

The Washington Times

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PRACTICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In outlining his hopes for broadening the curriculum of Washington schools, Superintendent E. L. Thurston, in a recent address, made the same suggestion that has been advanced in The Times on several occasions. It is that the school relate itself to actual life, and especially to home life, by teaching the essentials of wise expenditure of incomes, of household accounting, and of the proper investment of money.

Mr. Thurston pointed to the night schools as examples of the relation of school to home activities. In the evening classes at McKinley Manual Training School housewives are enrolled for cooking, sewing, and millinery. One result is that these young women have learned to administer their home affairs with greater economy.

NEUTRALITY AND WAR

Mr. Bryan persists in ignoring the lessons of history and in shutting his eyes to the living facts. He still advocates the neutralization of the Philippine Islands, the United States, of course, to be a guarantor of that neutrality. Mr. Bryan refuses to understand aright the reasons which prompted the major European powers to impose neutrality upon Belgium. The welfare of that nation was their last interest, the least consideration.

If the United States ever disposes of the Philippines, either by conferring independence upon them or in any other way, there will be no strings tied to the transaction which might obligate us to be responsible for them without having a word to say as regards their own governance. Neutrality will be respected so long as it is to the interest of designing states to respect neutrality; it will be violated whenever it is thought safe and profitable by a militaristic state bent upon conquest to violate it.

The Panama canal is said to be neutralized. Whether that neutrality limits the use of it in time of war to the United States is a mooted question. But this much is sure, that if the United States ever became involved in war, and it became necessary to employ the canal for naval and military uses, it will be devoted to those uses.

"TO A PLACE OF SAFETY"

Underneath a lot of other detail that concerns the use of submarines in making war against merchant shipping, is the question whether lumping passengers and crew hurriedly into lifeboats in mid-ocean is to be considered as removing them to "a place of safety." President Wilson has indicated that it is not to be so regarded; and people with any knowledge of seafaring know quite independently that it is not. Only less than the horror of being carried down into the dark waters in the maelstrom of a sinking ship, is that of being hurried into frail craft intended only for the utmost emergency, to be tossed on an uncharted sea, without supplies, with only oars for power, with women, children, babes, and untrained men to manage the boats, with the chance of rescue vague and uncertain.

Washington has been far from satisfied with the statements of fact concerning the Ancona tragedy that have come from either Rome or Vienna. Rome has been vague and has dealt more in rhetoric than in details of fact; Vienna has assumed responsibility for the tragedy, insisting that ample time was given for rescue and passengers to escape. The fact that there was a great loss of life is the proof that the latter claim is not justified. When near half the company on a ship lose their lives, it is senseless to claim that proper provision has been made to care for them. People do not deliberately commit suicide in order to embarrass a belligerent government in its international relations.

judgment may be based on the somewhat dubious information at hand, there was not only failure to permit this inadequate provision for the safety of the ship's company, but there was actual and utterly unnecessary cruelty in that the ship was kept under fire and even the lifeboats were attacked while they were being lowered and loaded. If the full reports shall bear out this charge, the Austrian government will be convicted, through its naval agents, of the worst piece of savagery that even submarine warfare has thus far produced. But after all, this is not the real question to be answered, and that must ultimately be settled rightly in the interest of humanity.

LORD ROSEBERY'S MISGIVINGS

Lord Rosebery, former premier of Great Britain, expresses deep regret that the United States is launching upon a program of naval expansion. He declared in an address that he knew "nothing more disheartening than the announcement that the United States is about to embark upon the building of a huge armada."

If this means anything in particular, it is that, once the United States assumes to make itself a first-class naval power, Britain will feel under the necessity of extra effort to maintain the same general relationship between her naval forces and those of the United States that has existed in the past. In other words, Lord Rosebery seems to assume that the United States is building with reference to the possibility that Britain may be our enemy.

There could be no worse mistake. Britain's naval efficiency as demonstrated in the present war has been a lesson of telling weight with the American people. It has been shown that a navy great enough to make certain the outcome of any major engagement is great enough also to dominate the seas without the necessity of fighting that major engagement. The naval battles of the present war have been skirmishes, compared with what might have taken place if the fleets of England and Germany had been at all equally matched. It is quite possible that the future might see the United States engaged in a war in which a like assurance of dominating power would produce a like result.

Lord Rosebery, like some of our own pacifists, presumes that preparation for defense is certain to be temptation to aggression. Yet the present war is itself testimony to the contrary. Who, now, believes that Germany's preparations were merely for defense? Who doubts that they were preparations for aggression? Time was when they could be justified before an uninformed world as merely safeguards against possible aggression. But the world of today knows too much about the deliberation and the scope of the Prussian plot to conquer Europe.

For the United States to have an adequate navy, it may sincerely be believed, would not be a temptation to war, but an insurance of peace. China, unarmed, is the possible prey of any marauding military power. The United States is little better situated. Moral authority is well enough in times when there is any moral law alive in the world; but physical force is the only thing that is doing real business nowadays.

