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ON MATHEMATICS AGAIN

As will be observed by a reading of Prof. DeCou's letter appearing on this page today he agrees with the conclusions stated in this column when we first commented on his plea for more extensive training in mathematics in the high schools of Oregon. Those conclusions were, it may be recalled, that high school courses of study are determined by college entrance requirements and that unless and until the colleges made their mathematics requirements stiffer there was not much use in trying to promote wider study of the subject in the schools.

It is interesting to learn that in Oregon, because of deficiencies in mathematics training, both the college and the university have found it necessary to introduce courses. The job, of course, should be done in the high schools. Are not these institutions influential enough in the educational circles of the state to bring about the necessary changes?

With all energies now devoted to the war effort and with mathematics so important as a fundamental in the training in so many branches the present would seem to be a proper time to set more strict requirements in that subject. If, as we surmise, competition for students has been one of the reasons for letting down the bars in the matter of college entrance let those bars be put up again and let them stay up.

If the state is to continue to go to great expense to provide education for its youth it has and should exercise the right to require that that education be sound and, in the important subjects, complete. Let the state supported institutions strive for quality rather than quantity.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH & VD REPORTS

The latest weekly bulletin of the state board of health brings welcome news. The bulletin, it is explained, about or shortly after the first of the year will step forth in a brand new dress. In the new bulletin considerable space will be given to news accounts of what is happening in the field of public health and, what is more important (and here we quote):

"The weekly communicable disease table will be enlarged to include a county-by-county breakdown of venereal disease reports, plus entries for the corresponding week the previous year, plus entries for the five-year medians. Monthly tables will be run on births and deaths, infant and maternal deaths, marriages and divorces, venereal disease morbidity, and other items.

This, of course, is a comprehensive venereal disease report—is the thing for which we have campaigned in this column for many months. Whether this turning over a new leaf, as the bulletin describes this proposed publication, is a result of our campaign we do not know nor is the fact especially important. The important thing is that the publication is to be undertaken. This, we believe, is one of the basic necessities in any program of control.

Now there remains one more step for the board to take and that is to see to it that all physicians make the reports required by law.

An optimist is a man who double-parks while his wife visits the post office to get a Christmas package weighed and buy the necessary postage.

Headline in one of our exchanges says, "Coffee-drinking pleasant habit." It used to be.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications are invited on matters of current and local interest. Letters should be sent over 400 words in length, on only one side of the paper and, if possible, typewritten. Letters or manuscripts submitted for publication will not be returned.

PROF. DECOU WRITES

Dec. 16, 1942

Thank you for your letter enclosing your thoughtful editorial on "Mathematics in the Schools," which indicates your support of fundamental training in mathematics in our high schools.

In this scientific age, more and more, every intelligent person needs the language of mathematics to understand the statistics, graphs, and formulas which appear constantly in our papers and magazines and to use them in everyday life.

Unfortunately, the introduction of much new and easier material into the high school curriculum has tended to weaken and lessen the required mathematics, which many students avoid if possible. The result is a general weakening in the fundamentals of mathematics, recognized in peacetime but tragically evident in wartime, when army, navy and air force are all handicapped by the lack.

The former minimum of two years of mathematics required for

graduation from high school in Oregon has been done away with largely through the influence of the so-called "Educators," who favor subjects less difficult for the student than mathematics. The university and the State College must perforce admit students who have fulfilled the requirements for high school graduation.

Students entering college without high school mathematics, find themselves barred to courses in the physical sciences without it. As a result, several years ago, Oregon State found it necessary to offer a beginning course in Algebra, and a couple of years later the University of Oregon did the same.

The situation is unfortunate for both the high schools and the institutions of higher education, not only in Oregon, but also in numerous other western and southern states. The war effort of the nation is being hampered greatly by it. Oregon and these other states should correct this handicap and stress the fundamentals of mathematics for both the war and the peace to follow.

Edgar E. DeCou

War Briefs - - -

(By United Press)

Moscow — Russian spearheads penetrate Millerovo in new offensive; fall of railroad junction expected as birthday gift for Stalin.

Cairo — Rommel's forces reach Sirte in headlong retreat; allied planes raid ragged axis remnants 225 miles west of El Agheila.

