

# NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

## Compulsory Education Regulations and Illiteracy

WASHINGTON.—Although six states in the Union are still without compulsory school-attendance laws, and four others have laws that apply only partially, definite progress during the past decade is reported in a bulletin just issued by the United States bureau of education. Since 1905 eight states previously without compulsory laws have adopted them, and it is thought to be a matter of only a few years when compulsory school attendance will be in effect in every state and territory of the United States.

The six states still without compulsory school laws are: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. The four local-option states, where the law is in effect in certain counties only, are Maryland, Virginia, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The bureau's investigation of the subject reveals a close connection between lack of compulsory attendance laws and illiteracy. The states rank in percentage of illiteracy very much in accordance with the length of time compulsory schooling has been in effect and the completeness with which it is enforced.

The states vary widely in number of years and amount of attendance required each year. The period of compulsory attendance is from eight to twelve in North Carolina and Virginia. In most states it is eight to fourteen or fifteen. The present tendency is to raise the upper limit of compulsion. In 17 states the compulsory age limit is sixteen years or above; in Idaho it is eighteen. As a general rule, however, children in all these states are allowed to leave school at fourteen years of age if they secure employment or have completed the eighth grade in school. There is a constantly increasing effort to safeguard the child between fourteen and sixteen years of age, the period of special importance for the vocational preparation of most children.

As little as 12 weeks of school attendance during any one year may be required in Virginia, Oklahoma, Delaware and Nebraska, while in Vermont and other states there must be 150 or more days of actual school attendance every year. Many states require attendance "during the full time school is in session," which may mean anything from 41 to 194 days. Some states secure attendance during long terms by conditioning state appropriations upon the number of days of actual school attendance.

## Some Visitors Uncle Sam Does Not Want

THE recent seizure by the New York customs authorities of the village of Mendon ants which Mrs. C. W. Morse wished to bring with her from Europe is only an episode in the perpetual war waged against undesirable immigrants, human, animal and vegetable. Mrs. Morse's village, like the one which reached Philadelphia about a fortnight before, was probably a by-product of the increased interest in nature study, but the United States government not only discourages such aids to amateur research but absolutely prohibits them. By a law passed in 1905 the importation of living insects into this country is forbidden and there are other laws which regulate so strictly the importation of larger animals that in many cases no discretion is left to the authorities.

The classic instance of misguided enthusiasm is the introduction in 1869 of the destructive gypsy moth by a scientist named Trouvelot. Trouvelot, a Frenchman by birth, an astronomer in Harvard; unfortunately he was also an ardent entomologist who had devoted much of his leisure time to the consideration of the silk worm industry. In an evil hour he conceived the idea of breeding a harder worm which might withstand the diseases which then were ravaging rearing establishments in France, and in pursuit of this purpose imported some gypsy moths, intending to cross them with some of the native species found in the United States. It so chanced, however, that he left the window of his study in Medford, Mass., open one day. When he returned a mass of eggs laid by the gypsy visitors had disappeared—apparently it had blown out of the open window. At this point Trouvelot's experiments stopped. Their results did not.

## Everything Was All Right Except the Logic

FORMER Senator Joe Blackburn, now in the city, is bringing to light a lot of forgotten anecdotes of the day when a black slouch hat simply had to be worn by a statesman—otherwise he was no statesman at all. Whenever I look at the coterie of statesmen on the hill nowadays who wear brown derbies, I wonder how far along they would have gone in the old black slouch-hat days.

Anyhow, this little story comes from Senator Blackburn. When Charlie Towne of Minnesota was in the senate, serving his 28-day term by appointment, he made a speech. Sort o' short time to get in a speech in the senate, but he did get it in. It was a rip-snorting speech, full of wit and blood and thunder, just the sort of speech that you do not hear every day in the senate. It was a criticism of the Republican policy in the Philippines, and to tell the truth a lot of Republicans were secretly tickled over it, but just didn't dare say so. Among those present was Senator Depew of New York, who just thought to himself he would take a crack at that brand-new 28-day senator. When Towne had closed and his friends were crowding around to congratulate him, up marched Senator Depew.

