

SIXTH GRADE ENJOY'S DEBATE

Miss Collins' sixth grade enjoyed the following debate Wednesday morning, March 7. The grade appreciates the time given by the judges, Mrs. R. A. Bullock, Mrs. L. C. Clarke and Mrs. J. D. Bradsher, who gave a two to one vote in favor of the affirmative. The affirmative speakers were Billy West and Barden Winstead; the negative, Rachel Long and Mary Slevers Woody. The question for debate, Resolved: I would rather be a Greek than a Roman.

By Rachel Long

Madam Chairman, honorable judges, worthy opponents, and classmates, the query for discussion this morning is: "Resolved, that I had rather be a Greek than a Roman." It is my purpose to uphold the negative side of the question.

1. Rome had a very favorable location. She was situated on the Tiber river, up which the small sea-going ships of the time could row. It was twelve miles from the seashore and therefore safe from pirates, who were the pests of the coast towns. At this spot on the Tiber, moreover, was the only fordable place where the Etruscan traders from the north could cross into Roman territory to sell their goods. Rome was built on hills which overlooked the level plains around her. She could see her enemies approaching and could have time to prepare against them. Her men, besides, were hearty and brave, and loved their city with intense patriotism. In the fertile plains north of her was Etruria, a nation of skillful artists and builders, and sailors, eager to grow into a greater state with wider lands.

2. Rome became mistress of Italy. She raised her arms against first one Latin city and then another, and compelled them all to bow to Rome. As she worked southward in her conquest, Rome met the rich cities of Magna Graecia. They felt that they could not allow this new barbarian power to grow great. They took the side of Rome's enemies, and even invited a warrior prince of Greece over into Italy to help them. After five years of patient fighting his army was worn out in that hostile land, and the prince fled back to Greece. Soon all of southern Italy was in the hands of Rome, and by 266 B. C. she was mistress of all the land from the Arno River to the southern tip of the country—a great territory 500 miles long. What sort of people were these victorious Romans, these masters of Italy? From the first the Roman army had been the great pride and strength of the people. These citizen-soldiers were welded into close brotherhood. Together these warrior citizens trained and exercised just outside of Rome on the field of Mars. By such organization and practice, a strong patriotic, closely knit army had grown up in Rome and had made her supreme in Italy. No wonder that these Romans were owners of a great state. They saw their city still growing larger and richer. In every war of their history they had won sooner or later. They felt themselves brave and honest. They looked back with respect upon their ancestors and had looked forward with hope.

3. Rome had pride. Rome had good roads and still has some of the best in the world. They were built with pain. The roads were almost as many as the railroads of today, crossing and meeting in the same way, covering the whole empire as with a spider's web. The center of that web was Rome, so that the saying grew up, "all roads lead to Rome."

4. Rome was a trading center. Commerce was another thing that held the empire together, and East and West and North and South the ways of one had caught. Another thing was done to stimulate commerce. In that day all cities had market places where buying and selling were carried on. As a result, there was much world-wide trading in the empire.

5. Rome learned the Christian religion. No longer did she worship idols and statues but the real and only true God. Once an Emperor, Constantine the Great, became a Christian. Rome also had missionaries. Paul, the great missionary, taught and made people to believe in Christ.

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7. The Romans loved art, music, painting and architecture. The beautiful cathedral of St. Peter's is the largest in the world, and was built by Michaelangelo, one of Rome's greatest architects.

8. The Romans loved literature. The romantic movement in literature had a marked influence on the writings.

9. Rome became a world power. She conquered the world.

10. As sober, practical men, with none of the imagination or ideals of the Greeks, the Romans developed a race talent for law organization, and self-government. Though love, pity, and benevolence found little place in the Roman's heart, he was strong in the more heroic virtues, dignified, brave, and energetic; he revered the forefathers, and obeyed the laws; and above all he was a man of his word.

11. We got laws from Emperor Justinian. We got our calendar from Pope Gregory. Today in nearly every country of the world we use the form of the calendar given by Pope Gregory. We took Rome's ideas and have improved them so that some of the greatest ideas of today were started by the Romans.

By Mary Slevers Woody

Miss Collins, Honorable Judges, Worthy Opponents and Fellow Students.

Our subject for debate today is, Resolved: Why I had rather be a Greek than a Roman.

I wish to assure my opponents that in discussing the negative side of the query I shall be only too glad to give credit where credit is due. I am glad to concede that the Greeks achieved outstanding greatness in their architecture and art and in their literature. I do claim and wish to maintain though that their achievements in these distinct lines of endeavor were no more outstanding and enduring than that of the Romans.

