The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1912.

THE SCHOOL SITUATION.

It would be a convincing evidence of the wisdom and good faith of the subcommittee of the Council that has been investigating the conduct of the public schools of Richmond if it would close its inquiry by presenting a report embodying the only fact that a protracted and often farcical series of meetings has demonstrated, namely, that the school authorities are laboring earnestly and conscientiously to give this city the best educational advantages possible. We should be eager to advocate the plan of giving the School Board an opportunity, hitherto denied it, of replying to the charges made against it save that nothing has been proved that needs refutation. Any further projection of this matter can only add to the harm already done. The members of the committee are not expert educators, and they have made no effort to secure the testimony of experts, but they are certainly men of sense and penetration enough to recognize that what has been shown with regard to the conduct of the schools offers no basis for any action that will hamper the work in them or increase the dissension already manifest.

None of the testimony has been unanimous in proving the curriculum to be faulty. There may be particular parts of it that can be changed or improved, but the board will be competent to adjust these minor difficulties. The marked improvement in the schools within the last few years gives evidence of this. The second charge, that certain supervisors were unnecessary, has been refuted in the investigation by the demonstrated need for instruction on the part of teachers who are not trained for the duties that a modern curriculum lays upon them. If this special training can be given in the schools, it relieves the teachers of the expense in time and money to seek it elsewhere. The third charge, that there is insubordination and dissension in the teaching force, has been proved beyond a shadow of doubt. The root of this trouble lay in the question by pay. The elementary teachers have gotten what they asked at a high cost to morale of the schools. They certainly deserved this increase, as the board would be first to admit. Now their endeavors should be to give in service and support a return for the money. With regard to this dissension, the course of the Council committees has been a chief cause. Nothing could have been better calculated to increase friction than the present investigation.

The clauses in the new applications for teaching positions furnish no grounds for the hysterical fear that the board is going to crush all future initiative among the teachers by means of high-handed tyranny. The specification that no teacher shall begin any agitation about the schools save through the board or its executives is a safeguard that the present issue had made needful. Instead of dispensing with the services of those who have manifested insubordination, the board will merely endeavor to have future criticism of the schools presented to it for adjustment before it is thrown into a public and pointless muddle. Any business firm exercises the same privilege over its employes. The board is in authority, and if it is to make the Richmond schools fulfil their true functions, it must exercise that authority. If the board cannot be relied upon to act justly, the recourse is to remove it and choose a better. The sufficient check upon its actions will be an enlightened and responsive public opinion.

Injury has been done the schools quite needlessly. Politics has played a part in this matter. But the question in which the people of Richmond are interested is that the schools give proper training to the children, and they will not consent to any crippling of this most fundamental part of civic life.

LUXURY ON LAKE ERIE.

The only thing that makes steamer travel on Lake Erie safe this summer is that icebergs can't crawl up Niagara Falls. Otherwise imagine what havoc would be wrought upon this three-ring circus that plies between Detroit and Buffalo. In light of the Titanic, one finds a high and delicate irony in this piece of advertising splendor:

"The largest and most luxuriously equipped side-wheel steamer in the world! This marvel of marine art and science is 500 feet long, 100 feet wide and is truly palatial in every detail. It combines all the conveniences and luxuries of a first-class modern hotel. Six hundred state-rooms, twenty-five parlors equipped with baths, electric fans, hot and cold running water and thermos bottles, private verandas, telephones in every state-room, modern ventilating system, Pipe organ and $10,000 orchestrion.

"See the Palm Court with fountain of running water, the Marie Antoinette drawing room for the ladies, the comfortable "Lounge" for the men, the Old Bavarian Wine Cellar, and other unique features."

That sounds like a burlesque—but it isn't. It is a full page advertisement in a magazine that has over 1,000,000 readers. And in the whole luring poster, with its adjectives and superlatives, there is not one single word about safety. Like the "Jumblies," the persons who went floating away in this amphibious hotel might have been going to sea in a sieve, for all they knew about it. Doubtless they were satisfied to have "a thermos bottle" in every room, though it seems certain that being alone in Lake Erie, even with an excellent thermos bottle, would be an unpleasant experience. And the society of the friendliest orchestrion would pall if you and it were about to race for the bottom of the inland seas. And a marine marvel is not half so pleasant if it has designs upon being a submarine marvel.

