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GOOD ROADS ARE HELP TO SCHOOLS

National Highways and Consolidated Schools will Help Educational Program in the United States.

With the enormous amount of illiteracy in the United States, education is generally conceded to be one of the greatest of our economic problems. To show the extent of that problem as it appears in the light of educational methods and facilities of a bygone age, still largely in use in this country, Frank P. Graves, New York Commissioner of Education, sets forth some starting statistics.

According to these, as yet about one-fourth of the total rural school enrollment and 45 per cent of the rural teaching corps are housed in one-room schools of the crudest sort. There are upwards of 200,000 of these one-room buildings in the United States, and a fairly large percentage of them were constructed at least 40 years ago, despite the fact that school architecture and equipment have been advancing by leaps and bounds during that time. Four-fifths of them have no provision for heating and ventilation, except the old unjacketed stove and the rickety windows, and nine-tenths of the buildings are not properly lighted. In at least 90 per cent the seating is poor and unadjustable, and often where the seats could be arranged to suit the pupil, this has never been given consideration. Where in the cities some four-fifths of the teachers have had at least the minimum amount of standard training—that is two years beyond the high school—in the country less than one-twentieth have so qualified, and the turnover in rural teachers each year is just about 50 per cent.

One of the most effective answers to such conditions has been found in the consolidated school, in which many children can be accommodated, brought from miles around and returned to their homes by the motor bus.

But this solution to the problem of how to get good rural education is possible only where there are good roads. In the days to come, when national highways gridiron this country, as they undoubtedly will, there will be no problem of rural education.

According to the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the consolidated school movement began in Massachusetts in the early seventies. For many years horse-drawn vehicles were then used in carrying children to and from school within a radius of seven miles. Parents gradually began to see the many advantages of the larger schools over the old "little red schoolhouse."

With the motor bus children are now transported for 15 to 18 miles in an hour. School districts have increased in size, extending to 50, 75 or 100 square miles in area. With this development has come large modern school buildings, improved equipment and specially trained instructors equal to that of the best city schools. Motorized school busses make possible these large, modern rural "school plants." They tend to reduce the costs and to give children better opportunities for education.

The consolidation movement has grown to such proportions that many normal schools and colleges are giving special courses preparing superintendents to manage fleets of motor busses transporting children to and from consolidated schools.

Ellijay Items.

Mr. Horace Peek, who is attending the Cullowhee High School, spent the week end with relatives on Ellijay.

Mr. Robert Henry and family, of Sylva, spent the first day and a half of the week with Robert's father, Mr. J. T. Henry.

We are glad to welcome Mr. Charlie Rogers and family back to their old home in this neighborhood.

Mr. Marion Ammons is in very poor health all the time now.

Stevens Brothers, of Caney Fork, Jackson County, were in this section buying cattle last Friday.

Messrs. Charles and Fred Mincy, of Gastonia, were in this neighborhood looking about business matters a few days ago.

Mr. Alex Berry seems to have his new barn nearly completed.

R. N. M.

WILL PUSH MOVE TO LIVE AT HOME

Bank Offers \$500 in Prizes to Foster "Live At Home" Campaign—Twenty Prizes of \$25 Are Offered.

Raleigh, N. C., March 22.—According to an announcement made by Gilbert Stephenson, Vice-President in charge of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company branch in this city, his bank will donate \$500 in prizes to further the purpose of the "Live at Home" campaign in the twenty counties in which his bank operates. The bank offers a prize of \$25 to the farmer in each of the following twenty counties who shows the most progress towards living at home during 1924, as told in an article of not over 500 words in length. The counties in which the farmers may enter the contest for this prize are Buncombe, Madison, Haywood, Forsyth, Yadkin, Surry, Stokes, Rockingham, Guilford, Davidson, Randolph, Rowan, Iredell, Cabarrus, Wane, Durham, Johnston, Franklin, Granville and Harnett.

