the contents of a house. The inventory began in the attic and ended in the cellar. When the dining room was reached, the tally of furniture ran thus:  
"One dining room table, oak.  
"One set chairs (6) oak.  
"One sideboard, oak.  
"Two bottles whisky, full."  
Then the word "full" was stricken out and replaced by "empty," and the inventory went on in a hand that straggled and lurched diagonally across the page until it closed with:  
"One revolving doormat."—Everybody's Magazine.

**THE FARMERS' UNION.**

Pendleton, Ore., June 20.  
Editor East Oregonian:

It is my opinion that there should be co-operation between all legitimate interests, that our railroads and our farmers have common grounds for it.

A farmers' organization should be a harmonizing influence rather than disrupting, and we are certainly working toward that end.

We recognize in merchandising, manufacturing and transportation interests just as legitimate and necessary as farming but feel that in the prosperity of the latter there is a protection to all that must be respected.

By economizing in marketing our products we are following a principle which is recognized as just in every institution and if by organization we can effect the saving to home circulation of even one cent per bushel just that much is added to all legitimate local interests.

By this economizing farmers will be able to pay up old bills and place business on a cash basis, which is one of their main objects.

As to the methods of accomplishing this it is expected that we look at them from our own viewpoint rather than that of the men who are constantly endeavoring to place profits into the hands of our great distributing terminals.

I believe that the mischief done is due to unscrupulous men who, by their system of speculation and unjust price making, are working a hardship upon all fair and high-minded men, and that merchants and manufacturers as well as farmers are at their mercy.

It looks to me as though the present financial unrest is due to the hoghishness of our great American terminals, that, as distributors of farm products, have found such a fertile field in farming the farmer, and to my mind the question of allowing the many millions yearly accumulating in their hands, representing far more profit than received by all farmers combined, to continue to go with them or with the farmer, is a pertinent one.

The farmers therefore, are the great home protecting force that must be organized. He is strong, for he can live independently without the aid of others while others cannot live thus without him.

Potentially the farmer is the greatest power in the world. In reality, until of late, he has had less influence over his own destiny than any other class.

Among us are successful business and professional men who have gone into farming because of the possibility of better and surer profits; successful educators, who have found in the farm the consummation of their ideals of living and, greatest of all there are successful farmers, who, after a lifetime of toil, are satisfied that no better profession can be attained.

I cannot help thinking that under the capable leadership of our state president, F. A. Sikes, of Milton, these men will exert a powerful influence upon the destinies of the Oregon farmer.

C. A. HILL, Organizer.

**REPLY TO JUDGE LOWELL.**

Pendleton, June 21, 1910.  
To the Editor:

I thank you for the kind invitation to use your columns, to continue a discussion with Judge Lowell absent assembly. I feel that further discussion at this time, by individuals, would be most untimely. The public at large can but feel we are both usurping space, which properly belongs to the editor, and our friends the enemy, would be only too pleased to have us thrust and thrust again that they might rub salt in the wounds.

"A wise old owl sat on an oak,  
The more he looked, the less he spoke,  
The less he spoke, the more he heard,  
Let's imitate this wise old bird."

If I have failed to convince the judge of his errors, my effort has been wasted, and I feel after reading his lengthy effusion, that those who would destroy organization can but produce chaos.

The judge is prepared to burgeon on most any subject, and will no doubt find ample use for his pen.

E. W. MCOMAS.

**WOMEN IN PREDOMINANCE.**

"In England as in the United States there are more women than men," remarked S. A. Groom, a solicitor of London, at the Arlington.

"The annual summary, which recently was published, states that the estimated population of England and Wales in the middle of last year was

**Years of Suffering**

**Catarrh and Blood Disease—Doctors Failed to Cure.**  
Miss Mabel F. Dawkins, 1214 Lafayette St., Fort Wayne, Ind., writes: "For three years I was troubled with catarrh and blood disease. I tried several doctors and a dozen different remedies, but none of them did me any good. A friend told me of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I took two bottles of this medicine and was as well and strong as ever. I feel like a different person and recommend Hood's to any one suffering from catarrh."

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**IT MAKES WEAK WOMEN STRONG IT MAKES SICK WOMEN WELL.**

No woman's appeal was ever misdirected or her confidence misplaced when she wrote for advice, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Dr. R. V. Pierce, President, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets induce mild natural bowel movement once a day.

25,756,615 persons, of whom 17,265,780 were males and 18,490,835 were females, the excess of females over males being 1,225,055. There were 260,259 marriages, equal to a rate of 14.6 per 1000 of all the people, but this was below the rate in 1908 and below the average rate for the previous 10 years. The births were nearly double the number of deaths. There were 914,621 of the former, equal to 25.6 per 1000, and while this was lower than in any year on record, it far exceeded the number of deaths, 318,075, which was the lowest on record. No fewer than 99,454 deaths were those of children under 1 year of age. It is worthy of note that of the total number of deaths 29 per cent, or 102,384, occurred in work-houses, infirmaries, hospitals, or public asylums.

"The recent report shows that London is continuing to grow, for it was estimated that the population in 1909 was 4,832,928. The birth rate in the English metropolis continues to decline, as it has in nearly every large city in the world, and this doubtless accounts for the applause that followed your former president's speech in Paris, when he called attention to the decline of the population in France.

"All England admires Mr. Roosevelt," added Mr. Groom. "No foreigner ever visited Europe who gained greater admiration and applause than he has. They like his candor and his courage. There may have been some criticism of his speech regarding England's policy in Egypt, but I firmly believe that a majority of the English people approved it."—Washington Post.

**To Head Off German Railway.**  
Constantinople.—The porte has entered into negotiations with British capitalists to build a railway from Bussorah to the north shore of the Persian gulf, whereby the German Bagdad railway will be permanently headed off from the gulf.

Men, not having been able to cure death, misery and ignorance, have managed to make themselves happy by not thinking of these things.—Pascal.

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