New Delhi — British Indian army continues Burma drive; Japanese counter with thrust into Yunnan province of China.

London — RAF bombs Duisburg; American bombers make deepest penetration into France.

Allied North African Headquarters — Rain slows offensives; French capture town 30 miles inland from Tunisian east coast.

General MacArthur's Headquarters — Allies launch general attack on Japanese New Guinea; Japanese commander killed in action.

CHANGE "DIET" FOR RATS — San Francisco, Cal. (UP)—Owing to war shortages, the city has been obliged to change the diet for rats in its rat extermination campaign. Formerly they were fed poisoned bacon, but City Physician Geiger states they now are dying with equal facility on a diet of poisoned cheese and cake.

"Blame the Americans—They Took Your Colonies!"



• SERIAL STORY

FRANTIC FESTIVAL

BY EDMUND FANCOTT

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The story: Myra Mack and Fay Rathbone, two Montreal girls, are invited to spend their Christmas vacations as guests of eccentric Ferdy Lorton, an artist who has a cottage in the Laurentian Mountains. One of the guests is Benny Brien, who accepts the invitation because it offers a hideaway for Beano McCluskey, a wrestler. Beano is in possession of a fortune in stolen jewels, and Benny plans to hide him by having him appear as Santa Claus in a Montreal department store.

NOT-SO-GOOD WILL

Christmas is a season of peace and good will to all men, a season of snow and Christmas cards, of stores brilliantly lighted and crowded with people and presents and gay wrappings and glittering tinsel and enough living replicas of Santa Claus to leave in the mind of the average child a pleasant confusion and a confirmation of that gentleman's miraculous ability to be everywhere at once.

Christmas is also the season of torture for those most noble of men whose fate it is to impersonate the gentleman who takes all of the praise but none of the blame for the festive season. Of all the impersonators of Santa Claus Beano suffered most but bore it all most nobly. The immense relief of being temporarily free from the distracting influence of the police bathed his limited brain with a balm of peace. But Beano had no real love for children. In spite of his size and forbidding countenance in ordinary life he was one of those grown-ups that small boys feel are fair game. Under his disguise 99 per cent of the young customers who filed before him did so with awe and reverence but the other one per cent, disbelievers and saboteurs, took every opportunity to destroy his new-found peace of mind. After the third day they had succeeded completely.

The favorite technique was for the saboteurs to approach with the long line of waiting children, and then as Santa Claus bent over them to listen to their secret requests for Christmas, to slip a thread noose over a few strands of the low hanging beard and then trail the loose end away with them from the danger zone.

The saboteur would button-hole a meek-looking child and handing the end of the thread would order him to count three and pull hard and see what Santa Claus would bring.

The youthful saboteur would be away in a trice, waiting to see what happened and to give a suitable horse laugh to add to the discomfiture of Santa Claus. The trick upset Beano's faith in the younger generation and he counteracted by gently stroking off his beard after each child passed. But he discounted the ingenuity of youth and the end came quite quickly.

The climax came when one boy slipped a bent pin under him as he leaned forward to catch the whisper of a tiny tot. He patted the child affectionately and leaned back. Action and reaction were instantaneous. He gave a yelp of pain, and leaped to his feet, lifting one of them sharply to con-

the car slipped into high gear. "Accident?" said the young man.

"Punctured in two places," said Beano gasping for breath. "So it sounds," replied the young man. He was big and pleasant and wore the black beret of the armored corps.

He turned the car sharply, ignoring the traffic light, and sped up the hill. The car swept to a perfect landing on the steps of the hospital.

"Here's the hospital," said Lieutenant Benson. "Is this really an emergency call or would you like me to drive you back?" "I'd hate to trouble you," said Beano. "But Benny Brien says to me when I left him, if anything goes wrong with your heart, he says, look up a specialist by the name of Ferdy in Union Avenue."

At the mention of this name the young man lifted his eyebrows. "Ferdy?" he said.

"Yes, dat's it."

"I knew he was an artist at his

job and a wow with hearts but hardly in the direction you suggest."

Beano hesitated but only for a moment. "You know him?"

"Know him? Why I'm spending Christmas with him."

"Well now ain't the world small. So am I. What say we look him up."

Lieutenant Benson relaxed. This was the natural thing to expect when one was a friend of Ferdy. He began to turn the car.

