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EDITORIAL PAGE

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

A SHORT CUT TO EDUCATION.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 3.—It's all wrong. The antique system whereby we struggled through eight or nine years of reading, writing and arithmetic, and then were suddenly landed in high school to tackle such mysterious subjects as Latin, science and algebra, is all wrong. Educators now advocate a sort of shock absorber known as a junior high school.

A junior high school, in case you haven't kept up with the styles in education, the place of seventh and eighth grades and first year high school. The pupil is promoted from the sixth grade into the junior high school, where he continues some of the old grammar school studies, and at the same time is gradually and painlessly introduced to high school subjects and high school methods of teaching. Graduates from the junior high school enter the second year of a regular high school. The need for a transition school of this sort may seem a trivial matter, but experiments have proved its practical value as a means of keeping the growing boy and girl in school, and now the number of junior high schools in the country is increasing by hundreds every year.

According to a report by Commissioner of Education Clegg, only one out of every sixteen children who enter the first grade of our public schools progresses far enough to obtain a high school diploma. To elaborate—1,026,051 children entered first grade in 1905. In 1913 the class reached eighth grade with an enrollment of 1,244,098. The next year, when these same children entered high school the class had shrunk to 630,000, and of these only thirty-three per cent graduated in 1918—245,000 high school graduates out of 1,000,000 first graders.

The big drop comes between the eighth grade and high school, and during high school years the enrollment steadily falls. The reason for this, it is stated, is not so often that the pupil is needed at home or has to leave school to work, as that he is kept at elementary school, too long and does not take enough interest in school to enter high school, or else that he enters high school but never gets adjusted to the standards there.

He leaves the eighth grade where he is called Harry and treated accordingly, and enters the classical and altogether different atmosphere of high school to be called Mr. Smith. Instead of having one ever-watchful teacher to keep him on the job, he now has from two to eight, too long and does not take enough interest in Mr. Smith aside from his conduct in one particular class room. The greater amount of freedom given is not always used wisely, and the student's sense of responsibility is not always sufficiently developed for him to work alone. As a result he falls behind in his work, becomes discouraged, and sooner or later quits school for good.

It is in cases of this sort that the junior high school scores. Instead of being counted in with "the children" until he is thirteen or fourteen, Harry Smith is sent to junior high school at 11 or 12. Instead of having one teacher, he has two, or possibly three, but one is his particular guardian and is definitely accountable for him. As his interest in geography, American history, and grammar are rapidly waning on account of too long familiarity with such subjects, some of these are dropped and he is given a chance to take up a foreign language, typewriting, or manual training.

As he progresses through the three years, the course becomes more and more the typical high school regime. Athletics, debate, and dramatic work are introduced to take the place of playground games and other amusements in vogue in the graded school. In cities, the junior high school course usually includes domestic science for girls and shop work for boys. In rural schools, agriculture is added to the vocational schedule, and a model truck garden is planted and studied by the pupils.

The vocational work is an important branch of the course. In Vermont, where junior high schools are established by the state law, every effort is made to adapt such work to the locality and to make it of practical value. In one school the boys manifested special interest in telegraphy. A course was soon instituted, and the boys established stations in their homes and in the school. In an orchard community tree pruning and culture were stressed and the boys were urged to apply their school instruction to the trees on their home land.

Girls in some of these Vermont schools utilized their lessons in cooking by taking charge of the school lunches, both preparation and service; while at sewing class they killed two birds with one stone by use of the family mending as material for the lessons.

The maxim that education should prepare for citizenship was practically applied by one principal who took his entire school to the town meeting. "We occupied seats in the gallery," he reported, "and the order was splendid. The moderator called the attention of the voters to the school and suggested that they follow its example."

A resume of even a few of the junior high school systems now in force in this country shows a great variety of subjects taught. The junior high school is planned on a more flexible order than regular high school, and everywhere the aim is to fit the pupil for life in the community. At the same time, the courses are so arranged that a prospective college student can take the work required for college entrance. Promotion is made by subjects, as in high school, so that pupils failing in part of the work ordinarily repeat only those subjects.

The junior high school idea has been under consideration for about twenty years. A change from the eight year elementary, four year secondary, system was proposed in 1892 when a group of educators discussed the matter of dividing the 12 years of public school education into six years graded school and six years high school. It was then declared that eight years is too much time to devote to elementary subjects and that the public school course would be better shortened or the two years transferred to high school work.

