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SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1911.

THE PECK OF DIRT.

Old dogma frequently needs revision. Those who have conscientiously accepted the view that every man during his life must eat a peck of dirt have supposed that duty ended there. But Bridgeport has come to a time when every man eats a peck of dirt in a season, sometimes in a day. Other pecks are blown into his clothing, defile his home and make life unpleasant for his wife and children. The streets are sprinkled only in theory. Water is cast over them from time to time, but not in quantities sufficient to satisfy the ravening dust, which flies with every breeze that blows. Either let us sprinkle, or let us abandon sprinkling. If we cannot get rid of the dust let us get rid of the cost of laying dust which is never laid.

GOVERNOR FOSS AND HIS VIEWS ON TAX DODGERS

Governor Eugene N. Foss estimates that a billion of taxable property in Massachusetts escapes taxation. He says, "The American people more than others are a nation of tax dodgers."

Not so. The American people, the common, or garden variety of people, are more heavily taxed than those of any other civilized land. It is special privilege and great vested wealth that dodges taxes.

Governor Foss says that the greater part of investments in stocks and bonds escape taxation in his state.

The greater part of the stocks and bonds are not owned by the American people, but by a very small portion of the American people. These are the tax dodgers.

The American people, man for man, woman for woman and child for child, pay the entire cost of supporting the Federal government, a cost that amounts annually to 75 per cent of their income.

But the tax dodgers in every state in the Union, and the more especially in Connecticut, strive with avarice and other means to prevent the ratification of the income tax amendment which would divert some portion of the burden to "swollen fortunes."

Massachusetts leads some other states in that it reaches with some semblance of justice, the great manufacturing properties.

Connecticut fails to do even this, but lets the major part of the burden of supporting the state and its local governments fall upon homes and farms and the humbler sorts of property in the hands of the humbler sorts of citizens.

There is always a last straw, as shows the attack of the Connecticut Mayors, led by Mayor Buckingham, upon the state tax, and the universal protest against the personal tax.

WHAT THE PEOPLE OWN THEY CONTROL

In 1910 little rain fell throughout Connecticut, and water supplies in several Connecticut cities were dangerously depleted. But since the water works were the property of the people, they had to make up nobody's minds but their own to begin the work of enlarging the quantity of water in storage and extending their watersheds.

The people of Hartford were given their choice of a supply of filtered water from the Connecticut river, or from mountain streams, and by ballot elected the latter. The work of increasing the supply from the Ne-paug source is now being initiated, although the Times protests that there never has been a time when the water was dangerously low.

Waterbury is working toward the speedy completion of an additional great reservoir. Norwich is building a huge reservoir at Stony Brook, which will double the capacity of their water system. Meriden and New Britain have each taken appropriate steps to remove the fear of drought.

How easy and simple all this was, Bridgeport suffered with an under supply of water for years before the private company could be induced to increase its storage. Local history is a record of continuous disputes between Bridgeport's leading citizens and the water monopoly to this end.

As a result of this long compilation the city is now in a position where the quantity of water is more

than sufficient for its needs. But of course Bridgeport continues to pay through the nose. Instead of obtaining water at a low rate, as Hartford does, acquiring at the same time the ownership of a great property, Bridgeport pays swollen profits into private pockets. Bridgeport wants filtered water but cannot get it, and labors under all the disadvantages that accrue to the ten or 12 cities of her own size in the United States which have been provident enough to leave the business of purveying the prime commodity, water, to private persons.

TYPICAL AMERICANS

The first day's session of the sixteenth annual convention of the Grand Court of Connecticut, Foresters of America, in Hartford was marked by the attendance of three Democratic mayors of three large Connecticut cities, all young men, and all men who have risen from the ranks. They are Mayor Edward T. Buckingham of Bridgeport, Mayor Edward L. Smith of Hartford and Mayor Thomas L. Kelly of Meriden upon whom is heaped the additional distinction that comes to a journalist and a congressman. Their remarks made at the banquet in the evening were characteristic of the optimistic tone of the great modern political movement of which they are a part. No vein of pessimism tinctured their speech. There are wrongs, but they will be righted. Institutions are sound at the core, but need a little remodeling, which is on the way. These are typical Americans, representative of the rank and file of their fellow countrymen. They reverence the past, but are unfettered by the tenets of the past if those tenets interfere with the justice of to-day or the wise progress of tomorrow. They would be just the same if they were Republicans. Their Democracy is merely a fortunate accident of birth.

