

The Democratic Advocate



WESTMINSTER, MD.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 11, 1916

PEACE, PROHIBITION

AND PETTICOATS.

The possible formation of a political party for the promotion of the ideas of peace at any price, national prohibition of traffic in alcoholic beverages and woman suffrage figures in current news and though Jane Addams denies such action, there does not seem to be any inherent impossibility of such a proceeding.

The wisdom of linking the three causes together is quite another matter. Women are quite as apt to take sides on the first two mentioned as well as men are, and it is a disputed point as to whether the majority of the fair sex are in favor of the franchise or not. So it can hardly be said that if women voted, either of the other causes would be benefited.

There is and there can be no linking of them together as having common properties, although many advanced feminists argue that as both peace and prohibition directly affect the home, which is admittedly the empire of woman, she is best qualified to pass on the questions.

But there are many people who do not feel so sure that women would always stand for peace. Women are often more impulsive and moved to quicker wrath than men are and judging from our own civil war, the animosities engendered lived longer in the feminine breast than in the male.

If the women of the country were persuaded or convinced that their homes were invaded, does any one think they would counsel the withholding of armed resistance? The answer may be found in history from the earliest records to and including today's newspapers.

So on the question of prohibition, the results in states where women vote are not different from those where they do not.

No, it will not do. We do not believe that such a political party is required and if it were formed, as Jane Addams says it will not be, its elements would be of such a heterogeneous character that it would not long endure.—Valley Spirit.

WAR GEOGRAPHY.

In the region called on the modern maps Mesopotamia where the far eastern development of the great war is now focussing, the most ancient civilizations of which we have any written record were located. Somewhere between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers the Garden of Eden is supposed to have been located; but that is tradition. Authentic records are preserved, however, giving some glimpse understanding of a civilization that flourished in this region more than 5,500 years ago. The Chaldeans built cities along the Tigris and Euphrates a thousand years before Babylon was founded and Babylon was the capital of a great and flourishing kingdom 3,600 years ago. The archaeological explorations that have been conducted in the valleys lying between the Euphrates and the Tigris during the past ten or fifteen years have disclosed the fact that cities are buried under cities in this region over which more than a hundred wars have spread desolation and ruin. And now history is repeating. Another war is sweeping the land of Ur and Nippur.

And if a Turkish army should be sent down to Egypt every mile of the march southward would pass through regions where great cities flourished more than 3,000 years ago. Troy, Tyre, Sidon were along this route. Jerusalem is only a short way back from the coast. In Egypt not far from where Cairo now stands Memphis flourished 4,900 years ago, and about 300 miles further up the Nile was great Thebes, Sodom and Gomorrah, those wicked towns told about in the Bible, where probably somewhere in the region over which this great modern war is sweeping or threatening to sweep, but modern geographers do not know the location of these cities. Alexander of Macedon spread his war eastward to the Euphrates and southward to the Nile region, but that was a mere 2,200 and some odd years ago—comparatively modern. Alexandria, the Egyptian city founded by Alexander, is yet on the map.—The Baltimore Star.

Advocates of State-wide prohibition appeared before the Senate Temperance Committee at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and for two hours urged the passage of the bill introduced early in the session by Senator Spiecher, of Garrett county. They urged the committee not to be misled by those who were told by those who represent the "liquor interests."

Mr. Bouchelle, of Cecil county, author of a bill introduced which imposes new conditions upon nonresident couples who come to Maryland to be married. The bill provides that the marriage ceremony shall not be performed until at least 48 hours after the issuing of the marriage certificate, and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court issuing the certificate to indorse thereon the date, day and hour when issued.

Delegate Hall introduced a bill in the House to repeal the law passed two years ago reducing the tax on

bank stocks. Mayor Preston at the time opposed the bill, claiming that a large loss of revenue would result. His claims have been justified by results. In Baltimore alone the loss has been between \$90,000 and \$100,000 annually.

A bill to reduce the pensions allowed retired judges from \$2,500 to \$1,200 a year and providing that no judge shall be entitled to any pension whatsoever unless he shall have served upon the bench for at least 25 years was offered in the Senate this morning by Senator Williams, of

Cecil county. By Delegate Kephart—To sanction a request of \$200 by Sarah A. Reck to trustees of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taneytown.