The original purpose in shortening the years of public schooling was to lower the age of college entrance. The plea was that on an average students entered college at eighteen years, after which they must cover seven or eight years of college and university work in order to enter a profession. The result, according to President Eliot, of Harvard, was that "the average college graduate who fits himself well for any one of the learned professions, including teaching, can hardly begin to support himself before he is 27 years old."

This argument was considered very potent, but as neither colleges nor high schools ever agreed to shorten their courses or lessen their requirements, nothing came of it.

The conference of 1892 did, however, lead to the junior high school which has in the past few years become so popular. In 1899 the first junior high school was introduced, and 10 years later there were only nine in the country. But since then, the project has grown rapidly until now junior high schools are in operation in all parts of the country.

The change in organization is too new and the schools are too scattered for any up-to-date nationwide statistics to have been collected. But whenever the new system has been put into effect comparative figures and instances show that a large percentage of pupils who otherwise would have obtained no high school education are sufficiently interested by the junior high school course to complete it, and often go on to the senior high school.

SENATOR HITCHCOCK'S CHANCE.

That the illness of President Wilson has made of Senator Hitchcock a great national figure, or rather that it will if the senator discharges in an acceptable manner the duties that have fallen upon his shoulders as the leader in the senate fight for the ratification of the peace treaty because of Mr. Wilson's indisposition and inability to attend to it in person, is the belief of the Springfield Republican. Regarding the situation which now exists, that newspaper says:

One effect of Mr. Wilson's illness is to give increased prominence to Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, who, as the ranking democrat of the foreign relations committee, is the leader of the fight for the league of nations in the senate. Mr. Hitchcock, although mentioned among democratic possibilities, has not seemed presidential timber, but is greatly superior at all points to that tatterdemalion of politics, the late Senator Stone of Missouri, who occupied a similar position and whom W. J. Bryan, with fatuous misjudgment, once approved for the presidency. It may now follow, since presidential politics have become so interwoven with the treaty, that Mr. Hitchcock will be increasingly spoken of among the available democratic candidates. But the thing of importance is the degree of wisdom and courage which he may show as chief spokesman for the league, if that is to be his role while the president is incapacitated.

If Secretary Lansing were a stronger and more aggressive person he might now take the lead in the fight before the country. But while at times Mr. Lansing delivers vigorous utterances, he is not by temperament or training a hard-hitting campaigner. Although qualified to the degree of having been a member of the peace commission at Paris, Mr. Lansing will scarcely be expected to step into the breach. Senator Hitchcock on the floor of the senate has shown himself at times more diplomatic in manner than Senator Williams of Mississippi, but both in the senate and in committee he has displayed strength and persistence, and has offended some senatorial dignities by calling a spade a spade in reference to obstruction and dilatory tactics.

Senator Hitchcock's present position and relation to the administration afford one of the contrasts of public life in that he was for some years classed among those democratic senators who were notoriously "off the reservation" and could generally be expected to see things the way the administration didn't and to make trouble accordingly. Of late, however, he has been delivering speeches on the league outside of Washington and is said to have made a strikingly effective appearance in Baltimore.

Senator Hitchcock has seemed in the past a man of undoubted ability, not lacking in polish, but limited by a certain perversity of judgment. He now has the opportunity to become a national figure, however much or little he is talked of for the presidency. It will be brought against him that on the issues which preceded our entry into the war he was not always vigorous or aggressive and that in the early days of the war he was sometimes charged with pro-Germanism. But he was not one of the famous group of "wilful men" who in March, 1917, prevented the passage of the bill to empower the president to arm our merchant ships; on the contrary, Senator Hitchcock was the leader in the senate for that measure and by holding the floor prevented LaFollette, the chief of the so-called pro-German filibusters, from staging a carefully planned and spectacular scene in the closing hours of that congress.

Judging by the vote on the Fall amendments, we would say that Senator Hitchcock has the situation well in hand and that better results even are yet to come.

IS UNCLE SAM A GENTLEMAN.

By way of illustration, let us say that each of the nations represents one of the heads of families in a community. After all, the world is only a community. The United States lives in one house, France in another, Britain in another, Germany in another, and so on.