Beano snuggled down as much as his bulk would allow. "Mind if I tune in on the police radio. They get some interesting programs."

"Quite," said Lieutenant Benson. He was beginning to feel reassured himself. If there was anything he hated, it was dull Christmas and he was beginning to feel that Ferdy would not let him down.

(To Be Continued)

MORE ABOUT The Capitol

(Continued From Page One)

for his global relief and reconstruction; that the project will require several billion dollars is acknowledged. (Vice President Wallace now explains that when he said the United States would provide a quart of milk to every one in the world, in a speech last May, he was using a figure of speech and that this off-hand observation has been misinterpreted. At the time it was supposed that Wallace was an administration spokesman.)

Despite the secrecy of RFC funds, it is possible to show where some of the money is going. For instance, the United States has paid \$1,488,600 to train several hundred young men from Latin America as fliers and technicians. Of these 40 per cent have completed training and returned home or are awaiting transportation. None of this expense will be recovered. To eliminate axis-controlled air lines in South America \$8,000,000 was earmarked. These lines were in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil and the Italian line from Brazil to Italy. To Russia \$100,000,000 has been given for which metals are to be received. This is in addition to all the planes, tanks, guns, ammunition and shipments of food which are being sent, gratis, to the soviet. Canada has been given \$10,000,000 to develop copper, lead, zinc and other ores, and as the ore is mined the United States will buy it at cost of production plus transportation. (A better arrangement than any western state has been able to make with the government.)

Wool has been bought from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa to the tune of \$167,500,000. A small jag of 5,000,000 pounds has been bought from South America, China, Mexico, Central and South America are furnishing an-

timony. Ten countries are providing manganese, which will cost \$150,000,000. Mexico, Canada and South America are sending mercury, while little attention is given to expanding mercury mines of Washington, Oregon and Nevada. Through assistance of RFC there are 100,000 tons of fine tin in stockpile; yet tin is so scarce that canneries, milk condenseries and packers are being rationed. The entire sugar crop of Cuba has already been purchased and only awaits cargo space to be brought into the United States.

Others Say . . .

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THEM?

(Salem Capitol Journal) Fulfilling pre-activation estimates of Salem's appeal to the soldiers of Camp Adair, fully 50 per cent of the servicemen on leave from the camp over last week-end—reliable estimates estimates place their number at 5,000—picked this city for their holiday, taxing existing facilities for their entertainment and accommodation far beyond capacity.

During the business hours of Saturday afternoon and evening the stores were jammed with soldiers buying Christmas gifts to send home. Throughout the evening, well into the night and through most of Sunday the restaurants and soft drink establish-

ments were crowded. The USO reported a record call for its services and public dances were packed with men in uniform.

There were soldiers, soldiers everywhere but not a place to sleep.

Hotels of all classes report their rooms were all filled long before midnight. The 200 cots provided by a local committee in St. Joseph's hall and the Y.M.C.A. were filled early. A comparatively few lucky boys found beds in private homes. Others slept in parked automobiles. Finally down town hotels opened their lobbies to them and men slept in chairs and sprawled out on rugs on the floor wrapped in their coats.

Some, police report, walked the streets all night, unable to get back to camp for lack of transportation.

Something must be done to remedy this condition. Either Salem must provide better accommodations or camp authorities must inaugurate a system of "staggering" leaves through the week to prevent such crowding over Saturday and Sunday. The boys didn't expect feather beds; they are willing to take their chances of getting even a cot on a first-come-first-served basis. But the unlucky ones would like a nice soft, dry and warm place of floor space or a wooden bench on which to grab a few winks. They'll be back again next Saturday. What are we going to do about it?

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The Friendly Store
A. T. Niebergall
Jeweler
Next to Capitol Theater

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

DID YOU SAY A GIRL NAMED HILDA GRUBBLE WANTED YOU TO HOLD THOSE SKATES FOR HER?



YES --- SHE MADE A 50¢ DEPOSIT ON THEM!



SHE'S CRAZY ABOUT THEM. BUT SHE COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY THEM RIGHT NOW!



SHE SPENT ALL BUT 50¢ OF HER MONEY ON A PRESENT FOR HER BOY FRIEND! I WONDER IF HE'LL DO AS MUCH FOR HER?



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