

BIBLICAL RECORDER

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THE WAR ON THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD.

There is a considerable war on the General Education Board and its agent—the Southern Education Board—at the hands of the able Editor R. H. Edmunds, of the *Manufacturers' Record*, and Mr. Edward Ingle, who writes for that weekly and other papers, and who writes with the force of an intelligent and admirably well-furnished debater. We do not know Mr. Ingle. He writes from the point of view of an aggressive representative of the Old South. His general attitude is that the South is all right; that she is doing quite well; that her self-respect demands that she shall not receive aid; and, finally, he holds that the General Education Board is wrong on the race question and that its policy is to put the two races on a level in education. Mr. Edmunds represents the New Industrial South, no matter what he writes. His *Journal* is at the head of the Industrial development of the South and has been for two decades or more. His attitude toward the General and Southern Education Board and their work is identical with that of Mr. Ingle.

This paper has criticised the General Education Board and its Southern department, but not on these grounds. We have insisted that the Southern men on these boards are not prepared to represent either elementary popular education or higher voluntary education. We stand by that, and the Board will yet see that we are right. But we are at a loss to account for the position of gentlemen like Messrs. Edmunds and Ingle. They are intelligent and onward-moving men. Their conservatism is not that of men who live in the past. They are not men to be ruled by prejudices. Mr. Edmunds has seemed to unite in himself the strong pride of the Old South and the splendid hopeful energy of the new; and we would think that he would joyfully give a hand to this movement. But he opposes it, almost bitterly.

For our part we attach no importance whatever to the talk about placing the education of the races on a level. It is written in the policies of the Southern States that they must give elementary education to each race, whether the General Education Board exists or not. And it is fixed by inexorable conditions that, barring the equal length of term, there can never be anything like a level reached in the actual process of educating the races. It strikes us, therefore, that the cry of "negro" lacks force here.

We do not think that the South is all right in regard to education. So long as the per cent. of illiterates is greater in the South than anywhere else in the land, we shall not complacently fall back upon our pride. Nor can we keep silent so long as her school term is only four months and half her children are not in school. To boast of past achievements is in the presence of facts like this; to unfold a glorious list of great names to defend a fact like this, is to stultify one's self. The South is not all right. She is coming gloriously, thank God; but she has not arrived.

And as for receiving help, we confess that there is too much of dependence everywhere. Self-reliance and self-respect and self-help have fled the country and made beggars of us all. Churches and schools are on the perpetual beg. We would have the South keep out of this. Let one spot remain in which tubs will stand on their own bottoms, and men can look men in the eye. Nothing so indicts our age as the clamorous crews gathered around millionaires and begging for endowments. As if endowments could make colleges!

But this General Education Board is not in the money-giving business. Here are two years

going, and how much has it given? It has only a million—ten dollars or less for every school in the land, and its field is the United States. This outcry against being pauperized is ridiculous to a man that has kept up with the movement, and it must be terribly so to the throngs of Southern (save the mark) schoolmen that, hearing of the organized propaganda of pauperization, etc., etc., rushed in to get themselves handsomely pauperized! The object of the General Education Board and its Southern department is to bring forward the cause of education, not by giving money, but by disseminating intelligence. Its field seems particularly to be elementary and industrial education. We say, let it do all that it can.

And is it North helping South? It is not. We have arrived upon a period in which things are not labelled "North" and "South." It is the United States, the Twentieth Century Republic straightening up her line, helping herself. May not the Nation act as one in such a cause?

So far as we have observed, this movement is putting forth endeavors in the following directions: First, the creation of interest; second, the improving of school systems; third, the training of teachers; fourth, the collection of data; fifth, the helping of a few schools. Besides this, Mr. Edgar Gardner Murphy, the Executive Secretary of the Board has waged a telling warfare upon child-labor in Southern mills, worthy of mention here, for it has been associated with the work of his Board and accounts in considerable degree for some of the opposition to it. For our part, we endorse this as freely as we endorse the educational work, even more so.