How should each of these neighbors act toward the others? Should he be friendly and neighborly, or should he be put up a high fence with barbed wire on top, just to show his independence, and walk about with a you-go-to-blazes air? Should he lend a hand in keeping the neighborhood safe and respectable, or should he shut the gate, wrap himself up in exclusiveness, and say to all and sundry: Keep out, mind your own business, and I'll attend to mine?

Should this resident, in the event of his being drawn into neighborhood affairs, care about what the others think of him? Should he be disposed to be just a bit insolent and arrogant? Even if some of the other fellows, less fortunately situated in life than he, should prove on occasion a bit greedy and lacking in manners, should he regard it no longer essential to bear himself with the restraint of a gentleman?

Now we are getting to the point: Should Uncle Sam be a gentleman in the community of nations? Should he be considerate and helpful and kindly disposed, or should he be a rough, blatant, self-seeking backwoodsman? Should he care for the good opinions of others? Or should he be so self-contained that he might feel that bad manners didn't matter?

Uncle Sam's personal status is being established in this world peace settlement. What do we wish him to look like before the world?

CORN IN MONTANA

Five years ago if anyone had talked about Montana being a corn state he would have been laughed out of court. About that time Rosebud and one or two other counties began to demonstrate to the contrary. Valley and Custer counties were soon adding to the proof. We do

not yet know all of the localities in this state where corn can be successfully grown, but just about all of eastern and southeastern Montana can safely be reckoned into the corn belt. Fergus county has made a notable corn demonstration this year. There were 250 entries at the Valentine corn show the other day.

The development has been wonderful. The increase in corn displays at the Montana state fair during the last two or three years have been amazing to the old-timer. And, mind you, these have been poor agricultural seasons. Five years hence the production of corn in Montana will not be down at the bottom of the list. It will be right up beside the yield of wheat and oats. It will not take long for the value to pass the ten million mark.

The purchaser of thoroughbred livestock and the production of corn are the two most significant and important things happening on the Montana ranch today.

ENGLISH RAILROAD WAGES.

Second only in interest to the news that the great strike of the railroad men of England has been settled and that the men are to resume work at once, is that section of the terms of agreement which states that the minimum wage agreed upon for railway men, so long as the cost of living shall continue to be 110 per cent above the pre-war level, shall be 50 shillings a week.

The value of the English shilling in American money is 24 1-3 cents. Fifty shillings weekly would therefore be \$12.16 2-3 cents. To American workmen who are getting \$5, \$6, \$7 and \$8 a day, that doesn't look like a very large wage. They are wondering how much English railroad men were being paid before the war raised the cost of living 110 per cent. Yet, \$12.16 2-3 a week is evidently considered a fair stipend in Great Britain, else it would not have been designated as a minimum, even though subject to further negotiations.

It becomes quite evident to Americans that the cost of living in England is one thing and that the cost of living in America is distinctly and most emphatically another. "Yet again," as Abe Potash would say. Always England has been a country in which prices and wages are low according to American standards. It is for that reason that England manufacturers have been able to compete in the markets of the world. The English Tommy in the great war was paid only about 25 cents a day.

There was a time, and it was not so very long ago, when a man in the United States who drew down \$12 a week as the result of his labors was considered a well paid man. If he was unmarried he secured board and room for \$3 a week. If he was married, his house rent amounted to from \$6 to \$8 a month. A dime's worth of beef steak would feed a family of four and a dollar's worth of sugar would last through the preserving season.

On \$12 a week now an American couldn't possibly get by unless he could work about 156 weeks in one year. But at \$12 a week the English workman can spare a few pence for his mug of ale at the Red Lion Inn and get out of life the enjoyment to which he thinks he is entitled.

England is right now where America was 35 or 45 years ago. England stood still in the matter of wages and living cost, until the war changed everything. America has moved; whether forward or backward depends upon who you are talking to, but moved she has.

Alvin York, the war's greatest hero, is now booked for an attack upon the cigarette in a nation-wide tour. If the resulting casualties equal in any measure those which followed his advance upon the Germans, it will be goodbye "Fat Emma."

The Opinions of Others

THEY NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT.
(Minneapolis Tribune.)

An enthusiastic prohibitionist attributes the triumph of the Cincinnati baseball team to the fact that their beer was cut off after July 1. What about the effect of cutting off the beer of the other teams, too?

