

# SCHOOLS FIFTY YEARS AGO

RALEIGH, N. C., March 31.—The old "destrict" school, with its hard-worked teacher, her hair "combed straight back from her forehead and twisted into a knot at the back of her head;" its huge log chimney; its benches of poplar or juniper, and with all its true atmosphere has been accurately described by D. P. McDonald, in the Harnett County School News, according to state educational officials.

The story on the schools of fifty years ago, attended by so many North Carolinians that lived in rural sections and small towns, is as follows:

"The command was given by the teacher of the 'destrict' school and—strict school it was, too, as she stood in the doorway of the school house one November morning in the year of our Lord, 1872, and in the year of our independence 190 minus three, and the thirtieth year of our state educational system. The sun was directly over the crooked pine down the road, which showed it was time to begin school.

"Her hair was combed straight back from her forehead and twisted into a knot at the back of her head. She wore a white collar, a basque waist with button down front, and a plain skirt with a wide ruffle at the bottom.

"The children rushed in pell-mell, each trying to get in first and occupy the best seat in the house, which was the one next to the fireplace. The house was typical of all the community school houses at that time. It was built of logs and the space between them were stopped with boards on the outside. On the inside these spaces were used by pupils to put their books in when not in use. A huge log chimney with clay took up nearly one end of the building. A log was sawed out of the end, and a convenient height from the floor, to afford light for a 'writing board,' which was a plank resting on pegs, driven in the log below it. A cover was arranged for his opening, made by hinging the edge of another plank to the log above, keeping the plank raised in fair weather, and letting it down when it was rainy. The house was covered with boards and while some had lofts in them, others had none; and the pupils soon learned to tell the time of day by the place on the floor on which a ray of sunlight rested as it streamed through a knot-hole of a board in the roof. The seats were benches of poplar or juniper logs split open, and the flat part smoothly hewn to an even surface. Legs were driven into holes bored at the proper angles on the road side.

"When the pupils were all seated around the fireplace, and the teacher had taken her place in the corner (in a split bottom chair, borrowed of a neighbor,) the business of the day began. The first lessons were in spelling, and Webster's blue back was dissected from a-b, up to incomprehensibility. Some times, a single book served for several pupils. The old-fashioned way of giving a pupil 'study out loud' had been discarded, and the children sat on the benches without anything to rest their backs against, and with nothing to rest their books upon, and holding their books between their thumbs and fingers on a level with their eyes, they went over and over the lessons in a whisper.

"A pupil could be heard spelling 'a-m-i-t-y' for, and by another near him pronounced 'horseback.' It soon became a monotonous chant. One boy, whose mother had shown him how her teacher required her to study 'elementaries' when she was a girl, could be heard repeating, b-i-a bla, b-l-e, ble, b-l-i, bli, to my bla bly. C-l-a, cla, c-l-e, cle, c-l-i, cli, to my clo, clu cly. Note: Those who are not acquainted with the first pages of Webster's spelling book will not understand, but there are grey-headed boys and girls who will be carried back to other days by this. A class comes up and fluently spells: cessation, libation, foundation, and as the next word was given out a commotion was heard in the corner—

"If yer don't give me my thumb paper I'll tell teacher!

"Shan't nuther, 'tain't.

"Tis, too,' snatches at it.

"It haint, I found it on the floor!

"I drapt it,' snatches.

"Findin's owning."

"Tait nuther,' snatches.

"Tis with thumb paper."

"The teacher stopped in the middle of 'tarnation' and sternly demanded, 'D. P., what are you and Frank fussing about?

"Instantly everything was quiet. Both boys looked towards the east corner of the room. A tall broom made of old field sage grass stood in it. Then they looked towards the corner behind the teacher, and there it stood, a hickory switch about three feet long. With a feeble voice the pupil addressed replied:

"Frank's got my thumb paper."

"Picked it up off the floor."

"It's mine. Ma cut it out of the almanac and folded it for me. It had the picture uv a cow on it." Swallows.

"With a voice as sharp as a two-edged sword the teacher continued: "Give it to me," and without waiting for the culprit to bring it to her, she crossed over to the boys. The switch was in her hand, and delivering three rousing whacks on the back

of each boy, she confiscated the disputed property. The pupils all began studying as if their very lives depended on it, and the teacher calmly went back to her place and gave out the next word, 'damnation.' (Note: A thumb paper was not only a book-mark, but was also held under the thumb during study hours to keep the thumb from spoiling the page and wearing it out by continual rubbing as there was nothing for the book to rest upon and the pupil held it in his hand while studying. Even the teacher had no desk.)

