

HALF-PAY SERVICE.

A Bad System in Our Schools Sharply Criticized.

A Correspondent Points Out an Error in the Sacramento Schools and Pleads for a Change.

RECORD-UNION: Monday night the City Board of Education meets. It is pertinent to again direct their, as well as that of the public, attention to the wisdom and necessity of doing away utterly with one feature of the existing system of school management in this city. Reform is needed, and has been urged and advocated for years by the City Superintendent, Albert Hart, and by the RECORD-UNION constantly.

The present method of teaching in the primary grades is indefensible. It is unjust to teachers worthy of the name, a prolific source of worry-feeling, action-in the struggle for promotion; an enervating influence that strikes directly and with terrible force against defenseless little ones; the gateway to a life of crime.

Briefly and clearly stated, the facts are: The pupils of the first primary grade are taught in the forenoon by a teacher who receives half-pay for the grade instructed in the afternoon by a different teacher working at the same price. Such a system multiplies political places, divides the value of the services rendered, results in discouragement to teachers and undoubted injury to the taught.

Education begins at the cradle. The critical period of it follows immediately after. The hand which binds the twigs in the gardens and playgrounds of knowledge cannot be too delicate in touch, too firm in control, too sympathetic, too unceremonious, or too conscious of responsibility; the heart, which necessarily pervades both brain and hand, must pulse with an uncertain beat, or else the work of all will be faulty. The half-day, half-pay, half-hearted teacher should be abolished, as is in its nature, must pulse with an uncertain beat, or else the work of all will be faulty.

In childhood impressions are easily taken—as readily wrong as right, as cheerfully muddled as clear, and there is a consensus of opinion amongst the ablest educators of the age that the spirit of nobility in a great profession is involved, stepping from the presidency of a university to guide and instruct kindergarten graduates is actual promotion. I state the idea strongly, because it is full of weight and meaning. To toss infantile scholars about from hand to hand, sometimes unwilling, sometimes incompetent, sometimes perfunctory hands, is to inflict upon them the undesired *jeune forte* of loss of harmonious, central, controlling, progressive force in forming and storing their minds.

There should be continuous sympathy and confidence between teacher and class—each then strengthening the other. When their relations are broken or erratic both are rendered weak. Education on the installment plan is apt to be defective. It has been conceded throughout the civilized world that the profession of teaching is one of the highest character—one of such inestimable worth that even pensioning is advocated by many as worthy to follow faithful and completed service. The emeritus professor ranks in the minds of those who contend for that policy with retired generals of the army, Admirals of the navy and Supreme Court Justices. They hold that it logically occurs that mere temporary service in teaching is essentially permanent injury to the scholastic system.

About a year ago your journal editorially wrote: "It is the uniform testimony of all the great educators of the age that the infantile grade should be placed under the very best teaching capacity; that it calls for the highest order of teaching skill—not scholarly acquirement, perhaps, but certainly teaching art. We have at command volumes of essays, books and testimony from educators throughout the country to the effect that the higher rank for the teacher should be, and is in well-adjusted systems, that which has its office in the development of infantile intelligence." The suggestion has not been accepted. It is to be hoped it will be.

Procrustes had an iron bed made to suit his own oddling dimensions. When he found any one too short to lie upon it he stretched him out to fit; when any other proved to be too long he cut him down to size. In either case the victim died.

The Reception to be held on Friday and Saturday. The members of the Kingsley Art Club have about perfected arrangements for a very interesting and instructive series of lectures and receptions. Mrs. Annie B. Comstock, who divides her time between Stanford and Cornell Universities, will be the guest of the club on Friday and Saturday of this week.

The ladies will give a reception to the eminent artist on Friday afternoon. Tea and bullion will be served, and the best talent of the city will render musical selections. The club rooms will be open all of Friday and Saturday afternoons, and the large number of engravings can be inspected by all present.

CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE.

Proposition to Advertise It During the World's Fair.

Director Barwick of the State Weather Service Calls Attention to His Monthly Bulletins.