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well as they managed theirs. They knew he was a successful banker in the largest city in Iowa. They knew he bore a reputation as a shrewd business man. But this one time they were certain he was wrong. "Look here, John," they told him. "Iowa soil is rich enough to grow big crops without fertilizers. And even if it isn't, using commercial fertilizers is just like 'fopping' a man. You have to keep it up all the time." "I told them," Mr. Cavanaugh said, "that they were right; that you do have to keep using fertilizer; but that you can't keep drawing on a bank account without depositing some money occasionally."

"Commercial fertilizers and drainage have brought the average returns from the 1,300 Cavanaugh acres from less than \$2 an acre to more than \$10. Some years the rentals have been \$12 and \$14 an acre."

NUMBERS AND VALUES OF LIVE STOCK.

A summary of estimates of numbers and values of live stock on farms and ranges on January 1st for Maryland and Delaware, compiled by the Bureau of Crop Estimates, Washington, D. C., and transmitted through the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is as follows:

Horses—Maryland, 169,000 compared with 167,000 a year ago and 161,000 five years ago. Delaware—36,000 compared with 36,000 a year ago and 34,000 five years ago. Value per head—Maryland—\$105, compared with \$112 a year ago and \$110 five years ago. Delaware—\$95, compared with \$100 a year ago and \$108 five years ago.

Mules—Maryland, 25,000 compared with 25,000 a year ago and 23,000 five years ago. Delaware—6,000 compared with 6,000 a year ago and 6,000 five years ago. Value per head—Maryland, \$121, compared with \$138 a year ago and \$136 five years ago. Delaware, \$114, compared with \$121 a year ago and \$123 five years ago.

Milch Cows—Maryland, 181,000 compared with 177,000 a year ago and 168,000 five years ago. Delaware, 42,000 compared with 41,000 a year ago and 37,000 five years ago. Value per head—Maryland, \$52, compared with \$54 a year ago and \$57 five years ago. Delaware, \$52, compared with \$56.50 a year ago and \$42.50 five years ago.

Sheep—Maryland, 223,000 compared with 223,000 a year ago and 237,000 five years ago. Delaware, 8,000 compared with 8,000 a year ago and 8,000 five years ago. Value per head—Maryland, \$5.40; compared with \$5.20 a year ago and \$4.95 five years ago. Delaware, \$5.30; compared with \$5.30 a year ago and \$4.52 five years ago.

Pigs—Maryland, 359,000 compared with 349,000 a year ago and 388,000 five years ago. Delaware, 61,000 compared with 60,000 a year ago and 54,000 five years ago. Value per head—Maryland, \$8.5; compared with \$9.70 a year ago and \$8.80 five years ago. Delaware, \$9; compared with \$10.20 a year ago and \$9.50 five years ago.

NATION'S CROP INVENTORY.

Farm and Fireside quotes the Federal crop estimates for 1915 as follows: and the sum total shows that Uncle Sam has been making good at the time when it is most necessary:

Wheat 1,902,000,000 bushels
Corn 3,990,000,000 bushels
Oats 3,517,000,000 bushels
Cotton 10,950,000 bales
Apples 76,700,000 barrels
Potatoes 359,000,000 bushels

"Compared with last year," says this magazine, "the corn, wheat, and oat crops are heavier; cotton, apples, and potatoes are less. Market prices have since a year ago declined on corn, wheat, and oats, and increased on potatoes, apples and cotton. The greatest decline of any important crop was cotton, which is less than three quarters of last year's production."

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

By Delegate Wood—To sanction a request from Mary Blouman to Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church, Judiciary.

Mr. Keedy, of Washington county, introduced in the House Tuesday a local option bill for that county. It meets the approval of the entire delegation and of Senator Bamberger, all of whom were elected on a dry platform.

By Delegate Kephart—To sanction a request by John R. Beck to the Trustees of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taneytown.

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MANY DEFECTS IN STATE SCHOOLS

Take Education Out of Politics, Expert Advice to Maryland.

TEACHERS BADLY TRAINED.

General Educational Board of New York, After Inspection of Every County in the State, Points to Need of More Superintendents, Higher Salaries and Changes in Existing Laws.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 6.—The Legislature of Maryland in 1914 authorized the appointment of a Commission to procure a survey of education in Maryland and appropriated \$5,000 for its expenses. The Governor appointed as members of this Commission B. Howell Griswold, Jr., of Baltimore; Col. Albert W. Sisk, of Preston, and Dr. J. McPherson Scott, of Hagerstown.

