

Raging at Knight Doesn't Change the Facts

(From the Chapel Hill Weekly) In his talk to the Civitan club in Raleigh last week Edgar W. Knight said that North Carolina had been taking too much credit to itself for its "educational progress" and that, in the provision of school facilities and in the quality of teaching, it was still a backward state.

A number of earnest citizens are raging and roaring at him. Of course, in a brief talk of this sort, he could not undertake a comprehensive discussion of the details of the state's educational problem. He was hitting only the high spots, and his critics attack him for having omitted to say several things they think might properly have been said. He chose to speak, mainly, not of what the state had done, but of what it had not done—and it was a good choice. All the indignation that is poured upon him can not change the facts. He was telling the truth.

Here now, in the Greensboro News, is Charles L. Coon of Wilson with a column and a half of stinging comment upon Mr. Knight's speech. And what do you get from Mr. Coon's letter? Why, a careful reading of it shows that he is really on the same side of the fence as Mr. Knight! He is just as much dissatisfied with the state's educational shortcomings as the University professor is; and, what is more, the reforms he wants are precisely those which Mr. Knight himself is known to want.

Mr. Coon seizes upon certain phrases in the speech as an occasion for satire without ever refuting the main argument. Indeed, having indulged his gift for sprightly ridicule, the Wilson superintendent goes on to confirm Mr. Knight's findings.

"Our first civic educational school problem," says Mr. Coon, "is to secure 100 county-wide school systems, every one of which puts every dollar in every county behind the education of every child in every county." Just what Mr. Knight would like to have, as every one knows who is familiar with his opinions.

Again Mr. Coon says that we ought to have "an adequate state system of taxation with which properly to support an efficient program of public education."

Just what Mr. Knight believes. "He never uttered a word of or a syllable of an adequate program to remedy what even most parents already feel and know—that poor teaching is the rule in our schools and not the exception."

And the poor quality of teaching was the very evil at which Mr. Knight's argument was aimed! Naturally, he was not attempting, in a luncheon talk, to lay down a curative program in detail. That is hardly a task to perform in the presence of a lot of well-fed Civitans in the middle of a warm day. It is a job for the study and the council-chamber.

Mr. Coon advocates "standardizing the work of the schools to the end that it may be possible really to begin the definite training of teachers for work in the schools." Here, once more, he is in agreement with Mr. Knight.

Why, then, does Mr. Coon launch this attack upon Mr. Knight? We believe there are two reasons.

First, there is the statement of the speaker made about county and city superintendents who are "inferior in ability and training and sadly deficient in qualities of leadership." Mr. Coon happens to be a county superintendent himself, and this phrase plainly riled him. But why should it? Any fair reader knows that Mr. Knight did not mean that all superintendents were deficient. He was estimating the situation in the large, and we have no doubt that Mr.

Coon's opinion is about the same as his.

We venture the suggestion that the second reason for Mr. Coon's attack is that hitherto he has held the palm as the champion rebel and disturber in North Carolina's educational life, and he is upset by the appearance of a rival hell-raiser.

Let us not forget that this same Mr. Coon arose in the Teachers Assembly a few years ago and assailed North Carolina's school system as a "crazy patchwork quilt." His frankness so scandalized the company that boos and hisses were heard from all over the hall.

Mr. Coon's success as a builder and administrator of schools has won him a well deserved fame. And perhaps his chief claim to the admiration of his fellow citizens has been his readiness to denounce complacency and inertia and to expose the faults of an existing system. We are for him, and we hope he will continue, with spear in hand, to launch his charges at the dragon of the status quo. But we pray him not to want to keep the field all to himself. Let him hold his eminence as champion hell-raiser, but there is no reason why Ed Knight shouldn't be allowed the place of runner-up.

New Milliken Light Dims X-Ray's Force

Washington.—The newly discovered Milliken light ray has the most powerful penetrating force of any ray ever brought to human notice, the Smithsonian Institution announced in a bulletin calling attention to the fact that the new ray will penetrate a layer of lead six feet thick, whereas the X-ray can be stopped with a thin sheet of the same metal. No one can foresee by what remarkable uses the ray may be made to serve mankind, the bulletin added.