RECORD-UNION: Referring to remarks in your paper of the last day or two in regard to printing matter for distribution at the World's Fair, I would most respectfully suggest to the parties interested themselves in the matter that it would be a good thing to have 3,000 or 4,000 copies of the "Monthly Weather Bulletin" of the California Weather Service, under the management of the State Agricultural Society, published each month, beginning with the February number, which will go to press about the 20th of March, and from then on to say October. In my judgment this would be a most excellent thing for the State, because the director of that service is exchanging with 120 papers in this State, representing every county except Lassen and Truckee. These papers colatory are drawn upon for special but brief articles on the resources of their vicinity. This monthly issue, being fresh and just from the press, would be a change for when a lot of literature is placed all at one time at the fair for distribution there would occur more or less carelessness and waste in distributing the documents.

The bulletin spoken of would contain figures and facts of the climate as it is, and not say that certain place is frostless, when, if their temperature tables were consulted, nine times out of ten they would show a temperature record of at or very near the freezing point some time during December, January and February. The "Monthly Weather Bulletin" has grown in popularity in the Eastern States very much since its issuing. It was begun in September, 1887, and rose up to 700 last fall, and now 800 are required to fill the mailing list, and a greater portion of them go East. To supply this state requires about 250.

Scarcely a week passes but what inquiries are received asking for certain copies. I received a letter of the kind for "several copies of the December bulletin," but the answer was, "None on hand"—all distributed to the various companies favorably with the list that are issued by any State in the Union. JAMES A. BARWICK, Director.

AIR-LINE TRAVELERS.

Winged Emigrants and Their Curious Habits.

Their Wayside Adventures—The Prey of Pot-Hunters—A Surprise Party. The naturalist Audubon held that birds are the true favorites of nature, and he founded that theory on the fact that "the voices of our four-footed fellow creatures are mostly symbols of sorrow, while nearly all bird notes are expressive of joy."

It might be remarked that the most lugubrious sound in nature is the wail of the hooting-owl, but it cannot be denied that the faculty of migration gives birds an almost unfair advantage over the running and crawling creatures of the wilderness. Even the woods of British North America give birth to winged ramblers that do not know the meaning of winter. They leave early in October and do not return before May or the beginning of June.

Few species of migratory birds encounter any topographical difficulties as long as they can keep the landmarks of terra firma in sight, and America, with all its climatic vicissitudes, affords them the paradise of the feathered tribe. Its continuous continent, reaching from the higher latitudes of both hemispheres to the summer-land of the tropics, gives the winged pilgrims a chance for numerous half-way rests at a time of the year when the Mediterranean and its trochærous coastslands produce a fair weather and short-flight birds. The passengers of the steamers skirting the coast of Africa between Suez and the west-European seaports often extend to the eye the spectacle of flocks of thrushes and inches alighting on the rigging, and continuing their flights after a short rest. They are hailed as harbingers of fair weather and rarely molested, even if they drop exhausted on the deck, but the sailors of Southern European merchantmen are scrupulous, and in the coasting trade Italy, Greece, Dalmatia, Spain and Southern France every lush tryst with birds-snares, and Professor H. T. Mathieu has written in the Department of Herpetology (between Marseille and Grenoble) alone some 800,000 small birds are killed every year for their feathers.

The Italian pot-hunters swallow the very swallows, and in the coast plains of Naples many species of song birds have become almost extinct. In the harvest season of the fowler is limited to the months of November and March, when vast flocks of winged emigrants arrive from the north, and in the winter, or from their winter resort in the oases of sunny Africa.

In America the hat-feather craze has, happily, never spread to the rural districts, and pot-hunters generally stick to squirrels and rabbits, though in the neighborhood of Huntsville, Ala., the larkies play havoc with the quail and swarms which, on their way to the South, loiter in the toothills of the Cumberland mountains.

There is a similar midway station near Dalmatia, in the Georgia Blue Ridge, and it seems, indeed, that migratory birds have favorite lines of travel, and with the obstinacy of horses draw their captives close to them in preference to safer routes. In the Alps they always select the lowest mountain passes, and in the mountains of the invaded valley which the pot-hunters are invaded by bird armies resembling the locust swarms of the East, and the Hun-garian peasants travel scores of miles to intercept the flocks of quail that cross the Carpathian Mountains in the neighborhood of the Bala Gora Pass.

