

The Franklin Press

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Starting to School

GOLDEN shadows of adventure lie ahead... babyhood passes into memory... a new recruit in the great army of life, holding his mother's hand, salutes with singing heart the trumpet call of his first serious march towards manhood.

Sad at the thought of sharing his affection and interests with others, happy in the dream of his classroom glories which will lead him on up to the summit of manhood's success, the mother of this little fellow leads him to the threshold of a new and challenging career. In frames of sunshine, she pictures him already through Grammar school, high school valedictorian, college honor graduate!

But the little fellow's career and education may not unfold in the path of his mother's

Of the 4,000,000 boys and girls who will enter the first grade of public schools this year, only 2,700,000 will finish Grammar school. Less than 1,050,000 of these will graduate from high school. Approximately 150,000 of this number will achieve college or university degrees. In other words, our little fellow has less than 4 chances in 100 of going all the way.

By the overwhelming ratio of 1 to 25 the odds are against the little fellow attaining the heights of his mother's dream. That's the record of the millions that have gone before. And there is nothing transpired to make us have any hope that it will be any different with these that are coming on now.

In the light of these incontrovertible facts, there is indicated a duty to parents—and to all others that come in contact with the oncoming citizens—to look well toward giving these little ones every advantage. There are many ways that this may be done. Take this picture and look at it well. Here is a little fellow, just bubbling with joy and excitement and importance over his first day at school. He just got to get home to mummy and tell her so quick. He rides the bus from his home to the school. What a big fine thing it is to do that. He must tell mummy what a fine thing it would be to drive a school bus. And the teachers, and the big rooms in the school and all the seats and all the other children. He must tell daddy all about it just as soon as he can possibly get home. He gets on the bus and after an hour or so—the man driving the bus just doesn't care a rap. Looks like it is so slow. But after a long, long time the bus stops in front of the house.

There is mummy. There's little sister. Oh, the little fellow must run and tell them quick about all the great and wonderful things about the school and everything. Off he jumps and starts to run toward the house. But it's only a start. A car coming from the opposite direction, catches the little fellow and his little soul is on its way to eternity and a mass of crushed and bruised and bloody matter that was just this minute so happy and cherry and bright is gathered up and taken to his mother's house. Tomorrow there will be a new little mound of fresh red earth in some lonely grave yard and that story is over.

Just by the barest chance, there was no deaths to report on the Georgia road the first day a Franklin school bus ran. A citizen of Franklin, who by the way has had so few mishaps, and these only minor ones, was coming home when he passed a school bus that was letting off passengers. He unthoughtfully drove on past the bus. As he passed a school girl came out from behind the bus. She jumped just in time. But in jumping she tripped and fell and was very badly bruised. The car did not strike her because the driver was watching his business and managed to swerve to one side. There are hundreds of others that, like the man referred to, do not know that there is a law providing for the safety of school children getting on or off buses.

It may not be generally known that there is a state law requiring motorists to stop for

school buses when they are taking on or discharging passengers. There is such a law. And, greatly unlike many laws, this law is strictly enforced. Many cases have come to trial in many parts of the state and every one has been severely dealt with.

Copper Medals to Two Best Girl Canners in Country

SPECIAL awards by Senator Arthur Capper, of silver and bronze medals to the two 4-H club girls who enter Macon county's best jars of home canned fruits, vegetables and meats in the National Canning contest at Shenandoah, Iowa, is announced in a message to The Press from Shenandoah, Iowa, where the contest is being held under the auspices of the Household Science institute.

Senator Capper, long a friend of the 4-H clubs and a member of the national committee on Boys' and Girls' Club work, in making the awards said that he hoped these awards would serve to encourage home canning work among farm girls and that they would prove of value to 4-H club leaders and extension workers in furthering this work.

The Capper medals are in addition to the list of 470 prizes totaling \$4,250 in cash, loving cups and ribbons which will be distributed to the winners in the contest. The grand sweepstakes award of the contest carries with it a cash prize of six hundred dollars.

The contest is open to every woman and girl. There are no restrictions as to the nature of the food sent. Contestants may enter the fruit, vegetable or meat division, any two of these divisions, or all three. Entries should be sent immediately upon canning. These will be kept on exhibition at Shenandoah till the closing of the contest on October 1.

The list of contest judges includes five of America's outstanding home economic experts and nutrition authorities, headed by Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the bureau of home economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. That the judging may be thoroughly impartial and the display of jars absolutely uniform, contestants are required to send their entries in standard glass jars of the quart size. A sample Ball Mason jar and carton, together with prize entry labels and full information for entering

the National Canning Contest, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Any preferred method of canning may be used although it has been found that the hot pack method together with the use of a pressure cooker for the sterilizing is best, especially for non-acid vegetables, states Grace Viall Gray, nationally known canning expert, who is secretary of the contest. This method of canning is recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture because it saves time and fuel and assures sterility, while preserving the natural flavor, color, and texture, of the canned article.