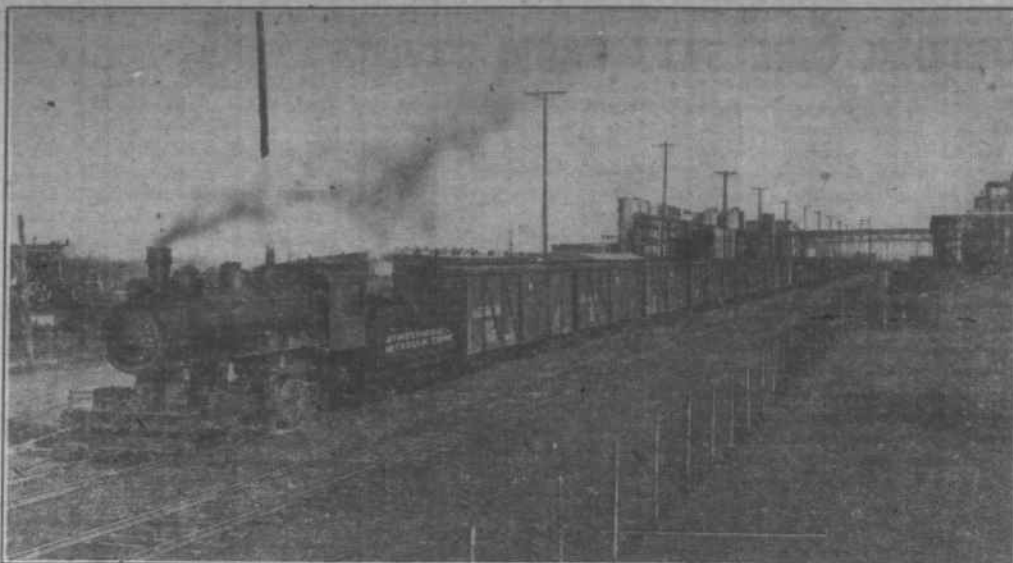
The literary achievements of the great scholars of the Roman Empire have been preserved and handed down to us throughout these years and the learned men of today look upon their works as masterpieces for all times.

The city of Rome, capital of the great Roman Empire, was built on seven hills and was a most beautiful city, and it is conceded that it contained some of the greatest works of art, and the most beautiful models of architecture known to men even to this day. Our great architects today try in vain to reproduce some of the charm and beauty of the great public buildings of this wonderful city.

While the Romans were outstanding in art, architecture, and literature as I have just outlined to you, their greatest achievements by far were in their military accomplishments and ability to weld into one strong government their conquered subjects. The great Roman Empire while at its height extended its dominion over practically every known land at that time, and the great mass of humanity over which it held sway was made up of people of various nationalities, habits, and customs. In fact it was said of Roman as it is of humanity and I am wondering if the great statesmen of this great empire did not make a far better job of governing their people than we are to make today.

By a great network of highways, many of which are in use today in England, France, Germany, and Italy, and by the most wonderful system of equitable and just laws these people were bound together under one great centralized government which held itself together for many centuries. These great highways leading in every direction out from the imperial city of Rome afforded the people in every nook and corner of the great Empire avenues for travel, commerce, and trade and had a great influence in cementing these peoples together.

When we today think of law and



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big-sized ears of corn and fruits and vegetables of all kinds. Just watch that proud old engine as it pulls out of this southern factory yard. Just listen to that Choo-choo. It seems to be saying—"Clear the track—Here I come, Dixie—American made means none better made."

order we think of Rome. The Romans had the minds of lawyers. It was a Roman habit to respect and obey law. The Romans studied their laws as no people before them had ever done. Great lawyers gave lectures upon them and wrote books about them. All this made Roman law very fixed and cleaned, and although the empire fell, yet these books have remained down to the present day. Today much of the law of Italy, Spain, France, Germany, England and even the United States has been brought down through the middle ages from far off Rome.

I could just keep on reciting the virtues and accomplishments of this great people but I must hasten to a close. I would not dare though close my argument on this subject and fail to mention their greatest gift to the world, Christianity. Its origin was humble, with one poor man and a few of his poor friends over in a little corner of Asia that was owned by the Romans. As you know that country was Palestine and that man was Jesus. Who among us I ask would not be proud to claim citizenship among people of such rich inheritances? I thank you.

By Billy West

Miss Collins, Class Mates, Honorable Judges, and Worthy Opponents:

I am glad to represent the affirmative side of the query: Resolved that I would rather be a Greek than a Roman.