At the request of the Commission the General Education Board of New York undertook to make the survey, agreeing to bear any expense incurred in excess of the state appropriation. The results of the survey are made public to-day. The report is the work of Abraham Flexner and Frank P. Bachman. The former is the author of "The American College" and several years ago conducted for the Carnegie Foundation investigations of essential schools in the United States and Europe. Dr. Bachman, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Cleveland, was a prominent member of the Hanna Commission which investigated the New York schools and is the author of important educational studies.

Every county in Maryland was visited and typical schools of all kinds were studied throughout the state; the records of the state and county departments were carefully examined; and much new material was gathered. The material is set forth in a comprehensive volume dealing with each detail of the situation.

"Public education in Maryland is on the whole soundly organized," says the report of the General Education Board. "Further, the state deals generously with its public schools in the matter of money."

"We do not propose therefore any fundamental changes in the general structure of the public school system of Maryland nor do we suggest that the state increase at all its appropriations to the schools. "But there are other aspects which will cause grave concern. A few counties possess good and steadily improving schools; a good school may be found here and there in other counties. But the large majority of the schools are poor; teachers are, for the most part, poorly trained; instruction is ineffective and obsolete; children attend school with disastrous irregularity; school buildings are far too often in unsatisfactory condition, school grounds, neglected and untidy.

Need of More Superintendents. "The County Superintendent is in even more unsatisfactory condition. In the first place, the law does not even require the County Superintendent to be a trained or experienced school man; in the second place, adequate provision for skilled assistance exists in only one or two counties.

"In most counties, therefore, an untrained official without expert aid, certifies teachers, arranges courses of study, supervises instruction, and examines for promotion pupils who attend school regularly or not, as they or their parents please.

"Finally, the state's large school fund is not distributed so as to accomplish the greatest possible good. For it is distributed almost unconditionally. The counties get their quota whether they do their educational duty or not, with the result that the backward counties sometimes do much less than they ought and some well-to-do counties do much less than they should.

"The state fund thus becomes a source of positive demoralization. It can be converted into a real help and stimulus only if payment by the State is conditioned upon the performance of local duty.

"In view of these conditions, it is easy enough to understand why a fundamentally correct type of organization produces unsatisfactory educational results in Maryland. But, as a matter of fact, the state does not even fare as well with its present organization as it might; why not?

Education is "In Politics." "A few words suffice to explain. Public education in Maryland is 'in politics.' Politics are apt to prevent the State Board from acting with vigor; to determine the composition of the County Boards; to affect the choice of the County Superintendents; even to enter into the selection of the one-room rural school teacher.

"Of course, there are exceptions. Some of the county boards are excellent; some schools are entirely free from political taint. But in general political and personal considerations impair the vigor, independence, thoroughness and efficiency of the school system. The public does not begin to realize the seriousness of the political infection or the damage it does."

The report of the survey says that "Baltimore County must be singled out for special commendation. The County Superintendent is a man of experience and modern training; and he is aided by a corps of superintendents, including an assistant superintendent, a primary supervisor with an assistant, a grammar grade supervisor with an assistant, a manual training supervisor, a domestic science supervisor, and, finally, a supervisor of rural schools. "But every county in Maryland could, up to the limits of its financial ability, do the kind of thing that Baltimore County does. At bottom it depends on the competency of the County Superintendent."

Training of Teachers. In discussing the weaknesses of the school situation in most of the counties, the Report points out that the teaching force of the state is in a high degree miscellaneous. On this fundamental point the Report states: "Regarding the training of these teachers, no general statement can be made at all. There are the widest possible variations in the training of teachers doing the same grade of work—unconceivable confusion and lack of sequence and order in their preparation. "Of over 3,000 white elementary teachers in the state outside of Baltimore, 391 (12.7 per cent.) have had only an elementary school education; 654 (20.7 per cent.) have spent one or two years in a high school; 1,031 (33.7 per cent.) have completed a four-year high school course; only 148—less than 5 per cent. of the whole—have received a standard normal school training.

One-third of Teachers Untrained. "Of the rest, some have spent a little while in normal school; some have received an irregular normal schooling; a few have been to college and still fewer through college. Grouping together standard normal school, part college and college graduates, about 10 per cent. of the elementary teachers of Maryland—not more—may be called well trained; not quite one-third could on a stretch be called fairly well trained; at least one-third are practically untrained. The body as a whole is thus heterogeneous to the last degree.