The extraordinary penetrating powers of the new ray depend on the extreme shortness of the wave length. Ordinary broadcasting radio, or Hertzian rays, have waves from 100 to 3,000 meters. Professor Langley found rays in the sun's and moon's beams, which were invisible to the eye, of a wave length of one-hundredth of a millimeter, or 100,000,000 times shorter than 1,000-meter radio. The new rays which Milliken has found are 2,000 times shorter in wave length than the average X-ray.

Few Veterans Return

Not Many of Last Year's Varsity Players in 1926 Line-Up

(From the Chapel Hill Weekly) It appears that not many of last year's varsity football players will be back in college this fall, which means that Bob Fetzer and his assistant coaches are faced with the task of building a team mostly out of new material.

A bulletin from the University News Bureau says that the outlook is for two regulars in the line as a nucleus, and three letter men around whom to build a backfield.

Captain Red Whisnant will be at his old place as guard, and Morehead, the 1925 tackle, will return. The three last year's backfield men scheduled to report for practice this month are Hackney, Sanford, and Ferrell.

The squad will include many promising candidates from the 1925 freshman team as well as the 1925 second-string men.

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GOLD THIEF NABBED BY MARKED METAL

Sluice-Box Robber Caught by Old Police Trap.

William Lake, B. C.—A unique and new method of stealing precious yellow nuggets from sluice boxes has been tripped up by one of the oldest traps known to police—marked money.

The trap was varied slightly, for instead of using government coins or bills, police officers stamped thin sheets of gold and caught the robber red handed, after he had avoided their traps for more than five years.

Now that Frank Lane DeLong is safely behind prison bars, where he will remain for the next two years, he probably will admit that the most adroit maneuvers cannot escape the long arm of the law.

Back in 1921 officials of the Kitchener mine at Keitley creek suspected that some one was robbing their sluice boxes, but they failed to detect the thief. The thefts went on intermittently for more than four years. The thief, evidently believing himself outside the law, became bolder and the thefts became more numerous.

Finally, a plan was hatched to trap the marauder. Several thin strips of gold were marked with the letters "K. M." and doubled up to hide the identification marks.

Several days later DeLong walked boldly into the local police station and announced that he had made a strike. As proof of his assertion he produced two small bottles filled with gold nuggets and dumped them on the table. While one police officer edged toward the door to cut off escape the other sorted through the nuggets until he came to the "plant." When the leaves were unrolled DeLong admitted his guilt.

DeLong said he stole the nuggets by placing a false box under the sluice box, after boring holes through the upper box which permitted the nuggets to drop through.

SHE'S A MAYOR



Mrs. Mattie Chandler, mayor-elect of Richmond, Calif., is a home-lover and fond of working in her garden, where the photographer caught her. She is also a skillful politician, and won the election over nine opponents.

Canadian Lake Monster, 15 Feet Long, Races Auto

Vernon, B. C.—A strange monster which inhabits Okanagan lake raced a motor car being driven along the shore road for several hundred yards, says J. L. Logie, manager of a local land company.

Mr. Logie describes the monster as having a head like a sheep, a dark-colored body showing about five feet above the water, and as about fifteen feet long. Three other persons in the car with Mr. Logie say the monster raised a swell about a foot high and made the spray fly ahead of it as it cut through the water at approximately the same speed as the automobile.

Names of Streets Tell New Orleans' Story

New Orleans.—Names of New Orleans streets present a mixture of French, Spanish and American influences of other days and impress strangers instantly as one of the oldest of the interesting features of the old city.

The city itself was not named, as many think, for the French city of Orleans, but the duke of Orleans. Chartres street bears the name of his son, the Duc de Chartres. Royal street is said to have been named for Madame Royale, eldest sister of the king.

Bourbon bears the dynastic name and the dauphine is remembered through Dauphine street. A group of streets is named for the muses, Calliope, Clio, Erato, Thalia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Euterpe, Polymnia and Urania.

The Napoleonic influence left Napoleon avenue, Josephine street and a street for each of Napoleon's victories, Austerlitz, Jena, Cadix, Constantnople and Berlin. Berlin passed during the World war in favor of General Pershing street.

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Respectfully,

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