BROWN'S DEATH A LESSON.

The death of Gordon Brown, erstwhile captain of the Yale football team, and all around athlete, of organic disease while still a young man, teaches once more the lesson that nature exacts a terrible penalty for the over-exertion necessary to athletic supremacy along the lines demanded by college sports. The strained hearts and the distended arteries, that are the concomitants of extraordinary physical exertion, never renew their normal functioning. As Brown died so did James J. Hogan, and so has many another athlete.

College sports, as they are now conducted, are neither wholesome for the participants, nor for the public that looks on. The goal should be the healthy physical training of the greatest number of individuals. The development of a few over-specialized men to gain the applause of a holiday crowd should be abandoned for saner things. The splendid energy of a Hogan and a Brown can be more usefully exhausted in higher endeavor than football and throwing the hammer. What shall it profit a man to be an "All American guard" and lose his own life.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR ALL AMERICA

Millions Spent to Give the Chance to Play—The New Gospel of Wholesome Public Recreation—Work Accomplished in Five Years.

(This article explaining the purposes and work of the Playground Association of America is timely for the association is now (May 13) holding its fifth annual convention at Washington, D. C.)

Are the people of the United States interested in playgrounds? In three weeks in December 1910, our office received over one thousand letters from all parts of the country asking about playground problems. Last June when the Playground Association of America held its congress at Rochester, over four thousand people were present at some of the sessions, yet the association was not organized until 1906.

This purpose is to promote normal wholesome play and public recreation. At first all the strength of the association was concentrated on securing playgrounds for children. In 1907, 99 cities had playgrounds. In 1909 the number had risen to 336. This year the roster of cities will be about 500. The success of the playgrounds for children created a demand for recreation centers for grown people. Cities found that the most effective means of fighting low dives, bad dance halls, and other vicious pleasure resorts is in opening the public school building, or some other suitable place and providing a demand for pleasure and amusement in decent surroundings. Already school buildings are used as recreation centers in seventeen cities.

When the Playground Association of America was organized, no one imagined that in the year 1909-1910 eight American cities alone would authorize bond issues for play centers to the total amount of \$2,000,000 or that Cincinnati would this year spend \$1,000,000 for public recreation, and Evans, Rapid \$200,000. That four thousand people would now be employed in the work of directing play in the United States, or that rural centers would be establishing playgrounds as at Tamalpais Center, California, would have been thought im-

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THE ATLANTIC PHARMACY

ATLANTIC HOTEL BLOCK OPPOSITE POLI'S THEATRE

possible then. During the last two years 246 American cities have established playgrounds for the first time and other communities to the number of 195, are now conducting campaigns for them. What the 195 cities now anxious to have facilities for play are to spend in the next few years can only be estimated. Orphan asylums, hospitals for the insane, institutions for the feeble minded have made special provision for the recreation of their wards. The children in schools for the blind are almost as happy in their play as seeing children. Churches are giving the use of their grounds and many fathers are giving their own lawns and lawns. In some cities both political parties in their platforms have declared for outdoor recreation centers. In Stockton, Fresno, Cal., Camden, N. J., Philadelphia, Baltimore and Dallas, thousands of children have marched in monster parades asking for playgrounds.

The playground propaganda in a few years has attained a development which many causes have reached only after half a century. The danger which has been its rapid growth. All persons familiar with a certain \$100,000 playground building in an Eastern city, will remember that it was not in its construction had been left loose upon the ground the children would have played with the bricks more than they used their own structure. In another place a \$100,000 playground has been as much used as another which cost ten times as much. Thousands of dollars have been wasted because cities have planned their playgrounds without knowledge of what other municipalities have done. The Playground Association of America tries to help cities avoid such squandering of money, so that every dollar may be made to bring the largest possible amount of benefit.

Besides the annual meeting which is now being held in Washington the association this year has held playground institutes in New England in Holyoke, Mass., in Baltimore, for the middle Atlantic state, in Detroit, for the North Central and for the Northwest states. Another will probably be held for the South. These conferences have been for the discussion of practical playground problems.