THE NEW APPEAL FOR BELGIUM

The commission for relief in Belgium appeals for immediate American assistance to provide shoes and clothing for the sufferers in Belgium and northern France. It seems unnecessary to enter into harrowing explanations of conditions that are already so thoroughly understood that there can be no uncertainties about the necessities that exist. Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the organization and doubtless the most thoroughly informed man in the world regarding the detailed requirements, says it will be necessary for the world's charity to furnish shoes and clothes for 3,000,000 people this winter; the alternative is nothing less than that vast multitudes of these unfortunates will perish of cold.

In such a state of affairs, it is useless to indulge controversy about the responsibility for conditions. The condition of millions of people, and not anybody's theory about violation of Belgium neutrality, is what must be considered. Mr. Will Irwin, who is helping the Belgian commission, and who has had opportunity for intimate knowledge of affairs, states that four million dollars will be required to meet the pressing demands. Mr. Irwin points out, what will be a surprise to many people who have not followed development of this situation in detail, that the United States, though it is regarded by Belgians as the savior

of their country, has in fact given less per capita than the British colonies and several neutral nations. There is always danger that a continuing need may arouse a decreasing response. The first horror of Belgium aroused the world. The horror is still there. The need persists. Reserves of money and supplies which even the well-to-do possessed when the war broke upon them, are exhausted or fast being depleted. Four millions of dollars ought not to be an impossible amount for properly organized effort to raise in this country alone.

Chairman Hoover explains that owing to the rigid sanitary regulations imposed by the military authorities of the different countries, it is practically impossible to use second-hand clothing. The real need is for materials from which the distressed people may themselves make up the clothes they need. They have shops and workers and perfected systems for distribution and for ascertaining the merits of every case. Contributions of either goods or money, it is stated, will reach the sufferers without any deduction whatever for expenses, because these are already provided for. The commission for relief in Belgium has its headquarters at 71 Broadway, New York, to which contributions of either money or appropriate supplies may be sent.

THE MILITARY BLUFFERS

Yesterday's news dispatches brought the story of a journalistic visitor to the French lines north of Arras; a seemingly candid and revealing presentation of conditions there, from the French point of view. It indicated that the allies have in recent months made much greater progress in that region than commonly has been supposed, and carried the strong suggestion that they are supremely confident that they can smash through the German line whenever they are prepared with ammunition and certain that the human sacrifice is justified by assured results.

Today comes from the German side the story of an interview with General von Kluck, in which is carefully woven the suggestion that the German general staff may decide on another grand smash at Paris. Each side puts out its story with the trimmings of authenticity, the detail that is intended to carry belief in a prodigious confidence back of the frank statements. The two statements are so much alike in this regard that there is wonderment whether their almost simultaneous appearance is mere coincidence. The suggestion is borne, that each side is bluffing a bit about its confidence that the western line can be smashed, and that it will be at the right time. Paris has long been cultivating the impression that it knows just how to crash through and hurl the invaders back to the Rhine; and the world has been impressed. More recently the Germans have seemingly been answering these French claims, with intimations that in fact Germany was merely waiting in the west until certain important conquests were completed elsewhere; then she would push through to Paris and end the war.

To a considerable extent it is probable that both sides are bluffing. But their bluffs serve at least to remind the non-professional observer that the western line is the place where an overwhelming victory for either side might end the war. Elsewhere, fronts have been extended so far, lines have been thinned so much, energies have been dissipated and results have been so diluted, that it may well be doubted whether there is any other field in which the vitals of either side are exposed to a possible thrust. On the west, for either side to win means an unprecedented sacrifice and, for the side which stakes everything on the attempt, a supreme risk. Yet where else can either side win the war? Germany will not win it by going to Constantinople; but in all probability she would win it by going to Paris. The allies cannot win it by defeating the Constantinople drive; but they could win it if they could smash the Germans back to the Rhine, even if they did not go farther.

Meanwhile, with operations in other fields calling for all the men and material that can be spared from the western front, it becomes necessary for each side to assume all possible confidence as to the posture there. The allies must announce that they now dominate and are certain to win whenever they launch their drive. If the enemy believes, he will perhaps permit another division of French or British to be carted off to the Near East. The Germans must have it understood that they are positive of their power in France and Belgium; if they impress that view strongly enough, they may spare some of the men from the trenches to strengthen the invasion of Serbia.

There is bluffing on both sides, as to the western line, and little is known certainly by the outside world. But it must be said, even though it necessitates revision of some former convictions, that as the war is prolonged on present lines, it makes more apparent that the grand decision will be in France and Belgium.

MAIL BAG

(From The Times' Readers.) Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the paper only; must not exceed 200 words; must be signed with name and address of sender. The publication of letters in The Times' Mail Bag does not mean the endorsement of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is an editorial department of The Washington Times and is not responsible for questions.

Southwest Citizens Praise Times for Accurate Accounts.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: It is with a great deal of gratification that we notice the fair and accurate accounts that you have given our meetings and of the business that was transacted at such meetings. As a slight token of our appreciation for the evident effort on your part to keep the citizens of the city informed of the work of the different civic organizations, a resolution was passed at our last meeting thanking you for your fairness and the interest that you have shown.