"A magnificent effort," he said, "a wonderful speech. Your diction was elegant, your delivery forceful, but your logic was execrable."

But Towne was not overpowered by this. He smiled as he returned the compliment.

"Thank you, senator, for your appreciation of the things in my speech which you could understand."

## Buy Coal for Poor With Climbers' League Fund

HERE is a story that is "right so," as they call it down here, and, being true, of course, will scarcely be believed; but if the people who have

heard had pennies would follow their lead there would be much less suffering when cold weather comes. It is just the story of one John Parks, who used to be a deckhand on a liner. He came to town last fall and joined the Climbers' league down at the Salvation Army hall in Pennsylvania avenue. The idea of the Climbers' league is to see which member can stay longest on the "water wagon." Each member is employed by the army and each drops a nickel into the league treasury each week. In the spring the league gives a "banquet" with the nickels saved in winter. The nickels accumulate rapidly, as forty or fifty men belong to the league. When the treasurer reported at a meeting recently that the members had saved \$15 in nickels prospects of a fancy "banquet" were bright. The "banquet," by the way, marks the end of the winter and the departure of the league members for the highways. But John Parks upset the program at the meeting. He got to figuring on that "women and children first" rule, and he made a speech. The burden of his words was that he didn't think a bunch of "bums" ought to buy a "banquet" when women and children needed food and coal. Parks made a motion that the \$15 saved by the league be used to buy three tons of coal. The motion passed unanimously, and as a result Major Evans, in charge of the army, bought the coal and distributed it between several poor families. Could there possibly be a more glorious charity than this?

HEAR HEAR I MOVE THAT WE USE TH \$15 TO BUY COAL FOR SOME POOR FAMILIES

## LOVE ROMANCE OF RUSSIAN ROYALTY



Grand Duke Demetrius, first cousin of the czar of Russia, and Princess Belosselsky, formerly Susan Whittier of Boston, who has inspired the grand duke with such fervent love that he has been banished from the country for four months. The princess is a great favorite at court and is held wholly blameless in the affair. Her husband is commander of a regiment of which the czarina is honorary colonel, and the latter felt personally affronted by the grand duke's presumption.

## LADY LONDONDERRY STRONG CHAMPION FOR ULSTER CAUSE

King George and the Army Much Influenced by Her.

HAS TILT WITH MISS ASQUITH

Beautiful, Intelligent and Tactful, This Titled Woman is a Power in British Politics—Her Sympathies Lie in North of Ireland.

London.—The house of commons was diverted recently by a tilt between Violet Asquith, daughter of the premier, and Lady Londonderry, who is a rampant friend of Ulster, and is even credited by her enemies with being the real brains of the Ulster rebellion. Lloyd-George was speaking in favor of the government's home rule policy, and the marchioness of Londonderry was keeping up a running fire of comment calculated to show that Lloyd-George was overdue in a home for the criminally insane. The marchioness didn't care who heard. Miss Asquith, who naturally was for the government, asked her "can" the chatter. Lady Londonderry put on the loud pedal. Miss Asquith called a sergeant-at-arms, or its English equivalent.

"Put the old bird outside," said she in effect, "she is disturbing my peace." The sergeant-at-arms didn't know what to do. He just couldn't throw out the nobility, especially when the nobility was feminine and more than fifty, and yet he hated to disappoint a lady. There is nothing in the bill of rights or Magna Charta about what to do when a marchioness turns loose the forked lightning of her tongue. The sergeant smiled sickly, looked respectful and did nothing. Finally Miss Asquith went home, leaving her adversary triumphant in possession of the field. It was an omen of a larger victory.

Lady Londonderry. Lady Londonderry has been decidedly busy ever since the Ulster



Marchioness of Londonderry.

crisis arose, and the defeat of the government in its attempted policy of coercion is a distinct triumph for her. She is on very friendly terms with the king and queen, and no doubt used her influence with George in favor of the stiff-necked counties in the North of

Ireland. And her social prestige gives her power with the army officers.