But the crowning and illuminating touch is the Old Bavarian Wine Cellar. It shows the false idea of what travel means. Why in the world go to sea if you have to sit in an Old Bavarian Wine Cellar? Why not go to any old wine cellar? The futility of this when all the wins of the four winds is pouring out of the cup of the blue sky! It is presumed that when the ship sank, if she did, you went down in the cellar and saved yourself. The cellar has ever been regarded as a safe place, and doubtless it constituted the chief life-saving agency on the whole ship. It certainly is a good thing that the Falls are there!

For, you remember, the Titanic was twice as big.

TO FLOP OR NOT.

The Taft instructed delegates from the South are in an embarrassing situation. They may be under the awkward necessity of swopping band-wagons in the middle of the stream. Mr. Taft has been eliminated on two counts. The results in Ohio and elsewhere have shown such a vital weakness in carrying power that his nomination is extremely doubtful, and his election even more dubious. If he is not nominated the faithful will lose; if he is nominated and not elected, they will lose with even more unanimity and dispatch. If the delegates rush to the Roosevelt standard, will the Strenuous One be forgetful of their past transgressions? Would not his dictatorial and menacing nature find a sweet refreshment in slashing broadcast among officeholders who supported him when they found they could do nothing else?

Of course, these hardy patriots may decide to sink with the ship, vote relentlessly for the late Mr. Taft, and run a slim chance of reaping where they have sowed. But they have hitherto given no evidence of not knowing which side of the bread is buttered. The majorities figured for the President in the convention with the help of these gentlemen will probably be serviceable only as proofs of the abilities of campaign managers as mathematicians.

The gravity of the question fronting this interesting group is appalling. Among them is doubtless much deep searching of the heart. But inasmuch as they are only human, they will presumably act upon the ancient human law that self-preservation comes first.

DON'T MUDDY THE WATER.

They do not know what they are talking about. That is the main indictment to be directed at the few newspapers of Virginia which hold the brief of the officeholders' combine in this case against the people. Time after time they misstate the case; again and again they bolster up their side by omitting some material factor failing to state some material argument adverse to their attitude. Especially is this true in the case of the resubmission in 1912 of the proposed amendments removing the present constitutional inhibitions as to the privilege of city treasurers and city commissioners to succeed themselves. This is "a complicated constitutional question involving fine legal points and deserving of careful study. The discussions of this question by the newspapers favoring resubmission are characterized by nothing so much as ignorance, which would be laugh-provoking were the issue not so serious.

Actual reading of Judge Crump's decision in the Law and Equity Court this week concerning resubmission would be of profit to both the Lynchburg Advance and the Lynchburg News, published in the city where live the chief legal and the chief official apologists for unlimited tenure for city treasurers and city commissioners. Hardly was the decision announced when the afternoon Advance screamed with delight, only to be followed in the morning by the high brow jubilation of the news.

The Advance is guiltless of any charge that it read the decision. "The legal argument against the resubmission of the amendment is palpably a technicality at best, and which, according to Judge Crump, is not even a valid technicality," says the Advance, ignorant of the fact that Judge Crump expressly refused to pass on the validity of the "technicality," declaring that it had been argued before him with much force, but taking the position that its constitutionality was not a proper question for his decision. The Advance continues:

"We have no patience with the argument which has been brought by some papers against the proposal to resubmit the amendment on the ground that the right on the part of these officers to succeed themselves is a means whereby an 'officeholders' trust' can be created or maintained, for the plain reason that they can be placed in office and can be continued in office only by the will of the people as expressed at the polls. To deny this is to deny democracy."

That is the old stock argument so often used to befog the issue. The Times-Dispatch believes fully in the right of the people to settle issues at elections, but it does not believe that the people ought to be compelled to participate in elections which they do not wish and which have been secured in violation of the Constitution by the officeholders' lobby. The people have already said that these officers shall be limited in their tenure of office; it is not a right which these men have to office, but a privilege granted by the people and wisely limited by them. The electorate has already passed upon this question, and the officeholders act in their own interest and against that of the people in bringing about a second election.

SHOULD "GO SLOW."