"After the spelling lessons came reading, and the younger pupils gravely read: 'She fed the old hen.' 'The old hen fed her.' The old ones used the North Carolina Reader, a reading book gotten up by O. H. Wiley, the first state superintendent of public instruction. The first lesson was read by a big girl who attacked it with a vengeance, for she knew it 'by heart' and she told in a falsetto voice pitched in the key of C, how:

"'Thuh made 'er grave to cool an' dam"

"'For a 'eart suh warrum an' true,

"'She's gawn tuh the lake uv they dismal swamp"

"'Were of night long 'tith er flier-fly lamp"

"'She paddles 'er wite canoe."

The children were now watching the edge of the sunlight shining through the knot as it neared the twelve o'clock across the floor, and when it was parallel this mark, the teacher announced, 'Intermission.' The children rushed to their baskets where they get a piece of corn pone and a rasher of bacon and hurried to the playground, eating as they went.

"When the dreadful, awful, terrible word 'Books' was again called by the teacher from the doorway, the big boys left their three-handed game of 'cat,' the big girls and small boys quit their games of prison base, while the little girls hid their rag dolls under some convenient log, where no mischievous boy would be likely to find them, and they all hurried in to begin their lesson in arithmetic and get more intimately acquainted with figures. The beginners could not help associating them somehow with 'niggers.' 'Emerson's 'mental' and 'written' was studied in turn while one or two who were unable to get an up-to-date book used Pike's or Smith's. An advanced pupil or two also recited a lesson in Monteth's geography. After the regular lessons were over, all the pupils were allowed a short time to study the 'spellings'—the last recitation of the day. When the teacher called the class to take their places on the floor, all in the school who were in the least proficient in this study stood up behind a chalk mark across the floor with their toes on the mark, learning to 'tue the mark' in future years, and as each word was pronounced by the teacher it was spelled by the pupils from the head to the foot of the class. After this lesson was over school was dismissed, and the children went home to help do the evening chores, eat a frugal supper and go to sleep and dream that a long row of hard words with dunce caps on them were demanding to be spelled, or that the multiplication table, standing on very wobbly legs, was insisting that the dreamer repeat it.

"Before casting a sneer at the effort of the people of this period to attain a higher development of character by education, we must remember that these were reconstruction days when the state governor was controlled by 'carpet-baggers' and negroes. The school funds were all squandered and not one penny was appropriated for the cause of education. The south had been devastated by four years of terrible war, followed by the most damnable oppression that was ever inflicted on a helpless people. There was no money to buy the necessities of life or pay the burdensome tax that was imposed on them. Many of the children were orphans whose father had been killed in the war, and their widowed mothers worked in the field day after day to feed them, and the sound of the spinning wheel or the loom could be heard in the late hours of the night as they made the cloth that later they would make into clothes to keep them warm.

"And that tired, conscientious teacher, working so faithfully at a salary of 'we promise to pay \$30 per month,' which promise the patrons were often utterly unable to fulfill, surely her place is among the immortals. Sometimes an order was given her on the public treasurer by a local school committee for her services when it was certain there were no funds for the payment of teachers and it was uncertain when there would be any. She was lucky if she could find anyone who had the money and faith enough in the future credit of the county to discount her order for her. The first obligation of Harnett county known as the 'Lilly debt' was largely composed of school vouchers which were bought for three-fourths of their face value.

"And, from these schools of limited opportunities went men of character, able to withstand the terrible temptations on every hand; men of intelligence, striving to bring about better conditions and a higher place of living; men of ability, who were able to build on the ashes of desolation the new south, great in intellectual achievements, which is our heritage today."

### PEACEABLE

An actress who was married for the third time last June has separated from her husband. Not a shot was fired.—Texas Exchange quoted by the Boston Transcript.

### JOHN D. JR.'S INCOME FROM OIL STOCK ALONE IS \$229,742 PER WEEK.

New York, March 31.—Each week \$229,742 accrues to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in dividends from stock owned by him in nine Standard Oil Companies. It is revealed by a calculation made by Dow, Jones & Co., from testimony given in the Senate's recent investigation of the oil industry.