Naturally all her sympathies are with the Ulsterites. Her husband was once lord lieutenant of Ireland, and she has always been a tory of the tories. A cool, imperious woman, she was not in the least alarmed by the hostility with which she was greeted when she first went to Ireland. She mounted a horse and rode through the streets of Dublin when an unfriendly crowd collected, and the crowd let her go unharmed. She tried lavish entertainments to gain favor for her husband, but met with little suc-



Miss Violet Asquith.

cess. Even her work for the Irish Industries association did not gain her favor, although her efforts to encourage Irish fabrics and make them fashionable undoubtedly have proved valuable to the island. Finally, before her husband's term of office was up she went back to England. There her triumphs have been undeniable.

She is one of the persons who always entertains the German emperor at dinner when he comes to England. Her intimacy with the king and queen is of long standing. How much influence her tea table talk may have had upon officers high in the British army it is hard to say; more than a little, there is doubt of that, for the fact of being close to the king's ear gives one surprising power.

Personally Lady Londonderry is impressive. Tall, slim and blonde, she has a haughty carriage of the head and for many years was one of the most beautiful women in England. She still retains the dignity and manner we are accustomed to associate with power. She knows how to enter a room; she knows how to wear a tiara, and she has one of the most gorgeous ones in England. Three-quarters of a century ago Disraeli was moved to wonder at the splendor of the Londonderry gems, and these same gems may still be seen on state occasions on the person of the present marchioness.

As a tactful talker, Mahaffy's "Art of Conversation" assures us, Lady Londonderry has no superior.

Tory though she is politically, Lady Londonderry has been a good deal of a go-ahead person in some other matters. When motor cars were new, she

was among the first of the nobility to get one and learn to drive one. She was the first British woman to obtain a master's certificate to navigate a yacht on the high seas and has even dabbled a bit in aeroplaning. Ten years ago, when a craze for coaching was revived, the marchioness drove her own coach-and-four and drove them well.

Undoubtedly her principal distinction has come as a hostess, and through her social position she has come to have political power. Her husband is one of the great peers of the United Kingdom, and his estate comprises 50,000 acres. He is Knight of the Garter and one of the king's aide-de-camp, and he traces his ancestry back to a certain Sir Piers Tempest, who fought beside the British king at Agincourt. Under the Balfour ministry he was postmaster general for a time. During that period his wife interested herself in the working conditions of the women employees of the post office—a great deal of the post office work of England is done by women—and she was able to achieve somewhat better working hours for them and more healthy conditions while at work.

Several years ago Lady Londonderry fell from her horse while riding in London, and for a number of years was believed to be in failing health. But hers was a vigorous constitution. She took a turn for the better and now, if her successful political activities are any index to her condition,



Marquis of Londonderry.

seems in a fair way to rival Cleopatra. "Age cannot wither, nor custom stale her infinite variety."

## ASSETS WERE TOO LIVELY

Receiver for a Bankrupt "Pet" Shop Asks to Be Relieved of Very Irksome Task.

Pittsburgh.—Receiver A. B. Fell, appointed to take charge of the bankrupt estate of Irwin F. Myers of McKeesport, consisting of a "pet" shop, has complained to Deputy Albert Cook of the United States district court that the assets are altogether too lively and familiar to meet with his approval. Receiver Fell has asked to be relieved of his charge, but he was told there was no chance.

When the receiver entered the store one of the assets, a dog, made a wild rush at him. Fell tried to back away, but the dog was too quick. Then four assets, encouraged by the success of the first one, surrounded him.

Just as the receiver had recovered from the fright caused by the dogs he felt a sensation on one of his legs. He clapped his hand to his trousers leg and captured a rat. As he looked down he found a number of other "assets" evidently awaiting a chance to get one of the two trousers apartments.