We should be glad to have you publish the letters to the public which our thanks will be held December 8, at which time matters of considerable importance will be discussed, and we are sure that the actions then taken will receive the same accurate publicity.

Says Police and Firemen Work Many Hours For Small Pay.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: "What Government employs do the most for small salaries?" I believe the policemen and firemen do. Many of the policemen do duty from 10 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock in the evening for a salary of \$1.50 per week. The firemen work from 10 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock in the evening for a salary of \$1.50 per week.

Program Prepared for Jordan's Peace Talks

The program of addresses to be delivered here Saturday and Sunday by Dr. David Stewart Jordan on the peace cause was announced today by Arthur D. Hall, executive director of the American Peace Society.

Drama League Meets at Library Tomorrow Night

The Study Club of the Washington Center of the Drama League will meet at the Public Library tomorrow evening.

Traces Effect of Wage Raise in Candymaking

The work of organizing a campaign among the women workers of the District for a living wage law received an important boost in reports that have been made from the meeting held last night at the Y. W. C. A., which was addressed by Miss S. Falk, the new secretary of the Consumers League.

Head of Gridiron Club Is Oyster Roast Guest

Edgar C. Snyder, president of the Gridiron Club, was the guest of honor at the oyster roast in Alexandria last night by Robert H. Burt.

Common Counsel Club To Have Luncheon Today

The Common Counsel Club will hold the third of its luncheons for this season today at the University Club when the members will elect their officers for the first time.

One Year Ago Today in the War

New Russian offensives developed near Lodz, Russian Poland. The United States asked Turkey to explain why the Tennessee was fired on at Smyrna. Japan ceded to Australia seized German island possessions.

Wilson Likely To Drop Conservation From His Message To Congress

People Who Claim Information Declare Policy Probably Will Not Be Discussed—Little Chance for Measure to Pass Unless Pressed by President.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

There is substantial agreement among both official and unofficial advisers of President Wilson that the forthcoming message to Congress is likely to mark the dropping of effort for conservation legislation as an Administration program during the present Administration.

People who claim information justifying them in offering predictions, declare that the policy is unlikely to be discussed in the coming message.

Unless it be pressed by the President, it is generally recognized that there will be almost no chance for measures along this line to pass.

WHY CONSERVATION IS DROPPED.

Insistence on an extensive scheme of legislation for national preparedness is given as one reason for dropping conservation. Along with the proposed measures must go revenue provisions designed to raise money for the increased expenses of government, and also to make up the deficit in national collections which is becoming worrisome.

On the other side, the conservationists, who were greatly disappointed at the dropping of the conservation bill, are insistent that the systematic organization of influence and opinion antagonistic to conservation laws through the public and state legislatures has been carried on during the recess of Congress, and that it has reached the point where it is giving real concern to the politicians of the dominant party.

Efforts At Last Session.

During the last session of Congress the Ferris water power conservation bill, for control of water powers on the public lands, passed the House and was reported favorably by the Senate. It was a real vote because of the opposition of the Western members of the Senate and the House.

Germany Are Canny.

Dealing with phosphate and gas-bearing lands there was a different theory as to the latter; a sort of bonus was granted to producers of phosphates, in order to induce development. The country is believed to be peculiarly in need of open-pit phosphate deposits for fertilizer.

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Attractions Coming To Washington

Anyone who has even been in a New York flat will easily understand the ludicrous complication that can arise when a man coming home late at night gets into the wrong house and accidentally understands how such a thing could occur. This incident is the principal one in "Twin Beds," a three-act farce which will be shown at the National Theater next week. "Twin Beds" was written by Salisbury Field, a former newspaper man, and novelist, and Margaret Mearns, who has written "The Circus," and "Baby Mine."

Seats are now selling for the Helasco's Thanksgiving week attraction, which is the musical comedy attraction, which is the musical comedy attraction, which is the musical comedy attraction.

"The Fall Fashion Show of 1915" will be the musical comedy attraction, which is the musical comedy attraction, which is the musical comedy attraction.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM IN CAPITAL TODAY

Meeting, Florida Society of Washington, Hotel Latham, Iowa Circle, 8 p. m. Meeting, National Association of Women, New Bethel Church, Ninth and E streets northwest, 8 p. m.

Following "Madam Butterfly" in which Mary Pickford will appear on the screen at the Columbia Theatre during the last part of the week and starting Monday morning, Pauline Frederick will be seen for the first three days of the week in a film adaptation of the novel "The Sign of the Cross" written by Robert H.ichens and J. S. Fagan.

The second week's offering at the Casino Hotel, which will be Richard Bonetta Co-workers in "Damaged Goods."

While the play is not new to this city it will be offered for the first time at popular prices.

Next week at the Gayety Theater "Blotch" Cooper will present "The Globe Trotter," headed by Frank Hunter and Frank Rice in the musical comedy entitled "The Dowry Seekers."

While the play is not new to this city it will be offered for the first time at popular prices.