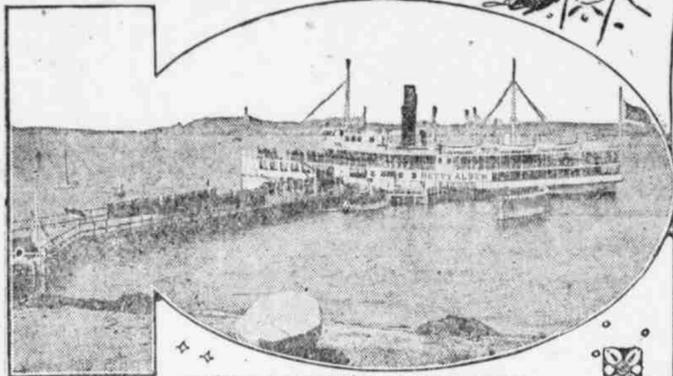
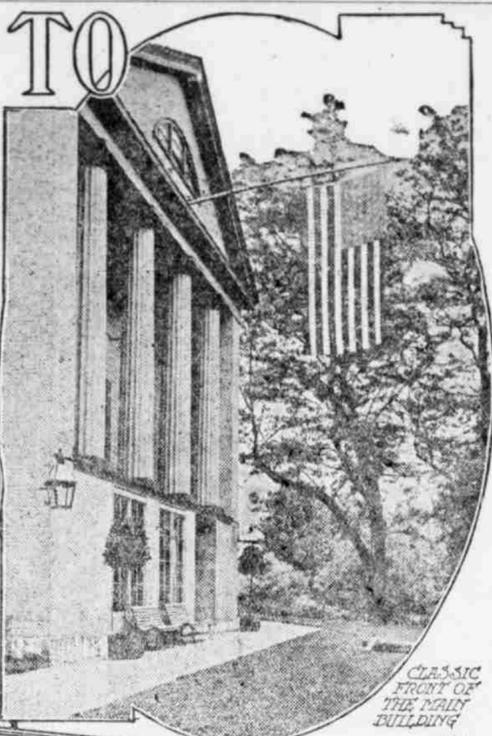


FIRST SCHOOL TO DEAL WITH BOY PROBLEM



VISITING DAY AT THOMPSON'S ISLAND



CLASSIC FRONT OF THE MAIN BUILDING

THE first organized effort in this country to deal with the ever complex "boy problem" and to solve it was made in Boston. The Farm and Trades school on Thompson's island, Boston harbor, which recently celebrated its centennial anniversary, was the result.

This school has done remarkable work and has set the pace for all institutions of a like nature which have been established in various parts of the country.

The first meeting to effect an organization for this school was held on March 21, 1814. Boston was then but a town. In it were boys bereft by death of one or both parents, and outside of the work carried on by the various charitable organizations, no adequate relief was available.

In the beginning the management provided principally shelter and food. An asylum was established in the West end. Boys from five to twelve years of age were gathered there, and were sent to the public schools for education. Six years later larger quarters were secured at the North end in the former residence of the colonial governor, Sir William Phipps.

As soon after the age of twelve as was possible the boys, following the custom of the day, were apprenticed to farmers or tradesmen in other parts of the state, and there the responsibility of the school for the time ended.

Meanwhile another institution was organized which conceived its object to be something more than providing shelter. It felt the boy, to attain better results in manhood, should receive industrial training. That was the Boston Farm school, which in 1832 secured a charter. In a few months the sum of \$25,000 was raised in Boston for the school and Thompson's island, containing 157 acres, was bought for \$6,000.

Two years later the asylum at the North end sold its property there, and, making a union with the Boston Farm school, removed to Thompson's island. For nearly three-quarters of a century the name was the Boston Asylum and Farm school, and agriculture formed the basis of the educational system.

With an isolation that made conditions almost ideal for carrying out its purpose, little attention was attracted to the school, and it quietly pursued its unique work as a private school for worthy boys of limited means.

About ten years ago, more truly to describe its present functions, the name was changed by the legislature to the Farm and Trades school.

The school is supported by endowments, tuition fees and subscriptions. Its vested funds amount to nearly \$250,000, but the income from this source and tuition leaves a deficit of nearly \$20,000 a year, which is made up by subscriptions. Tuition fees amount to about \$6,000 a year. The annual expenses are about \$36,000.

Provision is made for 100 boys, whose eligibility for admission requires them to be between ten and fourteen years of age, of good moral character, in fair physical condition and who are not lower than the sixth grade in grammar school. Recommendations are required from the family physician, a clergyman and from three or four persons of recognized standing in the community.

Admissions are made four times a year. Only boys whose recommendations are satisfactory are admitted and, if on trial, a boy proves to be unfitted for the school, he is not allowed to remain. After admission the school furnishes everything needed for the boy—clothing, shelter, subsistence, medical attendance and trade opportunities and moral discipline.

The school aims to fit the boy for higher pursuits, and, upon completing the course at school, to place him either in a higher school or in a position for which he seems adapted.