Mr. Stephenson states that the prize is not necessarily awarded to the farmer who makes the highest grade in the ten things which he is asked to do by the Agricultural Extension Service of the State College and Department of Agriculture, but is to the one who makes the most progress towards "living at home." The story may be written by the farmer or some one else for him. It will be submitted to three judges on or before December first, 1924. The winning story will be given to the local county paper for publication. Following this the twenty best stories (one from each county) will be submitted to a committee composed of Dr. Clarence Poe of the Progressive Farmer, Dean B. W. Kilyore of the State College, and Hon. W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture. The best story selected by this committee will be published by the Progressive Farmer. The twenty prizes of \$25 each will be mailed to the winners on or before December 20th and will make a nice little Christmas present.

The purpose of this is to help promote the work done by the extension workers of the State College in making North Carolina a happier and more prosperous State.

Game Taboo in China Gets Into Society Here

Pung—Chow—Mah-jong!—America has found a new amusement. And what could be more romantic? To begin with, it is "Made in China;" it includes counters which look like chopsticks; there is all the mystery of a magician's cabinet; with it are little blocks of polished ivory or bone and bamboo dovetailed together. The characters on these Chinese dominoes are dragons, circles, bamboos, winds, flowers and seasons.

But the members of our elite society, little guess that it is opposed by government and moral influences in China and that it is being played only by street denizens and dope fiends in the gambling resorts and opium dens. The Mah-jong gamester in China has about the same status as a bootlegger in the United States.

Students of American universities enthusiastically receive this novel game into their fraternity homes, but do not know and are not told that in China Mah-jong—more than immorality—has ruined the lives of multitudes of students and caused them to drop their books.

Chinese Christians are expelled from their churches for playing this game.

After the World War it was found necessary to explain to the East why the so-called Christian nations of the West had been grappling at one another's throats. It seems that now we are facing a similar paradoxical situation. A group of Chinese Christians are saying the America and England are setting China a bad example through the introduction of Mah-jong as a social institution. The National Christian Council of China has written an open letter to the Federal Council of Churches in America, concerning the vogue of the game here.—Dearborn Independent.

TESTING THE SEED



CLIMATE WON'T AFFECT A CURE

Editor Warns Against Advertisements of Superior Climate and Weather as Cures for Tuberculosis.

Climate and weather are not the big essentials in the treatment of tuberculosis, according to Philip P. Jacobs, editor of the Journal of Outdoor Life. Speaking editorially in the March issue of the Journal he declares that care and not climate is the big factor in taking the cure and determines to a large extent a patient's recovery. Given proper care, which of course includes expert medical supervision, tuberculous patients will get well anywhere in the United States, he says.

Dr. Jacobs admits that it is easier for a person to take the cure for tuberculosis in an even climate; that in such a climate it is much simpler to live an outdoor life and to get the benefit of rest and the proper metabolism of food. But the fact remains, he adds, that people do get well of tuberculosis in all sorts of climate.

To substantiate this statement, Dr. Jacobs cites results of the Home Hospital which is situated in one of the most congested districts in New York City. He says that the results from this hospital compare favorably with the best sanatoria of the southwest or any other part of the country. Furthermore he says that sanatoria on the Atlantic coast, where there's all sorts of weather, produce as good results in the treatment and cure of tuberculosis as any of the pet climates of the southwest, as far as comparative statistics show. Dr. Jacobs issues this statement in view of advising anxious patients against being deluded by the many alluring advertisements or resorts and sanatoria, claiming to have superior advantages afforded by climate.

London Editor Secures Definitions of Home

Some months ago the editor of a London magazine sent out to several hundred people this query: "What is Home?" Eight hundred replies came back, answers being written by persons representing all walks of life. According to the English editor, they came from homes of refinement and from those of crudeness and poverty. Several of these definitions were selected as best covering the many answers sent in and among the number were the following:

Home—a world of strife shut out, a world of love shut in.

Home—a place where the small are great and great are small.

Home—the father's kingdom, the mother's world and the child's paradise.

Home—the place where we grumble the most and we are treated the best.

Home—the center of our affections, round which our heart's best wishes twine.

Home—the only place on earth where the faults and failings of humanity are hidden under the sweet mantle of charity.

HEALTH LAWS MUST BE LIVED

Noted Educator Declares the Teachers Should Consider Underweight of Children as Danger Signal.

Addressing the State Teachers Assembly recently in session in Raleigh, Dr. J. F. Williams, professor of Physical Education, Columbia University, declared that no feature of health education that was not lived daily was worth while. He advocated the daily practice of health laws as a means of living the best life and rendering the greatest service.