In short, we do not think the warfare on the work of the General Education Board is justified either by the conditions in the South or the nature or policy of the Board, but rather that there is every reason why the Southern people should give themselves to this movement.

A DREAM.

(Baptist Argu.)

"Last night I had this dream: The Eternal sat upon the judgment seat and caused the great throng of humanity to pass before Him. The Judge said to Moses:

'What didst thou give to thy people?'

'The law.'

'What did they make of it?'

'Sin.'

Then he asked Charlemagne:

'What didst thou give to thy people?'

'The altar.'

'What did they make of it?'

'The stake.'

Then he asked Napoleon Bonaparte:

'What didst thou give to thy people?'

'Glory.'

'What did they make of it?'

'Shame.'

So he asked of many, and every one made complaint that his gift had been dishonored by the people.

At last the Eternal asked also His Only Begotten:

'My beloved Son, what didst thou give to men?'

'Peace.'

'What did they make of it?'

Christ answered not. With pierced hands he hid his face and wept."

The world's life hangs on your right hand

See to it what you do!

Or dark or light

Or wrong or right,

The world is made by you!

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

THE NATION'S DRINK BILL.

The American Grocer presents its annual estimate of the retail cost of stimulating beverages, from which it appears that the Nation's drink bill is at high-water mark. Since 1880 the use of alcoholic beverages has nearly doubled, having increased from 10.09 gallons per capita to 19.48 gallons, a gain of over 93 per cent.

The use of the milder stimulants has not grown so fast, that of coffee rising from 8.78 pounds per capita to 13.37 pounds, a little over 52 per cent, while tea dropped from 1.39 pounds to 0.94 pounds, a decrease of nearly 48 per cent. The supplanting of the milder for the stronger stimulants does not indicate greater National regard for better social and higher physical conditions.

The total bill of the Nation for stimulants in 1902 was \$1,369,098,276; the average yearly expenditure for the past five years, \$1,239,108,955. The record for 1902 represents a per capita expenditure for stimulants of \$17.33 for the 79,003,000 inhabitants of the United States, or 4.7 cents per day. The users of alcoholic stimulants are estimated to form one-fourth the total population, on which basis the per capita cost of alcoholic beverages is \$69.32, or 19 cents per day.

Bringing together into one group the cost at retail of all beverages, we find that the United States consumed in 1902 alcoholic and non-alcoholic stimulants to the value of \$1,369,098,276, as follows:

Alcoholic drinks	\$1,172,565,235
Non-alcoholic stimulants—	
Coffee	\$149,891,030
Tea	39,642,011
Cocoa	7,000,000—196,533,041

Total, 1902	\$1,369,098,276
Total, 1901	1,273,212,386
Total, 1900	1,228,674,925
Total, 1899	1,146,897,829
Total, 1898	1,177,661,366

The above represents a yearly per capita expenditure for beverages of \$17.33 for the 79,003,000 inhabitants of the United States, or 4.7 cents a day.

The quantities of the four leading beverages consumed for the year ending June 30, 1902, were as follows:

	Gallons.
Coffee	1,498,910,304
Beer	1,381,875,437
Tea	396,420,115
Spirits and wines	157,206,554

The use of spirits is quite steady, the returns for 1902 showing a per capita increase of only 0.03 gallons, or 1.36 gallons, against 1.33 gallons in 1901 and 1.27 gallons in 1900. The tax of \$1.10 per gallon is the barrier to increased use of whiskey and serves to establish beer as the favorite alcoholic beverage. The total quantity of imported and domestic spirits consumed in 1902 was 107,452,151 gallons. The revenue (\$1.10 per gallon) derived from spirits during the last fiscal year was \$121,138,013.

A POINT FOR THE PREACHER.

Professor Day, speaking at the archaeological opening at Andover last week, made one remark that received great applause and that may have a homiletical value to the ministry at large. He said that every time he saw the arrow-heads in the museum he felt like taking them into his classroom for distribution to the students as a hint how to make sermons: "Be short, and have a point to what you say!"—Congregationalist.