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FRIDAY.....August 9 1912

American Schools Sacrifice Efficiency For Democracy

By Professor CHARLES DEGARMO of Cornell University

WHILE American schools are more democratic, German schools are more efficient.

AMERICANS HAVE SACRIFICED EFFICIENCY FOR DEMOCRACY, WHILE THE GERMANS HAVE SACRIFICED DEMOCRACY FOR EFFICIENCY.

In our system any pupil may pass from the primary to the grammar school, from the grammar school to the high school and then enter upon any form of higher liberal or vocational training. EVERYBODY IS EDUCATIONALLY ELIGIBLE TO EVERYTHING. This is democracy. But the high school period is so brief—a bare few years—that European efficiency in secondary education is impossible.

The American student studies Latin for four years or less, while the German youth studies it for nine, and so on in corresponding degree for other studies.

DARING YEGGMEN.

Ways of the Most Desperate and Cunning of Burglars.

BLOWING OPEN A BANK SAFE.

Nitroglycerin Is the Explosive Used, and Wet Blankets Help to Deadend the Sound—Making the "Soup" Is a Perilous Part of the Business.

Of all the thieves and crooks that operate in the country the yegman, or bank burglar, is the most cunning and systematic and in the majority of cases the most desperate. Some people have an idea that a common tramp housebreaker is a yegman, but that is far from the truth. In nine cases out of ten yegmen are intelligent, educated men. There is a bond between them as strong as that which unites any brotherhood or union in the country.

There are not more than fifty good yegmen in the United States. To be successful the yeg must understand every little detail of the work, because a slip usually means a life. When a man becomes too old or is disabled or for any other cause cannot remain an active member of his gang he then instructs the younger and less experienced members. In all the time that I have been connected with bank investigations, says a yegman hunter in the New York Sun, I have never known of a case in which one yegman double crossed another, and I don't think that can be said of any other branch of this trade. I will explain some of the methods used by the yegs, also some used by the investigators.

Four or five men usually make up a gang, and these gangs are scattered over the whole country, each having its own territory. For instance, one gang had the territory between Albany and Boston on the Boston and Albany road. It that case the members would be scattered out along the road between Boston and Albany looking for a bank or postoffice which may be easily blown. It sometimes takes them six months or even a year to locate the job and get everything in readiness for the "touch off," as they call it. One successful job with these men equals a great many small hauls that other thieves make.

When the job is spotted the gang is called together, and every detail is gone over and the plans are mapped out. Each member looks over the bank, and the discussion of methods sometimes lasts a week. I once knew of a gang operating in Indiana who were in doubt about a job and who sought advice from a gang in Maine. That probably took three or four weeks. I mention this to show that they absolutely will not "turn a trick" if there is the least doubt about its success.

After the job is located and their plans are settled the next thing they do is to get the tools and make their preparations. Common yellow soap, fuse, caps and nitroglycerin are needed. The soap, fuse and caps are easily obtained at any hardware or grocery, but the nitroglycerin is not so easy to get. If no other method is available it must be taken out of dynamite sticks, and that is almost an art in itself, being a very dangerous process.

For an ordinary shot they take five five-pound sticks of dynamite to make enough nitroglycerin, or "soup," as they call it, for the job. The utensils consist of two hard cans and a quart whiskey bottle. The bottom is knocked out of one of the hard cans and holes made

all around the sides. A charcoal fire is then built and the hard can is set on it. Then the other can is filled half full of water and placed on the first. The water is allowed to become lukewarm, and then the sticks of dynamite are placed in the water. The whole affair stands about six hours.

After that time the water is allowed to cool and is then strained through a piece of cheesecloth, after which it is again allowed to stand. In a short time the nitroglycerin rises to the surface and is skimmed off and placed in the bottle. The yegs call this process "making soup." Several times it has resulted seriously, and in one instance, when it blew the operator's arm off, it led to the capture of two of the best men in what was known as the E. and T. H. gang.

It sometimes takes as many as three shots to blow a safe. Four holes are drilled around the combination knob, and the nitroglycerin is poured in the holes, soap funnels being used. A dynamite cap and fuse are then attached, wet blankets are thrown over the safe, and the shot is touched off. The men inside throw themselves face downward on the floor.

After the smoke has cleared the safe is sometimes found ready to be rifled. Often there is a strong box which the first shot does not harm. In that case a second and sometimes a third shot must be fired off in the same manner as the first.

In case the citizens hear the explosion the men who are watching outside give the inside men the alarm and endeavor to hold the town at bay, giving their inside pals a chance for a clean getaway with the plunder.

He Understood.
"You must always be nice to your little playmates."

"I know. I've got my lesson all right, ma. I'm just beating them around a bit trying to teach them that they've got to be nice to me too."—Detroit Free Press.

Liberty will not descend to a people; a people must raise themselves to liberty.—Colton.

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Phil Pearson, Secretary

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Louise M. Boyle, W. M.
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BANDON LODGE, No. 133, I. O. O. F. meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited.
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