The Modern Health Crusade, a system of training in good health habits which is now used in many of the schools in the State, is evidently a feature of health work that meets Dr. Williams' approval. This system is based on practice and not precept. Under it children daily do the duties explained in hygiene and physiology, which are too often left undone. During the last five years millions of school children in America have been trained to practice daily certain health chores till they have become established habits.

Another important health fact emphasized by Mrs. Z. V. Conyers of Greensboro before the teachers of the State, was that underweight in children should be taken as a danger signal. This condition in children, she says, is usually brought about by the lack of proper nourishment. The danger lies in the fact that the malnourished child tends to become disabled, incapable of resisting disease or withstanding its onset and progress. Nutrition classes were advocated for children 7 per cent underweight. The basis for nutrition work is that every child requires a certain body weight to sustain his height. The Modern Health Crusade and the Nutrition Crusade are featured in North Carolina by the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, Sanatorium, N. C., and persons interested should write them.

Find Diphtheria Preventive.

A dispatch from Paris says: Preventive vaccination against diphtheria has been discovered by Drs. Jules Renault and Pierre Levy. The serum has been endorsed by the Academy of Medicine, according to announcement made.

The report says that 400 cases of the disease have been treated successfully, but the discoverers have asked for six months more in which to prove their tests officially before demanding that the serum be used in the schools.

This follows the Roux serum for the cure of diphtheria, which has reduced the world death rate of the disease by 90 per cent.

Other discoveries announced to the Academy of Medicine are the use of oxygen as a cure for scurvy and ultra-violet rays for reducing flesh. A number of doctors, however, disagree with the latter experiments, declaring the rays to be dangerous.

SOUTH IS LEADER IN SUPER-POWER

One of the first Super-Power Developments in the Entire Country was Operated in the Carolinas.

Raleigh, N. C., March 22.—A super-power system—one of the first and best examples of such a development—is today, and has been for two years serving North and South Carolina. This fact was brought to public notice today, following announcement from New York of the formation in Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland of a co-operative coal field service. Southern states, therefore, have pointed the way in this progressive step.

Together with Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia, the Carolinas are interconnected by high-tension lines. According to the North and South Carolina Public Utility Information Bureau, an area of 140,000 square miles, with a population of 3,650,000, is served. The present capacity of this system is approximately 1,000,000 horsepower, of which a little more than 75 per cent is hydro-electric.

Power is relayed from one extremity of this zone to another to meet shortage on account of reduced flow of rivers or breakdown in equipment. In this way interruptions of supply have been prevented, the surplus of one region has supplied the deficiency of another and the burning of coal has been reduced to a minimum.

Another section of the United States is already being served by a super-power system similar to that existing in the Carolinas and the now proposed Eastern service. It embraces the busy districts in and about Chicago.

The ultimate purpose for these various units over the country apparently is an interlinking for the interchange and intersale of power where and when needed. The great power companies of the country appear to be working toward the perfection of a plan which will insure the best, most dependable and cheapest service to the millions of electric power users.

Thomas A. Edison, dean of the electric world, seems to have sensed this movement, for last month, on the occasion of his seventy-seventh birthday anniversary, he said: "The most important electrical development that could be worked out in the future would be a system of connecting power stations and the development of water power stations to operate the system, together with the application of electric power to the railways."

It is noted in connection with these vast electric power developments already under way, that Congress is being besought to take over the industry which private capital has already launched.

The Norris-Keller bill, introduced a few days ago, proposes national ownership of a great super-power system to include the entire country. Representative Keller, in introducing the bill, called attention to the municipally-owned electric power plants as a possible nucleus for the development of a great national system.

As an index to the relatively minor proportions of publicly-owned plants, as a factor in the electrical industry of the country, it may be stated that more than ninety-six per cent of the electrical output of the country is generated by private companies and less than four per cent in publicly-owned plants. Statistics also show that these latter use twelve per cent of all the coal burned by electrical utility companies and twelve per cent of the labor.

Regarding public ownership of utilities of this kind, James H. Collins, in a recent issue of "The Nation's Business," says: "The politician and the deflagogue are fascinated by the electrical utility business. It is a going concern, paying dividends to its two million stockholders and constantly growing; a tempting field for exploitation and piling of political plums."