Of the high-school teachers, it is declared that not over two-fifths are adequately trained. A revision of the law dealing with the certification of teachers is therefore recommended as the first step toward realizing improved conditions.

Teachers' Salaries Too Small. Salaries are too low to obtain well-trained teachers; they range from an average of \$271 a year in St. Mary's to \$922 a year in Baltimore County. Three counties pay an average of less than \$300; four less than \$350; seven less than \$400; seven less than \$450; and only two, Allegany and Baltimore, pay in excess of \$450."

School Attendance. The attendance of school children is so irregular and uncertain that even good teachers could not teach successfully. As the state is without an effective compulsory attendance law, many children remain away from school altogether—large numbers begin to go to school too late or attend irregularly. The precise extent of this evil cannot be stated, for there is no correct school census.

It is recommended, therefore, that the state enact a state-wide compulsory education law, including proper provisions for attendance officers and whatever else is required to make it effective.

Organization. The schools of Maryland are supported in part by county, in part by state taxation. Some of the counties, notably Baltimore, Allegany, Queen Anne, and Worcester, support their schools liberally; the rest do less and some of the most prosperous do much less than they can and should.

Help Those Who Help Themselves. It is recommended by the Report, therefore, that the state contribution should in future be paid to no county which does not levy for educational purposes a minimum tax fixed by the Legislature. The more progressive counties will, of course, continue to levy more as they now do.

Again, the state and county organizations exist in skeleton or outline only. The State Department of Education, which should guide, study and report upon the educational activities of the entire state, consists of a superintendent, his assistant and a clerk.

"Nothing is simpler," says the Report, "than to authorize or require the State Superintendent to 'supervise,' 'inspect,' 'examine' or 'pass upon' but neither can be done unless an adequate trained organization is provided through which he can work. The force now at the Superintendent's disposal is utterly insufficient. He has a single assistant appointed with the approval of the State Board at a salary of \$2,000 and one clerk at a salary not to exceed \$1,200. In addition to his own salary, he has an expense allowance of five hundred dollars, and one thousand dollars more for furniture, supplies and printing. Three persons thus constitute the entire staff at the disposal of the Superintendent of Public Education in Maryland.

"It goes without saying that the functions which we have enumerated simply cannot be effectively discharged by this organization."

Would Increase Number of Officials. The Report therefore recommends an increase in the staff in the office of the State Department of Education, said staff to be paid, not by additional legislative appropriation, but out of the present school fund, before this fund is distributed to the counties.

Equally defective is the county organization. At present, the County Superintendent is not only the man, but in most counties practically the only county educational officer. Baltimore County alone has a

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more County alone has a really adequate county organization, with the result that the schools of Baltimore County are the best in the state. Not only is the County Superintendent usually unaided—he is not even always a trained educator.

"The County Superintendents," says the Report, "have had less than a high school education and four of them never went beyond the high school. Only one of the seven has added to his initial preparation, and he only to the extent of six weeks at a summer school. Of those remaining, one is a normal school graduate with a summer term of professional work. Though fifteen hold college and university degrees, yet not more than six of the fifteen have made special and professional preparation for their work."

Salaries are indeed frequently so low that trained men cannot possibly be obtained for this highly important post. "Of twenty-three county superintendents, one receives \$5,000 a year, one \$3,000, one \$2,250. Of the remaining twenty, one receives \$800 a year, six receive from \$1,200 to \$1,500 and thirteen from \$1,000 to \$2,000. In addition, there is an allowance of from \$100 to \$500 for expenses incurred in visiting schools, though Garrett County makes no allowance, and Harford and St. Mary's only \$25. One cannot be surprised, therefore, to find that these positions have not attracted trained men."

Competent Assistants Lacking. "Conditions are aggravated," the Report continues, "by the almost universal lack of competent assistants. The law, while permitting the county boards to expend thousands annually in their discretion, forbids the employment of even a clerk to assist the Superintendent, unless the number of teachers in the county exceeds 85; an assistant superintendent may not be employed unless the number of teachers exceeds 175.

"Hence, five counties depend almost entirely upon the County Superintendent alone, employing only occasional and temporary clerical assistance. Six out of the twenty-three have assistant superintendents, and supervisors are found in four.

"In only three counties—Baltimore, Frederick and Allegany—are the offices ample and well equipped; elsewhere space is often meagre and equipment usually limited. One-fourth of the County Superintendents have but one room, often a small one at that, which serves alike as a store-house for school supplies, as a meeting-place for the County Board, and as general office."