The younger Rockefeller's annual dividends from his stock in the concerns—approximately one sixth of all shares—total close to \$12,000,000, it was shown. At current prices his holdings in these companies are worth approximately \$140,000,000. The concerns are the Atlantic Refining Company, the Standard of New Jersey, Standard of California, Ohio Oil Company, Prairie Oil and Gas, Prarie Pipe Line, Standard of New York, Illinois Pipe Line, and the Vacuum Oil Company.

The elder Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil group, is not the owner of as much as one per cent of the stock of any of these companies the survey shows.

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**"Slimy Taste"**

"When I feel stupid, get constipated, or bilious, I take a good dose of two of Black-Draught and it sets me straight," writes Mr. George B. Halsep, of R. F. D. 2, Columbia, S. C. "It cleanses the liver and I feel all right, and have not used any other medicine as I do not see the need of it. I am a guard at the State Reformatory, and have been for three or more years. When I first heard of

**BLACK-DRAUGHT**  
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and the good medicine it was, I had been having a tired feeling when I'd get up in the morning. I would be stiff and sore, and had a slimy, bad taste in my mouth, but didn't think so much of it till I began to feel stupid and didn't feel like eating—then I knew I needed medicine. It was then I began Black-Draught, and I felt all made over, ready for any kind of work, ready to eat and sleep. So, for any return of this trouble, I take Black-Draught, and for 25 years it has been my medicine, and I wouldn't be without it at all. My work is constant. I am on my feet a lot. I am out of doors, and fresh air and Black-Draught are all the things I need. I recommend it to others for I know it is good."

**Sold Everywhere.**

### NOTED MEDALION ARTIST



With only a small, pointed knife and a pile of soft clay not larger than a silver dollar, Theodore Spicer-Simpson, the well-known English sculptor, who is spending the winter in Miami, Fla., produces medallions which are considered so unusual as to be prized by the largest museums in the world including the Metropolitan in New York and the British museum in London. He makes a specialty of portrait medallions which are cast in gold, silver or bronze and has made them of many notable persons.

### BIG SALARIES IN PALESTINE

Discontent Over High Pay to British Officials in Impoverished Land.

Jerusalem, Palestine.—The Palestine budget for the coming fiscal year calls for an expenditure of nearly \$11,000,000. Comment has been caused by the high salaries paid to British officials and the relatively small amount allotted to education.

Two and one-half million dollars goes for the maintenance of prisons and public security. This, however, is not surprising in view of the large number of Indian troops kept here, whose presence is deemed necessary because of the hatreds engendered by the Balfour declaration.

Less than half a million dollars is appropriated for education, and half of this sum goes to administrative expense. The country would be in a bad way indeed, from the standpoint of education, were it not for the excellent schools maintained by the Christian missions and the good work done by the Zionist organization in looking after the education of Jewish children.

The head of the department of education draws a salary larger than that of the secretary to the President of the United States, and the salaries of all the British officials are correspondingly large. The British high commissioner is paid \$35,000 a year and has in addition an expense allowance of \$7,500 annually.

These high salaries have created discontent among the people. In judging the situation it should be remembered that Palestine is a poor country, with a population equal to the state of Vermont. Until recently all the heads of governmental departments had their own automobiles, maintained at great expense by the government. But an anti-car newspaper in Jerusalem made an outcry against this practice that it was speedily abolished.

### EX-CONVICT REGAINS RESPECT

Bigamist Returns to Work in Village Where He Was Sentenced to Prison.

New York.—Alexander Dujat of Corona, former county clerk of Queens county, who served time in Sing Sing for bigamy, has assumed his duties as harbor master at the state barge canal terminal, Long Island City, at a salary of \$1,800 a year.

When Dujat was released from Sing Sing on August 23, 1919, he expressed confidence in his ability to regain the esteem of those who had known him as the village blacksmith for 30 years before he became county clerk. It was on the eve of his expected reappointment for that office that he was indicted and convicted on a charge of having married Miss Edna Marie Young of Corona, while he had another wife, Mrs. Matilda Vernolea Clifford Dujat, in Brooklyn.

### Lost Buoy Floats 3,000 Miles.

London.—A whistling buoy, reported lost from the St. Lawrence river a year ago, has been washed ashore at Bryher, one of the Scilly Islands. It is 30 feet in circumference and 12 feet high. The carbide gaslight case was wrenched from the top of the buoy on its journey of 3,000 miles.

Twenty years ago a similar marker drifted to the Scillies from the Mexican coast and is now being used as a water tank.