More seriously than ever before the country is confronted with the problem of controlling the Mississippi. The necessity of solving it has been borne in on the public mind by a frightful object lesson, presenting the picture of harrowing suffering, the destruction of millions of dollars' worth of property, the submerging and devastation of scores upon scores of homes and plantations and the loss of hundreds of lives.

The word problem is used advisedly and in a thoroughly applicable sense. There is wide diversity of opinion as to how it can be solved. There are two principal divisions in the camp—those in favor of the old levee system and those who advocate reservoirs to hold back the waters and the planting and conservation of forests that will prevent rapid running off of the rainfall. The former advance the testimony of many expert engineers that no other than the levee remedy is practicable. On the other hand, the reservoir and forest champions cite the declaration of equally expert engineers that levee protection has proved a failure for years, since it raises the flood height in proportion as it is extended. There are other schemes under discussion, and meantime Congress is asked to appropriate $50,000,000 for the work of protection.

That there is urgent and vital demand for temporary work in that direction cannot be questioned. But it might be well for Congress to "go slow" before making any very large appropriation for the cause. It has been suggested that before final solution is attempted a commission of the best river engineers of the country be appointed to study all plans that have been advocated and agitated and report thereon. The suggestion strikes us as eminently wise.

In 1875 a commission reported in a general way on the subject, but since then engineering skill has made tremendous strides. It has solved problems that would seem much more difficult than harnessing the "Father of Waters" within his banks.

Another suggestion is that the problem might possibly be worked out so as not only to prevent the river from carrying death and destruction, but to the end also of providing power, by hydraulic and electric agencies, undreamed of when the levee system was devised. The possibility, nay the probability, of the latter achievement strikes us as an additional, another most important reason, why Congress should "go slow" in the matter, and an expert commission should be constituted for its guidance.

The auxiliary achievement in point, in solving the problem, would simply be in line with the nation's policy of irrigating the barren lands of the West and Northwest. While attainment of the main object would represent "conservation" born of necessity on a tremendous scale, on a scale hardly less vast the auxiliary feature would represent economic development, such as is embraced, in a sense, in reclamation of our desert areas.

It is perhaps now safe to wear a straw hat, but in other directions it is time for a wise conservatism.

It seems to be somewhat easier to get juries in Carroll county these days.

The end of the teapot tempest baseball strike has proved one thing conclusively. Baseball is the national game, and it belongs to the people who support it. Both magnates and players are of secondary importance. What the public wants is a game of absolute fairness and cleanness, free from all suspicion of trickery or rowdyism. Any sacrifice of these fine elements will be avenged in the speediest manner by decreased gate receipts. But if the public is responsible for the game, it has for that reason duties, and with the patrons of the sport rests the real outcome of the strike. They should see to it that the players are protected from any unjust and personal comment or persecution. They should co-operate with the club owners to put down all attempts at player-baiting and bottle-throwing. The club owners can discipline any rough tactics by their teams, but with the spectators remains the enforcement of unwritten laws of good sportsmanship.

Don't forget that spring housecleaning means "Swat the Fly."

It is perfectly proper that an amphibious animal should have a name as hard to pronounce as "Hydroaeroplane."

The woman who is walking from New York to Chicago on a vegetable diet may get there, but so could a cow.

Perhaps Mr. Taft believes the Buckeye State would more fittingly be called the Blackeye State.

The celebrators of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence at least show themselves quite independent of history.

Among other things, it is time for somebody to advocate the recall of the vest.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Jim.

We never counted much on Jim around
the village, cuz
There wasn't no git up to him, his
relatives all wuz
Jest sort o' shamed to speak about the
way he loafed around.
We knew him as a lazy lout, who jest
laid on the ground
And dreamed and dreamed the hours
away. They couldn't make him
work.
While others drilled ten hours a day,
his stunts was jest to shirk.
The village folks looked down on him
in sort o' scornful style,
Because he didn't have no vim. But
Jim would only smile,
And keep on dreaming right along,
preoccupied his air.
He'd listen to the bluejay's song and
stare and stare and stare.
He didn't mingle much, did Jim, but
read an awful lot.