How can an untrained and unaided County Superintendent organize schools, certify teachers and examine children efficiently? Once more, it is manifestly absurd to expect good results under these circumstances.

Would Specify Qualifications. The Report recommends that the law define the qualifications of the County Superintendents, requiring that he devote himself exclusively to his office, and that every superintendent be given such aid as is indispensable to the proper performance of his duties.

It is recommended, further, that one-half the additional expense of the county school organization be paid out of the general school fund provided the several counties pay the other half.

Where Politics Disturb. The Report points out that it is in the selection of county superintendents that the next session's instance of political influence is exhibited. On this subject the Report says: "The County Superintendents are elected by the politically constituted County Boards. The political view of the County Superintendency as 'spoils,' and in most counties the indifference of the people permits them to dispose of it on that basis. A general election, bringing about a change in party control, is scarcely over before political candidates are brought forth and 'groomed' for this important office.

"In the four years during which the Republicans were in power—1896-1900—New County Superintendents were chosen in 19 out of the 23 counties of the state, 11 of them in the very year when the County School Boards became Republican. In the first year of the new Democratic administration of 1900, 16 new County Superintendents were appointed, whereas during the ensuing 11 years, aside from removals by death, there was a total of only 11 changes.

"Similarly, the first three years of the present Republican control witnessed the election of 12 new superintendents. Some of these changes were indeed for the better; but as long as a political upset is the inciting cause, there can be no certainty that changes will be based upon public advantage. Luckily, these deplorable conditions are not universal.

"In a few—very few—counties, politics play no part in either the selection or retention of the County Superintendents. While a dozen Superintendents have served three years or less, three have been in office for fourteen years.

THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT IS THAT, UNLESS EDUCATION IS TAKEN OUT OF POLITICS, EVEN THE IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE REPORT WILL BE OF LITTLE AVAIL.

Complete copies of the Report will be placed in the hands of each member of the State Legislature. Additional copies can be obtained free of charge by addressing a request for the same to W. C. Coleman, Secretary, Maryland Educational Survey Commission, Room 825 Equitable Building, Baltimore, Maryland.

demoralizing influences of modern colored camp-meetings, which, they said, are conducted more with a view to pecuniary than religious profits. They asked to have camp-meetings abolished.

State Fire Marshal G. Ed. Myers is asking for an appropriation of \$10,000 to compensate him for the loss of his right eye, which was shot out by one of a band of firebugs against whom he led a raid on the night of October 22 last. The bill was introduced by Senator Kaufman, of Frederick county.

By Delegate Wood—To sanction a request of \$200 by Sarah A. Reck to trustees of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taneytown.

NUSBAUM & JORDAN WESTMINSTER'S BEST STORE MORE NEW GOODS! Have arrived this week and were put on display at once. We cannot recall a season when the weaves and colors were prettier. We invite you to call and see them.

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Other White Goods. Indications are, the coming season's fashions will call for many white materials. We are showing the largest stock and the greatest variety of them. Samples will be cheerfully sent on request.

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Pajama Cloth. Also desirable for making ladies' and children's gowns. Fine check, good quality, soft finish, pure white bleach, 36 inches, 15 and 18c yard.

New Embroideries. Our Spring line of these is now complete, the greatest variety of pretty new patterns we have ever shown at the opening of a new season. All the wanted widths, from a tiny scalloped edge to the wide flourishes. We show them in organdy, swiss, nainsook, long cloth, cambric. Fashions dictate calls for a much greater use of embroideries for trimming under muslins. We will be pleased to show you the new goods.

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Dress Gingham 7 1/2c Yd. In both light and dark colors, dress and shirting styles, fast colors, that wash and wear well.

New Dress Gingham 9c Yd. A great variety of these in pretty styles, plaids, checks and stripes. They come in lengths of 10 to 20 yards; full pieces of same sell at 12 1/2c yard; they are fast color and every yard perfect.

New Spring Gingham 12 1/2c Yd. Our largest line and every pattern carefully selected. A great variety of beautiful new styles in light colors for children's wear and house and street dresses for women.

Yard Wide Percales 10c Yd. Good quality percale, light and dark styles for skirts and dresses.

Devonshire Cloth 20c Yd. Sun proof and tub proof. A thoroughly reliable cotton cloth for children's clothes. It is yarn dyed and will not fade; 32 inches wide; comes in stripes, plaids and plain colors. Samples sent on request.

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