OUCH!
(Charleston News and Courier.)

Perhaps some of the applause at the end of Jim Reed's speech was due to the fact that it was the end. Jim had been spiling steadily for four hours.

WELL, PUBLIC WILL BE LOST.
(Baltimore American.)

The epidemic of strikes calls up for determination the question of whose interests shall be paramount in America, the employer's, labor's or the public's.

AND BULLITT IN RUSSIA.
(Knoxville Journal and Tribune.)

It has been noted that Colonel House was asked by the president to remain indefinitely in Europe. Chances are if Wilson could do it all over again he'd make a similar request of Lansing.

OPINION OPENLY ARRIVED AT, EH!
(Providence Journal.)

According to Mr. Bullitt's interesting testimony, the spirit of self-determination in the American peace delegation was pretty thoroughly suppressed by its autocratic head.

WE HAD BEST PINCH-HITTERS.
(Macon Telegraph.)

If one may believe the Ludendorff memoirs now being printed in this country, the Teuts had the best generals, the best artillery, airmen, privates and, in fact, the best everything else; having it on the allies forty yards from the jack in everything but the trifling matter of being able to tick 'em.

WHERE BELGIAN ROYALTY ARE TO LIVE DURING VISIT TO U. S. AND THEIR HOSTS



The photographs show the Belgian embassy in Washington and Baron E. de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian ambassador to U. S. and his bride. Baron E. de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian ambassador to the United States and his bride, formerly Mrs. Hamilton Wilkes Cary of New York, will have charge of the arrangements for entertaining Belgian's king and queen in Washington. The king, queen and crown prince will make the Belgian embassy in Washington, D. C., their headquarters and it will be the scene of many royal functions during their stay.

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GERMANS STOP PAY OF BALTIC TROOPS

Army of 2000 Men Occupy Preekuln and Say Will Live Off Country.

By ARTHUR MANN.
Riga, via London, Oct. 6.—(Copyright by The Tribune Company.)—Activities of the Germans in the Baltic may be determined largely by internal events in Germany during October, the outcome of which will directly affect German policy here.

If the reported plan of the German specialists for a revolution about the end of next month is successful, then the Germans in the Baltic may disavow the movement and settle here. The present German government is said to have stopped payment of the German troops in the Baltic. Upon hearing this the German officers of 2,000 troops stationed at Preekuln, only about 30 miles from the Latvian port of Libau, decided to occupy the town on Oct. 1 and to live off the surrounding country, requisitioning supplies during the winter unless pay by Germany is resumed.

At Libau, incidentally, is to be the main supply warehouse of the American Red Cross commission to the Baltic and western Russia, which has headquarters here.

British Attempt to Grab Hun Trade Fails

By PARKE BROWN.
Berlin, Oct. 6.—(Chicago Tribune Cable Copyright.)—One of the biggest bugaboos contrived in Germany since the armistice was dissolved today when Secretary Jordan of the British Chamber of Commerce of Cologne announced the parent organization in London had disavowed the plans to erect a British clearing house in Berlin and demanded the resignation of the man who proposed the scheme.

According to anti-British agitators, the clearing house was intended to give England sole control of all Germany's import trade, much to the detriment of the United States. German officials never contemplated such an agreement and the English were so indignant that the Cologne organization will no longer bear the title of British chamber of commerce.

Our guess is that jazz was invented to enable a sorry musician to make a good living.

Huns Must Give Up Loot From Belgium

By EDWARD SCHULER.
Brussels, Oct. 6.—(Chicago Tribune Cable. Copyright.)—Fritz must return the souvenirs taken from Belgium. By decree of the German ministry of foreign affairs published here, every German subject having objects of art, furniture, stocks or bonds taken from Belgium is required to turn them over to the German restitution office at Frankfurt before Dec. 15.

SHE KNEW WHY.

"Robson, do you know why you are like a donkey?" the jester asked. "Like a donkey?" echoed Robson, opening his eyes wide. "I don't." "Because your better half is stubbornness itself." The jest pleased Robson immensely, for he at once saw the opportunity for a glorious dig at his wife. So when he got home he said: "Dear, do you know why I am like a donkey?" He waited a moment, expecting his wife to give it up. But she didn't. She looked at him somewhat pityingly as he answered: "I suppose it is because you were born so."

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