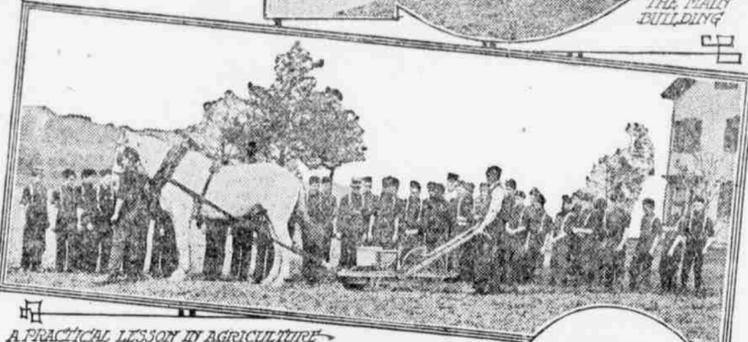
As the general farm work necessarily included some instructions in certain trades, and as carpentering and painting and the island location permitted practical instruction in the use and management of boats, the first enrichment of the curriculum occurred in 1857, when a brass band was organized and has been in existence since.

It is said to be the oldest boys' band in the country, and is one of the distinctive features of the school.

In 1882 the educational system was greatly broadened by the erection and equipment of Gardner hall, which contained a printing office, manual training outfits and woodworking lathes. Here the first stoyd lessons were given, so far as known, in this country.

Interest in these several branches was greatly stimulated, and the school course was so changed as to permit almost daily lessons in carpentry and printing, while ordinary school work still continued.

Today instruction is given on the following subjects: Preparation of the soil, planting of seed, cultivation, harvesting and rotation of crops, cultivation of fruits and care of orchard, setting out and caring for trees and shrubs, testing and selecting seed, mixing of chemicals for fertilizers, meteorology, vocal and instrumental music, sloyd, mechanical drawing, cabinet work, wood turning, carpentry, blacksmithing, machine work in metal, printing and binding, painting, cobbling, office work, the handling of boats and the whole realm of household duties.



A PRACTICAL LESSON IN AGRICULTURE



LEFT TO RIGHT, THE MAYOR, THE JUDGE AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE OLDEST BOYS' MUNICIPAL SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA



CHARLES H. BRADLEY, M.A., SUPERINTENDENT

Instruction in agriculture has been increasingly progressive.

For instance, an analysis of the soil of the island showed a lack of potash, while another analysis showed that the seaweed which is cast upon the beach in large quantities contained that very element in substantial degree. From that time it became a part of the regular work of the farm to gather the seaweed and the driftwood and to dry and burn it, and to put the ashes containing the potash back into the soil.

Both industry and recreation are highly developed. The daily program is almost strenuous, compared with the life of the boy of similar age elsewhere.

Discipline is a marked characteristic, yet it is kindly and attractive, with large rewards for the faithful, well-intentioned boy, and a quick and certain retribution for the boy otherwise. The boy makes his own place there, as he will in later life in the larger world.

The daily routine is as follows: Five a. m., boys doing duty as milkers, bakers and cooks, rise; 5:45, reveille; 6:30, breakfast; 7 to 8:45, classes in manual training and trades; 9 to 11:15, morning session of school; 11:30, dinner; 12 m. to 1 p. m., play; 1, classes in manual training and trades; 2:30 to 5, afternoon session of school; 5:30, supper; 6 to 7, play; 7:15, chapel and taps.

On Sunday there is a general relaxation. Instead of reveille at 5:45 in the morning, the bugle sounds half an hour later, and instead of the peremptory call to rise, a hymn is played, during which the boys may lie abed.

A session of Sunday school is held between 10 and 11, in which the instructors having Bible classes are assisted by a theological student, who comes every week for the purpose.

On Sunday there is also the largest distribution of library books, although they are available every day in the week.

A church service is held at 3, conducted usually by a visiting clergyman. The service is undenominational, and representatives of various creeds participate.

In the evening at 7:15 comes the chapel service, which is one of the notable events of the week. It is always conducted by the superintendent, and consists of considerable singing, with Bible reading and prayer.

At this service all the announcements of the week in the way of entertainments, outings and celebrations are made. The purpose is to make the occasion one of the happiest of the week, and in this direction it is eminently successful. Everybody on the island attends.

But Monday night a different kind of meeting is held, and is purposely made distinct. This is also conducted by the superintendent, and it is when the grade reports are read, when the disciplines are announced, and when the shortcomings have to be reckoned. All this sort of business is compressed into this one meeting.

Thompson's island, the home of the school, takes its name from David Thompson, a London merchant and agent or attorney for the Countess of Arundel, an early English corporation. From this he obtained a patent of land, signed November 16, 1622, including 6,000 acres and one island in New England.

In 1626 he moved to Thompson's island with his wife, infant son and servants, and built his log house on the east shore of the island. Its ruins were discovered a few years ago and the site is now marked by a stone inscribed: "Site of David Thompson Cabin. First House in Boston Harbor, 1626."

After Thompson's death and the removal of his family the possession of the island became a subject of litigation. It had been included in the Massachusetts bay colony patent of 1627, and in 1634 was granted for the support of a free school to the inhabitants of the town of Dorchester, by which it was rented out as a cow pasture.