The association helps the different cities to secure capable playground workers. A normal committee has prepared a normal course in play, which is now being used in seventeen educational institutions. Several universities have professors of play. A representative of the association is giving the greater part of his time to visiting normal schools for conferences and lectures. A thirty-six page monthly illustrated magazine, The Playground, is published by the association. It is read in China and Japan as well as in America and Europe. A Playground Year book is published annually, giving a detailed summary of the developments of the play movement during each preceding twelve months. Special studies of equipment and other playground problems are circulated so that the different country may avoid costly experiments. Lantern slides, cuts and photographs are loaned for special campaigns.

The association sends its playground efficiency engineers or experts, giving their entire time to visiting different cities, studying their needs and possibilities and helping each to work out its own problem. There are 400 cities just beginning playgrounds, or in the early stages of their work, and only three field engineers in the country may avoid costly experiments. Lantern slides, cuts and photographs are loaned for special campaigns. The association sends its playground efficiency engineers or experts, giving their entire time to visiting different cities, studying their needs and possibilities and helping each to work out its own problem. There are 400 cities just beginning playgrounds, or in the early stages of their work, and only three field engineers in the country may avoid costly experiments. Lantern slides, cuts and photographs are loaned for special campaigns. The association sends its playground efficiency engineers or experts, giving their entire time to visiting different cities, studying their needs and possibilities and helping each to work out its own problem. There are 400 cities just beginning playgrounds, or in the early stages of their work, and only three field engineers in the country may avoid costly experiments. Lantern slides, cuts and photographs are loaned for special campaigns.

HARGROVE SCHOOL FOR BOYS TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE

It was learned to-day that the rumors which have been circulated for sometime in regard to the establishment of a boys school in this city were well founded, that the project had been decided upon and that the early fall will see a school established under the direction of Frank Hargrove, who for several years has conducted the Hargrove School for young men at Fairfield, Bridgeport.

Mr. Hargrove, in making the announcement of the opening of the school was the result of a request made by a number of prominent men in the city who were interested in the special education of their boys.

While the general character of the school has been determined, the site has not yet been selected but Mr. Hargrove stated that a number of places were being considered. It is the purpose not only to have a real school, but to have a play-ground, a gymnasium and out-of-door sports will be a feature of the curriculum. The establishment of the Hargrove Junior school will be unique in many respects and presents a novel idea, having for its fundamental basis the conservation of energy. It is a well-known fact that the best colleges and professional schools in the country prescribe practically the same fundamental course for entrance. The large preparatory schools of this city course to meet this entrance standard. It is important, therefore, that the secondary or junior schools should place the greatest emphasis on these same fundamental studies. This will remove, to a large extent, the irregular classification which has a detrimental effect on a student's advancement in college. Often this is blamed on the preparatory school, which in turn places the blame on the boy's earlier education. It is to correct this error in education that this junior school is specially adapted for.

Bridgeport in my opinion is within its borders such a school and is to be further congratulated in the fact that it is to be conducted by a man of Mr. Hargrove's reputation in the educational field. Mr. Hargrove is a graduate of Yale and has had ten years' experience in boys' schools in England and in October, 1909, five years of this time he has conducted a successful preparatory school for young men in Fairfield, which he will re-open as usual in October. Mr. Hargrove has prepared hundreds of men for Yale, Harvard, Columbia and Princeton, and is in a position to thoroughly know the needs of a boy entering upon his career of education.

"I expect the school will be open for the first term the latter part of September and should every glad to accept the project to interested parents at any time prior to that time."

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Mr. Hargrove stated this morning that he had received the enrollment of a large number of boys and expected the school would open under the most auspicious circumstances. Among the men who have urged Mr. Hargrove to establish the school in this city are Messrs DeVer H. Warner, Clinton Barnum Seeley, George M. Eames, T. R. Lashar, Harvey Hubbard, L. E. Warner, Henry A. Bishop, F. W. Smith, Jr., Dr. I. De Ver Warner, N. W. Bishop and Samuel C. Shaw, all of whom have sons enrolled.

Mr. Hargrove, in an interview to-day, stated: "When the matter of establishing a boys' school in Bridgeport was first suggested, I hesitated to even consider the undertaking, as it involved a great deal of thought, study and responsibility, but the enthusiastic support offered, together with the large field that seemed ready for development, led me to give serious thought to the matter which resulted in my determination to open the school. The early education of boys in preparation for their future college career is of great importance. It is my purpose to present the most modern methods of instruction under men who hold degrees from the best colleges and who are specially endowed with a genius for teaching."

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Dated at Long Hill, May 12, 1911. R 12 b *

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