Thinking of School

THE SCHOOLS of Franklin have this week thrown open their doors for the new school year. This year there will be better teachers than ever because the old teachers will be improved by another year of experience. Many text-books have been improved, and in general the coming year should show an advance over the past. While our town may not have the best schools in the world, they are so much better than the schools which the fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers of the present pupils attend that we can justly feel pride in the progress Franklin has made in education.

Why not translate some of this pride into action? Why not resolve to unite with the educational authorities in making 1931 a bigger and better year than ever? A little co-operation with the teachers will go a long way. Stop and think how you, gentle fathers and patient mothers, have from time to time been aggravated by the antics of your own children. Consider that and then decide what you would do, if you had several dozen more just like them and had to be responsible for them throughout each school day of a school year. The path of the teacher is by no means fringed with roses, and when we consider how much our teachers do accomplish in spite of difficulties, we can but wonder.

Let us resolve to co-operate this year with the teachers of Franklin. Let us resolve to contribute liberally of our means to the activities of the schools; to visit the schools and, in short, to fully discharge this one of the most sacred duties incumbent upon him or her who has a heart felt desire to be a good citizen.

Others' Comments

FOOTBALL DAYS

THIS political business will have to be endured for a few days yet but soon it will be a mere memory—a sort of disagreeable dream—and we will be all ready for the really serious and important business of lift, to wit: football.

For some weeks we have had a little uneasiness over the college openings. There have been persistent rumors of tight money, awful tight money, hard times, and a slight lull in the automobile trade, but it seems to have been all propaganda on the part of some of

our over-zealous Democrats against the purest of patriots, the Republicans, and that there is little or nothing in it.

Reports now indicate that all the colleges will be full to overflowing. Some of our State colleges have waiting lists and all "expect the biggest enrollment in history."

All of which means that football is safe and that the chief aim and object of the human race is not to be dwarfed by the unimportant matters of life, such as making a living, dodging the sheriff, paying taxes, and hoping for the best in spite of the fact that most of us see through a glass darkly in such matters.

College presidents and faculties are to be congratulated on the magnificent success which they have made out of their institutions. They manifest a spirit of progress and up-to-dateness which is highly to be commended. The old theories as to the object of colleges are now thoroughly discredited and have been relegated to the scrap heap, in the highly original words of the sports writers—the really worthwhile literature of the day.—Greenwood (S. C.) Index-Journal.

COMPARING SOUTHERN SCHOOLS

NORTH Carolina's rating of eighth among sixteen southern states as to public education emphasizes anew that the school program should not be curtailed at this time.

This ranking, however, may not be taken as an infallible indication of the state's standing. Other considerations besides the five items on which this classification is based might result in a different rating. The items are: (1) percentage of enrollment in average daily attendance; (2) length of term; (3) average salaries of instructors and supervisors; (4) percentage of total enrollment in high school; (5) average value of school property per pupil.

To these points any educator could add others that relate vitally to the efficiency and completeness of public instruction. Qualifications of the teachers; the number and percentage of one-teacher schools; and the percentage of pupils promoted from each grade are examples of other factors.

Many of the shortcomings of school systems in the South date to the post-Civil war period. This may explain partly why such

of the states which felt more the effects of that war. Also, the negro has been a greater problem for educators in the states of the Confederacy than in those farther north. No excuses are necessary, however, for North Carolina. This state's educational progress in the last decade has attracted favorable attention throughout the nation.

Grading on the foregoing five items shows two outstanding weak points, one of which surely could be remedied this year. The average annual salaries of teachers and supervisors totaled only \$837; probably that can be raised only slightly, if at all, until depression has passed. The percentage of enrollment in attendance was only 75.5. With schools just opening for another season, parents and school officials should co-operate to raise that figure at least 15 per cent.—Asheville Citizen.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—Funny what a whale of a difference just a little point-of-view makes. For instance, if one wants to belittle anything, it "isn't a drop in the bucket." But try dropping a lighted match into a bucket of nitroglycerine.

Among the outstanding political developments of the week is that of the relegation of acknowledged bosses to the shadows and the usurpation of their scintillating halos by subordinates better known to those on the inside looking out than to those on the outside looking in.

Believe it or not, effect of the new tariff law, adequacy of farm relief measures, cause of business depression, alleviation of drought distress, curbing food profiteering, wrecking the water-wagon, complexion of the new tariff commission, consequences of naval limitations—all consigned to at least temporary oblivion when one man was found to be a big enough drop to fill the whole bucket and became the main issue here in Washington between the two great parties.