The island, attractive to its first white owner because of its harbor, has since then been so beautified with groves and rows of trees and orchards that it is probably not excelled in this respect by any island of equal size along the Atlantic coast.

For three-quarters of a century the work of development and beautifying has been going on. Spruce and other fir trees, oaks, elms, chestnut, linden, acacia and elm trees abound. The orchard contains apple, pear, cherry, plum and quince trees.

More than twenty years ago Mr. Bradley organized the Cottage Row government. This is a student municipality, but probably the most realistic organization of its kind. It includes not only political government, but the ownership of property and all that that implies.

Cottage Row consists of a dozen cottages, of various sizes, built by the boys, and each registered with the plot of land in a registry of deeds. There is a city hall, where the city council meets at stated intervals, and where questions of student control are discussed as well as the affairs of the city property.

The government consists of a judge, mayor, three share-holding or property-holding aldermen, and two non-shareholding aldermen, a treasurer and an assessor.

The mayor appoints a chief of police, a lieutenant, sergeant and four patrolmen, a clerk, librarian, street commissioner and janitor. Each has his specified duties to perform. Thus nearly one-fifth of the boys at the school have a direct interest in the management of the municipal government.

Since the school has been on Thompson's island there have been but four superintendents. Charles H. Bradley became superintendent in March, 1888, completing 26 years of service the present month. Under his direction the school has made wonderful progress, and its reputation has spread all over the country.

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REAL LIFE IN THE COUNTRY

Fact Is Shown by Man's Eagerness to Escape From Congestion of the Crowded City.

Why is it that railway magnates, presidents of banks and heads of great enterprises who must perforce do business in cities, almost all try to have homes on farms in the country, where they develop soils, plant crops and breed animals? It is because there is wearisome monotony in piled up brick and stone. There is confusion in crowded streets and clanging trolley cars and hot smoky railways. These things man has made, and they are needful, but they are not life, much as the farm boy may imagine them to be.

Life is in the open country. Life is in the growing grass, the waving fields of wheat, the springing corn. Life is in the trees and birds, life is in the developing animals of the farm.

Any man who works with the land, who feeds a field and watches the result, gains a real fundamental knowledge of the underlying foundation on which rests all our civilization. It makes him a sober man, a thoughtful man, a reverent man, and if he experiments wisely a hopeful optimist. Life is where things are born and live and grow. On the farm is real life.—Breeder's Gazette.

Searching Criticism.

Five-year-old Herbert, scion of a bookish family, had learned to read so early and so readily that his first glimpses of storyland were growing hazy in his memory. One day he confided to his mother. "Ruthie showed me her new book today, and it's the queerest thing you ever saw! Why, it just says, 'Is it a dog? It is a dog. Can the dog run?' and a lot of things like that! 'Course I was too polite to say so, but it didn't seem to me the style was a bit juicy!—Lippincott's.

Growing Old.

"Is your father growing old gracefully?"
"No; he positively refuses to learn the maxims."

Well, Yes.

"Those women are trying to stop the manufacture of amber fluid."
"Beer checks, eh?"

Queen Mary of England is a skilled nurse.

The American Farmer.

All things recalled, wouldn't it be the part of statesmanship to do congressionally for the American farmer? He's one-fourth of your population, and the nation's best hope. The American merchant borrows at five per cent. The American stock gambler, producing nothing, accomplishing nothing, a mere leech living by the toil of others, borrows for even less. The American farmer, with all that can be said to his good and solvent advantage, must and does pay 8½ per cent.

And all the time the savings and postal banks are bulging with billions. If the government would make two blades of grass grow where but one has grown before—and publicly it would pay—the wide-fungus chances lie open. Let it model action on French or German lines, and place the farmer on a borrowing par with the merchant, the manufacturer and the stock jobber. Let it evolve a system of farm loans which shall put those savings and postal bank billions at a per cent within the farmer's borrowing reach.—Hearst's Magazine.

Makes Jobs for Detectives.

Probably the only people to benefit by recent suffragette outrages are private detectives, many of whom are doing little else just now but guarding pictures and other treasures of well-known hosts and hostesses from attacks at social functions, the London Globe states.

The head of one private detective agency told me the other day, says "The Carpenter" in the Express, that he had been obliged to engage a special staff for this work, and that to some receptions he has sent as many as a dozen faultlessly attired "guests" to look after the pictures and china of the host.

Artificial Flowers an Old Idea.

Artificial flowers were made in ancient times by the Egyptians. In Europe during the eighteenth century, when there existed such a craze for porcelain, flowers were made of this substance; while the odor of the real flowers was imitated by the use of perfumes.

A Stage Career.

"Who is the principal character in this musical comedy?"
"Little Bo-Peep who lost her sheep. According to the newspapers, she also lost a breach of promise suit."

Libby's Picnic Specialties

The picnic is incomplete without Libby's good things to eat. Ready to serve—no fuss and bother. There are a number of Libby Luncheon specialties at your grocer's. Get acquainted with them.

Veal Loaf Pickles Deviled Ham Olives

Libby, McNeill & Libby
Chicago

Insist on Libby's