Backing around a dimly lighted room, he discovered another "asset," a possum. This was enough! He beat a hasty retreat from the place and called up Clerk Cook in the United States court. The answer was cold and clothed in the austerity of the court. He was told he must stay until the court had disposed of the petition in bankruptcy, for he had furnished a bond of \$500 for the faithful performance of his duty.

## TO SIT AND STAND PROPERLY

American Posture League Formed in East to Begin Campaign in United States.

New York.—The American Posture League, whose object is to make people stand and sit properly, was incorporated in Albany. The league is working to have proper seats put in schools, shops and other places where present seats are conducive of unhealthy attitudes. Seats in the new Brooklyn Rapid Transit cars are being constructed in accordance with its recommendations. Miss Jessie H. Bancroft, assistant director of physical training in New York schools, founded the league and is its president. The directors include Dr. Frederick R. Green of Chicago, Dr. Joel H. Goldthwait of Boston, Dr. Joel McKenzie of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. E. G. G. Brackett of Boston.

Baby Coughs Up Pearl Pin. Amityville, N. Y.—Minnie Scott, age two, coughed up a pearl pin she had swallowed in November. One pearl was missing.

## IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR

Port of San Francisco Praises Peruna for personal benefit received.



San Francisco, January 6, 1914. Mr. A. de la Torre, Jr., formerly U. S. Inspector of Immigration, Port of San Francisco, writes from No. 1111 Powell St., San Francisco, Cal.: "I take great pleasure in recommending your great national catarrh cure, Peruna, as the best I ever used. I sincerely express my thanks to you for the health which I now enjoy. It has done me and a number of my friends good, and I can assure you that I shall take every opportunity to speak in favor of what I consider to be the best remedy for catarrh in existence today."

## Pettit's FOR SORE EYE WEAK EYES Salve

### COULDN'T STAND FOR DEFEAT

According to London Newspaper, Colored Opponent of Irishman Had Little Chance.

A brawny son of Erin was acting as time keeper in a rough-and-ready fight between his mate and a negro in South America. In the course of the fight a well-planted blow sent the Irishman earthwards.

"One!" cried the time keeper, in a tense voice, watch in hand.

"Two!" he murmured hoarsely. "Pat, ye fool, git up! There's only eight seconds left!"

The inert mass never moved.

"Three!" shouted the time keeper desperately. "Think of yer old mother, Pat! What's it she'd be saying to ye. 'Bate the nigger!'"

Slowly he called up to eight, bucking up his mate with patriotic ejaculations between each long second. When eight had been called Pat slowly staggered to his feet, and by a mighty lunge succeeded in knocking down his black opponent.

Desperately fearing lest he should revive in time, the time keeper set off at top speed:

"One, two, three, four, five, and five's ten! Ye're out, ye black villain!"—London Tid-Bits.

### Wasted Sweetness.

"Lady," said the Chicago heeler, "here's a box o' candy to take home to de kids."

"Sir," said the lady voter, "candy is deficient in proteids, contains an excess of albumenoids and its use by the adolescent is provocative of many infirmities which we, as new members of the electorate, are trying to eradicate. Furthermore, your tender of this package is in violation of section 3, 11, 44 of the criminal code, which deals with attempted bribery."

To which the heeler could only reply:

"Well, wot T'ell? wot T'ell?"

### Quite the Style.

Friend—How is your son spending his time in college?

Father (gruffly)—With my money.

Flattery pleases a woman even when she knows it is flattery.

It is the peacemaker, not the pace-maker, who is blessed.

## Smiles

Usually show up with Post Toasties.

And why not, when the famous "toastic" flavor begins operations!

There's a deal of skill required in cooking and toasting these thin bits of corn so that every one of the millions of crinkly flakes has the delicious Toasties taste that invites one to call for more.

Post Toasties come in sealed packages—fresh, crisp and appetizing—

Ready to eat with cream or good milk, and a sprinkling of sugar if you like.

## Post Toasties

—sold by Grocers.