

**Daily Democrat**

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**BUSINESS MATTER**

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MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1918.

**KULTUR IN TEXTBOOKS**

Almost everybody realizes by this time that there has been too much German-language teaching in the public schools. Its popularity is rapidly declining. Whether or not all study of German should be abolished is one of the questions facing school boards in many communities today. The opinion that there is no place in the grade schools for any foreign language instruction seems to be gaining strength. It is up to the students of the high schools and colleges to decide for themselves whether they need a knowledge of German to complete a technical or general education.

Whatever the outcome of the discussion as to the advisability of leaving any German instruction at all in the schools, there is one point about which there can be no doubt. That is the subject matter of many of the German textbooks is objectionable.

The chief menace of the widespread study of German in our schools is to be found in the attempt to push Prussian Kultur to the front. It is quite possible to study the German language without being forced to absorb great doses of German propaganda. Eulogies of the Kaiser, extravagant praise of all things German, the elevation of Deutschland, and its customs and manners above those of other countries can not be tolerated in our textbooks of the language.

And yet those very things are to be found in a surprisingly large proportion of the textbooks that have somehow found their way into the schoolrooms of the United States. This particular scheme for Germanizing the world—and this country in particular—wasn't much more subtle than the usual run of German schemes. But it certainly was putting over a lot of filth until the war opened our eyes.

**TRUSTING UNCLE SAM**

Is the nation down-hearted because the government has taken over the railroads? Are people alarmed because a dreadful "socialistic" move has been made? Do we feel that the country is going to the demdition bow-wows, and that we may just as well go and drown ourselves before it's all over?

Not at all! Financial writers in the last few days have been chockfull of enthusiasm, after a long period of gloom and depression. The president's proclamation of government control, they say, has lifted a great burden from the Wall Street mind. "It is the most far-reaching so far given that the government has an intimate understanding of the business problems of the time," etc.

The effect on the stock market was immediate and widespread. Railroad securities at once shot up many points, and have steadily continued rising. Along with them rose industrial stocks the income from which is more or less dependent on railroad prosperity. And then followed, in a grand sweep, all the standard securities on the list.

It's a "bull market" again. And it isn't any ordinary "bull campaign" engineered by the professional gamblers. It's the natural result of honest, enthusiastic buying by great numbers of small investors who represent the average public.

Financial speculators and common people are all agreed about it. Conservatives and radicals find themselves on common ground. To any observer of the current of events flowing through the past ten years this agreement of hitherto warring opinions is curious. The soap-box orators who urged government ownership of all means of production, transportation and distribution of wealth on every streetcorner and in every available dingy hall for many years were most vociferous in their denunciation of Wall Street and Big

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Business, Wall Street and Big Business in their turn were most contemptuous of the strata of society represented by the soapboxers. And little if anything in the way of improvement of conditions of any sort was accomplished.

Now Big Business itself is the first to welcome the new conditions, nor are the soapboxers distrustful of its representatives. And great things on every side are being done, never more to be undone.

The secret is this: In the old days class arrayed itself against class, and energy was vainly wasted in the competition. Now the days of cooperation are at hand, and the new methods succeed because they are backed by a united people. There is no longer Wall Street here and the soapboxers there. There is only genial, unexpectedly competent, altogether American Uncle Sam moving forward on the highroad of democracy. And all the people trust him.

Which is to say, all the people trust their own collective good will, ability and common sense. They know that, once they get their minds on the job, they—through their government—are perfectly capable of meeting and mastering and emergency that arises.

The railroad venture is simply another illustration of a public trait

noted by Kipling. In the midst of confusion and crisis, "while reproof around us rings," we suddenly "turn a keen, untroubled face home to the instant need of things." And then everything clears up.

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