That man was Charles Michelson, for years a familiar figure in the press gallery of the National Capitol through long service as correspondent of important newspapers, and more recently head of the publicity department of the Democratic National Committee. Contentions that "Charlie" Michelson is merely the mouthpiece of John J. Raskob, chairman of that committee, and receives a salary of \$25,000 per year for promulgating Democratic doctrines, did not serve to deter his personal injection into the campaign.

Newspaper correspondents fairly stormed the publicity offices of the National Committee headquarters to learn what answer Mr. Michelson had to make to the charges of "misrepresentation" brought against his publicity efforts by John Q. Tilson, Republican floor leader of the House of Representatives; by Will R. Wood, chairman of the Republican Congress-

sional Campaign Committee, and, finally, in a nation-wide radio address, by Senator Simon D. Fess, chairman of the Republican National Committee. True, the Ohio Senator did not name Mr. Michelson, but he stressed "once more the alleged "false" statements issued against the Republican party and President Hoover from high Democratic official sources—and the sources he had in mind were not hard to guess.

Of no little assistance in the thrusting of Mr. Michelson into the limelight was another prophet better known and therefore more highly honored in his own country than across its borders. By those who know him and his works Frank Kent is rated among the ablest and best of political columnists, but unfortunately—or fortunately, as you prefer—his enviable reputation is largely confined to the circulation area of a prominent Baltimore newspaper—that is, it was until there appeared in the current issue of Scribner's Magazine his article subtitled by the publishers "Michelson—Hoover's gadfly."

Not for many a long day has a magazine article stirred national political quarters so much as Kent's breezy tale of how Michelson put life into the Democratic party, within a few months after the most crushing defeat in its history, by devising and maintaining a brand-new type of political publicity. It was immediately seized upon by Representative Wood as the disclosure by a Democrat of a "plot" of John J. Raskob "to bring about a systematic and malicious misrepresentation" of President Hoover.

Mr. Michelson was asked by his interviewers if it was true that he was the basic cause of all the troubles Mr. Hoover may have had in the line of making himself understood and appreciated, and that the statements attributed to Democratic statesmen released to the press through him were in fact, as Mr. Kent suggested, written by him. On these points Mr. Michelson declined to be quoted and intimated that he was so unaccustomed to being a major political issue that he was not yet able to discuss himself with that immodesty which possibly he would acquire after further experience in public life.

Someone has suggested that there is at least one striking difference between Republi-

can and Democratic politicians—their bolters with swift, sure and unyielding justice; the Republicans reward theirs with campaign support and select committee assignments apparently in the hope that they won't bolt again.

On one hand the case of Senator Norris, of Nebraska, is pointed out. If Norris is a Republican, they say, so is Pat Harrison, of Mississippi. Mr. Norris was elected to Congress in 1902 as a Republican and has been wearing the Republican badge ever since. However, he has been insubordinating ever since his official advent at the Capitol and yet he is now the recognized regular Republican nominee for the Senate. Furthermore, Senator Fess, the new national chairman, declares that Mr. Norris will have the support of the national organization in the November election.

On the other hand, consider what happened to Furnifold Simmons in North Carolina and Tom Heflin in Alabama. Senator Simmons' refusal to support Alfred E. Smith was the only instance of party irregularity in his long political career, yet the North Carolina voters returned him to private life by an overwhelming majority. Senator Heflin even found the door of the Democratic primary closed against him as punishment for his bolt of the Smith ticket, and while he may still have a chance of reelection, running as an independent, that possibility is considered rather remote.

At that, maybe there is "method in the madness" of the generals on both sides.

Trying to follow the gyrations of the tax-reduction whirligig is certainly not conducive to mental relaxation. On general principles most of us chortle with glee over a tax cut, but the process of first being carried from uncertainty to hopelessness, then from hopelessness to elation and finally from elation back to uncertainty is somewhat exhausting.

Came from the Treasury warning that a deficit was among the possibilities and one of such proportions as to blast all hope of tax reduction next year. This led to a White House-Treasury conference, and the clouds in the financial sky were lifted by the announcement that prospects were good for continuing the present one per cent reduction on the normal income tax rates voted last year. Then came calm analysis of the situation with the inevitable conclusion that it is impossible, at least unwise, to predict now what will be the state of the Nation's finances next December.

As neither President Hoover nor Secretary Mellon is willing to make any actual promises at this time, the political aspect of the situation is more interesting than economic considerations. Ability to reduce taxes or inability to reduce taxes is capitalized by both parties but, after all, being solely a matter of dollars and cents, tax reduction depends upon what is shown when the books are balanced for congressional inspection next December and not upon who is elected in November.

At that, departmental economy, voluntary or involuntary, will undoubtedly figure largely in the final analysis.