On the sea coast, too, there are points which appear to serve as landmarks to air-line pilgrims, or as resting places to those in need of refreshment, especially where long stretches of desert shores are here and there broken by the ditta of a perennial stream. Migratory quail frequent such localities, and often are caught in numbers by swarms of pot-hunters, with an *embarras de richesse*, and surfeiting the local epicures till they would prefer the manna alternative of the children of Israel.

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whereabouts. As seen from the summits of high mountain range they seem to sweep by the wings of the storm, and it has been considered that under favorable circumstances they can make 1,000 miles in twenty-four hours, and with occasional rests, finish the trip from the Scandinavian base of the Nile in a single week. Experience has taught them to pass the nights in lonely marshes, like those of the lower Danube, or the swampy estuary of the Rhine, and resume their flight in the gray of the next morning.

Violent storms, however, are apt to disconcert their programme, and in the winter of 1891 a Georgia dawk was one night awakened by a clauger of unearthly voices in his cabbage garden. His peck-anities crawled under their blankets, and their mother sat up in bed, petrified with horror, but the paterfamilias at last managed himself, and made a rush for a closet, while a misty of shrieks stood in the flicker of the chimney fire.

"Don't, Sam, don't for Lawd's sake!" ground Aunt Dinah. "Dem's no natural critter, nith, no wether de's a pecking 'ing' in Georgia synonym for a divine judgment upon sinful mortals; 'dat's just what it's com' to—den is 'Mare de ghosts of dem ere chickens,' suggested her eldest daughter; but just then the furious barking of the old hound mingled with the shrieks of the ghostly wild geese, and 'Here, Fider, here, here!"

"He's open dat door!" shrieked his mother; but the old man's hand was already on the latch, and the next moment Fido squeezed in with his mouth full of wild geese. "Shaw! den's no chickens—stand back dere!"—and, snatching up a club, Sambo Africanus made a rush for the cabbage garden, while a misty of shrieks stood in the flicker of the chimney fire.

The local naturalists were unable to identify the bird, whose notes were those of a goose, but no short-legged for a heron. The verdict of an Atlanta expert afterward confirmed their conjecture that the winged progeny must have been a species of wild swan, a junior member of a flock that had perhaps passed the summer in the swamps of Hudson Bay territory, and on their way to the Rio Grande had come to grief in the storm that had raged during the earlier hours of the memorable night.

The favored winter resorts of the European wander-birds are the delta of the Nile and the Gudianna, the Valley of the Nub-Nub in northern Algeria, but extend to the range of the Pyrenees, the Gal, where German storks and Spanish cranes hobnob with flamingoes and African herons.

Some of the North American water fowl go as far south as Nicaragua and Honduras, but myriads pass the winter in the Florida everglades, an aquatic element with the climate of southern Spain and protected by the most impenetrable swamps of the Western hemisphere.—F. L. Oswald in Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Dinner a la Russe. To serve a la Russe, which is at once the simplest and most elegant manner when guests are present, it is only necessary to pass the dishes of each course in rotation, beginning alternately at the right and left of the guest, who sits to the right of the Ladies' Home Journal. Some think it more courteous to serve all the ladies first, but it is not now considered a breach of strict etiquette to serve in regular order.

The old French custom required that the dishes, elaborately garnished, and the most, sometimes adorned with silver skewers, like crossed swords, should be placed upon the table before the host and hostess alternately, for a moment, to give the guests an opportunity of admiring them, previous to their being carved, but this formality has gone out of fashion everywhere in French themselves.

Guests are usually at each place when the company assemble, having been kept very cold, on ice and salt, up to the moment of serving. A quarter of a lemon cut with the climate of southern Spain and protected by the most impenetrable swamps of the Western hemisphere.—F. L. Oswald in Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The largest sheep ranch in the world is in the counties of Dimmet and Webb, Texas. It contains upward of 400,000 acres and yearly pastures from 1,000,000 to 1,400,000 sheep.

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

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Political.

B. U. STEINMAN, Republican Nominee for FIRST TRUSTEE. JOHN WEIL, Citizens' Independent Candidate for MAYOR.

Indorsed by Regular Democratic Convention. J. B. RODGERS (PRESENT INCUMBENT), Republican Nominee and Independent Candidate for CHIEF OF POLICE.

W. H. BRADLEY, Citizens and Democratic Nominee for CHIEF OF POLICE. JOHN HANTZMAN, Regular Nominee of Reorganized Democracy and Indorsed by People's Party for CHIEF OF POLICE.