My first reason is that the Greeks have contributed more things of real value to the world than the Romans. First, the Greeks were lovers of poetry and good literature. The Iliad and Odyssey, written by the Greek poet Homer, are still considered among the very best of poetry. The drama also originated in Greece. Sophocles was the greatest of the ancient dramatists. Socrates, the Greek philosopher, is still considered as one of the greatest men that ever lived. Three hundred years before Christ he taught that we must love our neighbors and do good to those who mistreated us. The Greeks also excelled in education. In their schools they taught Geometry and Measurements just like we use in our colleges today, which shows that the things they taught have been used through the years. But one of the best and finest things that the contributed to mankind was beautiful art, statuary and architecture. The encyclopedia says that in simplicity and beauty of design the Greeks excel all other people, ancient or modern, in architecture. Athens had so many beautiful buildings that it was considered the most beautiful city in the world. One of its finest buildings was the Parthenon on the Acropolis hill. Even in ruins its beauty is very impressive. My opponents will say that the Coliseum at Rome was the finest, but my friends I want to tell you that the Coliseum was copied after the Greek theatres. The Greeks used their buildings to give plays and programs to educate the people, while the Romans used theirs to entertain the rich, even at the price of a poor man's life.

The stadiums which we have at our colleges now are copied after the Greek theatres. The Romans were just poor farmers and carpenters until the Greeks brought them their education and training, for the encyclopedia says that the Roman poets imitated the Greek poets, and that Roman sculptors imitated the Greek sculptors. That may be all right, but I would rather be an originator than a copy-at. Hadn't you?

The highest aim of the Romans was to be brave and victorious in battle to conquer other countries, so that they could be rich, but the Greeks were taught to be honest, true, to respect older people, to love the beautiful and to have strong clean bodies. One of the finest stories we have is about the friendship of two Greek men, Damen and Pythias.

From our study of history we learn that the Greeks were much more kind and gentle than the Romans. When Paul went into Greece they accepted him and allowed him to

start many churches, but what did the Romans do? They put him in prison and killed him, just like they did Peter and James and thousands of other Christians. More than that, it was Roman rulers and Roman soldiers who crucified our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I would not want to be a Roman for that reason if for no other. Nero, a wicked Roman ruler, played his fiddle and laughed while Christians were being burned at the stake.

The Bible says, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" So even if the Romans did conquer the whole world they themselves were lost.

The Roman Empire has passed away, but Greek learning remains, which shows that "the pen is mightier than the sword."

So Honorable Judges and friends, I am sure that you will agree with me that it is much better to be a Greek than a Roman.

By Barden Winstead

Miss Collins, Class Mates, Honorable Judges, and Worthy Opponents, I'm glad to represent the affirmative side of the query, Resolved that I had rather be a Greek than a Roman.

Of course Greeks are better than Romans. In the first place Greeks stand for the highest type of civilization. In literature, art, astronomy, philosophy and mathematics they led the way.

Lemosthenes was the father of oratory. Every one has heard the story of how he stammered in his youth, and went down to the seashore and practiced speaking with pebbles in his mouth until he overcame his deficiency.

Socrates was the father of the question method of teaching. His school of philosophy was a pattern for the wise men for centuries.

The Grecian style of architecture has been copied from early Grecian times until now. The beautiful columns of the Parthenon are seen today in thousands of American public buildings and more pretentious homes. Grecian statues are worth thousands of dollars and decorate all big museums.

My opponents may say, you talk of nothing but art; why don't you come down to modern times. Nothing is more modern than our American games. The Greeks originated athletic games. Their amphitheatres have been models for our big stadiums. Take, for instance, the Olympic Games. The big crowds that thronged these annual events had

the same athletic spirit that our own big football, baseball and basketball games have today. The democratic spirit was the same as ours. I will ask my opponent to point to a single modern thing that the Romans have given to American society. They'll say perhaps, war. But war is something we don't want. It's true the Romans were good fighters. That was the trouble with the Romans. They fought and killed and as a result what good things they had were lost in the ruins of war.

Greek learning stayed but the Roman Empire fell. You know why. You can't kill or destroy what one knows will be handed down from generation to generation.

Our law was not given to us by the Romans. The Ten Commandments given Moses is the foundation of the law of the United States.

RABBITS—and fever

Twenty years ago the small animal life of some of the Alaska islands was wiped out by a volcanic eruption. This left the Indians in bad shape, for they lost not only an important food supply but the foxes, whom they kill for their pelts, also had food curtailed. Now the Government is "planting" colonies of rabbits on those islands, in the expectation that they will increase rapidly and restore the balance of animal life.

What I want to hear is that the Government has found a cure or prevention for the "rabbit fever" which is often fatal to men who handle rabbits or rabbit pelts. A Maine guide died the other day from a fox he had skinned, after the fox had been eating a rabbit. It is a curious infection which seems to be spreading all over the country.

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