### Saves 8,140 Buffalo Nickels for Bank Deposit

North English, Ia.—A consignment of 8,140 buffalo nickels, amounting to \$407 and hauled to the bank on an express wagon, was the unusual deposit made by Mrs. Rosa Miller of this city. Mrs. Miller had hoarded the nickels ever since the pieces were coined.

# GLASGOW TO BE SLUMLESS CITY

Scottish Metropolis Providing Municipally-Owned Homes in Suburbs for Working Class.

## IS SECOND CITY OF BRITAIN

Though Inland, Glasgow Dominates the World's Shipbuilding Industry—Pioneer in Municipally-Owned Public Services.

Washington, D. C.—Glasgow, Scotland, whose officials have announced that they will wipe out one of the last of its slum districts and provide instead municipally-owned homes in the suburbs, thus bids fair soon to become one of the few slumless great cities. Something of this Scottish metropolis, which in many ways is one of the most interesting cities in the world, is told in a bulletin just issued from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society.

Glasgow is inland, yet it dominates the world's shipbuilding industry and has turned out more of the great ships that daily carry the pleasure-seekers and business men, the mails and freights, and the grim steel engines of war than any salt-water rival, says the bulletin. "And in spite of its off-the-sea location on a stream across which, a century ago, a child could wade, the tonnage of ships that now berth at its wharves and docks is two-thirds that of New York.

Incidentally, Glasgow, though its name may not be quite as familiar as other British towns, is surpassed in size in Great Britain only by London; and with its more than a million inhabitants, it is barely outranked by only two other cities in the far-flung British empire—Calcutta and Bombay. It is in easy reach of becoming the second city under the British flag.

### Made the Sea Come to It.

"How Glasgow, relatively a small community on a shallow stream—no dating and more successful than Mahomet with his mountain—made the sea come to it, is one of the most fascinating of the romances of engineering. For a long time freight for the city was brought in ships to a point 40 miles down on the Clyde estuary and carried the rest of the way on pack-horses and in carts. Later a port was established 10 miles away; but as the city grew the need for a port at its door became more apparent. The situation seemed hopeless, but in 1773 engineers hit upon the scheme of narrowing the channel and making it dig its bottom deeper.

"The plan worked. The pitifully meager 2-foot depth of those days had become 8 feet by 1830, 22 feet by 1900, and is now 26 feet—sufficient to accommodate the huge modern ocean liners. Piers, welded by wading men, started the loosening of the river bottom in the old days; then came horse-drawn barges. In late years explosives and the most modern of steam dredges have helped keep the channel to its depth. Though Glasgow's waterway is where the river Clyde has flowed for ages, it has been truly said that it is as artificial as the Suez canal."

Except where there are commercial quays and docks, practically every foot of the Clyde waterfront from Glasgow to the estuary is now taken up with the world's greatest and busiest shipyards.

"Glasgow's fame has gone farthest, perhaps, because of the wonderful record of its city government and the somewhat unusual municipal enterprises which it has conducted for its inhabitants. Its numerous municipally-owned and operated services might well have drawn the charge of 'Bolshevism' had they not proved successful business ventures long before that term was invented. The city took over its water works at an early date and developed them. It has operated its own gas works since 1869, and even rents cook stoves to householders for a small fee. Since 1892 the city has not only lighted its streets from municipally-operated electric generating stations, but has also furnished current for industry and for lighting dwellings. The street railways have been owned since 1872 and operated since 1894 by the city.

### Municipal Wash Houses.

"There are a score or more of city-owned bath houses and wash houses where family washing may be done with modern facilities; and since 1870 the city has conducted municipal lodging houses. There is also a municipal 'family home' where children are assured good care while their parents are at work. In the provision of public markets, libraries, parks and playgrounds, the city was a pioneer. A number of bands are kept busy providing music in the parks during the summer.

"Industrially, it might be said that 'Glasgow made the steam engine, and the steam engine made Glasgow.' James Watt made his great invention at Glasgow university. A few years after Robert Fulton's 'Clermont' had made its first trip on the Hudson, the first steamboat in Europe was operated on the Clyde at Glasgow. Coal and iron ore were developed near by. Blast furnaces and machine shops came. Now Glasgow, having made her river, built her ships, equipped them with 'made-in-Glasgow' machinery, and bunkered them with Glasgow coal, sends them to the ends of the earth to reap profit for the old home town."