F. J. KING, Independent Candidate for CHIEF OF POLICE. GEORGE A. PUTNAM (PRESENT INCUMBENT), Republican Nominee for CITY COLLECTOR.

J. D. YOUNG (PRESENT INCUMBENT), Candidate for CITY AUDITOR. J. J. BUCKLEY (PRESENT INCUMBENT), Republican Nominee for CITY ASSESSOR.

M. A. HOWARD (PRESENT INCUMBENT), Republican Nominee for FIRE COMMISSIONER. DAVE AHERN, Reorganized Democratic Nominee for FIRE COMMISSIONER.

A. NATHAN, 205 K STREET, ADJOINING WESTERN Tobacco and Notions Store, who has the celebrated Lillian Russell Cigar will be presented with a handsome souvenir.

S. MOOSER, STOCK BROKER OFFICE AT A. NATHAN'S cigar store, 205 K street. GRAFMILLER BROS., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS in Hay and Grain, 1013 Ninth street, Telephone 366.

WATERHOUSE & LESTER, DEALERS IN IRON, STEEL, CUMBERLAND Coal, Working Lumber and Carriage Hardware, 709, 711, 713, 715 J street, Sacramento.

R. F. ROOF, ALEX. NELSON, J. DISCOL, ROOF, NELSON & CO., UNION FOUNDRY-IRON AND BRASS Foundry and Machinery, Front street between J and O, Castings and Machinery of every description made to order.

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ARARE OPPORTUNITY Good Agricultural Land for \$10 to \$20 per Acre. The Pacific Improvement Company has recently purchased twelve thousand acres of land in the heart of Tehama County, for the purpose of promoting subdivision and settlement. This land embraces lands from first-class Sacramento Valley agricultural land, to land of fair average quality, and is offered at land of \$10 to \$20 per acre, in subdivisions of 40, 80, 120, 160 and 320 acres.

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One case Plain Blue Stripe or Fancy Striped Ticking, at 6 1/2 c per yard. One case Extra Quality Unbleached Canton Flannel, at 7 1/2 c per yard. 20 bolts Red All-Wool Flannel, at 15c, 17 1/2 c and 20c per yard, which is one-third less than the regular price. 10 pieces 1 1/2 c Plain White Domet Shaker Flannel. Sale price, 12 yards for \$1. \$2 25 Sateen-Covered Eider Down Pillows will be closed at \$1 50. 8-4 Turkey-Red Damask Table Covers. Closing price, 45c.

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ARE THE FOLLOWING VALUES: Ladies' Guaranteed Fast Black Cotton Hose, three pair for 50c; also, another lot with the same guarantee at four pair for 50c. Children's 10c Gray Mixed Cotton Hose, closing at four pair for 25c. Ladies' 50c White Merino Drawers

ool, Spring-Weight, ests, colors scarlet, ack, 50c each. the great quantity of 30 Knitted Skirts in ped. Closing in our 63c. Do not fail to

GOODS DEPARTMENT.

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The Chicago Inter-Ocean

AND The Weekly Union!

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A sewed shoe that will not rip; Call, seamless, smooth inside, more comfortable, stylish and durable than any other shoe ever sold at the price. Every style. Equals custom-made shoes costing from \$4 to \$5.

The following are of the same high standard of merit: \$4.00 and \$5.00 Fine Call Hand-Sewed, \$4.50 Police, Farmers and Letter-Carriers, \$2.50, \$2.75 and \$3.00 for Working Men, \$2.50 and \$2.75 for Youths and Boys, \$3.00 Hand-Sewed, \$2.50 and \$2.75 for Ladies, \$1.75 for Misses.

IT IS A DUTY you owe yourself to get the best value for your money. Economize in your footwear by purchasing W. L. Douglas Shoes, which represent the best value at the prices advertised as thousands can testify. Do you want them? WILL NOT RIP.

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I have just purchased 1000 full pieces Diagonals, Chevots & perces. Suits will be mostly new this season. I offer garments made to Order at an additional reduction to my former low prices. Don't fail to see my display of elegant styles. JOE POHEIM, The Tailor 900 J STREET COR. SIXTH - SACRAMENTO Branch of Chicago.

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