The other boys got up at 5 and earned
six plunks a week.
But Jim, he wasn't scarce alive, a sort
of village freak.
One day he got an envelope from
Washington, by jing!
His breast filled with a sudden hope,
because, you see, the thing
Contained a letter patent for a rapid
firin' gun
That was supposed to end a war when
it was scarce begun.
He sold his patent right away, and
he's a millionaire.
Our foremost citizen, we say, with
civic pride to spare.
He rides around in autos now, and
loafs a lot, does Jim,
But all the town folks do allow, they're
mighty proud of him.

Some Household Infelicities.

"You wrong me, Robert. I never open anybody's mail, yours especially, except by mistake."

"Where in blazes is my bathrobe? I suppose you have got it wrapped around that rubber plant out on the front porch again."

"Huh, I suppose you think all I've got to do is to think up something to eat and bring it home with me. I've got other things on my mind."

"Take it from me, madam, the next time you burn up the pork chops while you are gossiping over the telephone, the telephone goes out."

"Oh, thunder! Who has been opening a can with my razor again?"

"Why in tunket don't women hook up the front instead of the back?"

What's Their Language?

There are some persons in demand
Whose language we can't understand.
A little English now and then
Should be adopted by these men.
The umpire steps upon his throne,
And in a jargon all his own,
Announces in about this way,
The batteries who play to-day:
"Ladiesandgentsthebatteriesforto-day's gamewillbeSmithandJonesforHogWallowandBrownandGreenforBirdCenter—PLAYBA—W—L."

The front door of the railway car
Bursts open with a ponderous jar
The brakeman trills his joyous lay
In Hottentot or else Malay,
Or Esperanto tongue, perhaps,
A lingo hadled out in scraps,
A gem that sounds a jot like this,
So travelers won't go amiss:
"Nex'——station!thistrainstopsis——Hick'ryhol—!—!—!—!—erchangecarsforal—!—!—!—!—pointseast——andwesten thePonticOx——forandNorth——arn. Twentyminutes—s—ss'rfr's'ments."

The barker in the dime museo
A dapper little gent is he.
He always wears a long frock coat.
He is a lecturer of note;
In voice mysterious he speaks
About the galaxy of freaks.
His language is so scrambled that
You can't tell what he's driving at:
"Ladies,gents,yourattentioniscalledto thisend of the ha—!—!—!—!—!— where wehaveoneexhibi—!—!—tion Madam'selle Maximewhohandlessnakesmosivem'musrepti—!—!—lesw!thgreatestease. Thelittleladyisyeryintelligentandconversationalistand hasherphe—o—n—o—tographonsale."

Voice of the People

The Ascension of Christ.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I read to-day your interesting article on the "Ascended Christ." How strange a thought it is that the most important phenomena (or miracle, if you prefer) of our Saviour's life on earth, His ascension, is not attested by any one who saw it. Matthew, John, James, Peter and Jude, who according to Luke, saw it and wrote subsequently, say nothing about it. Yet Luke, who did not see it, and who probably never saw Jesus Christ, gives in two places a circumstantial account of it. Mark did not see it, and his account, which is quite doubtful and not in the oldest Greek, and many other manuscripts, if true, is derived from another. I suppose no thoughtful Christian doubts the fact of the ascension of our Saviour to heaven, and probably accepts St. Luke's account, but I have often been struck with the fact that though the resurrection is fully attested by eyewitnesses, the ascension, which far transcends in glory and importance to us the resurrection, is left to be told by one who derives it from others, however well it may be authenticated. Sitting in the playhouse at Ober Ammergau two years ago and watching the feeble human attempts to depict that glorious scene, I thought what must have been the reality of the actual occurrence and so thinking, am not surprised that the little band of eleven disciples went forth to evangelize the world with a courage born not of flesh and blood. Peter, in one of his epistles, written thirty years or more after the ascension, alludes to the fact that Christ is at the right hand of God, probably just as we would say of a dear, long-dead friend that he or she is in heaven, but, as I said before, no one who witnessed it alludes to the ascension to heaven, or relates any of the circumstances. How strange! P. J. WHITE.

Richmond.

The Wrecking of the Titanic.

One bright, calm night in April,
Far in the middle Atlantic,
A ship went to the ocean's bottom.
It was the "Giant Titanic."

She set sail five days before,
With a load of human freight,
Determined to reach a distant harbor,
Not one minute too late.

The captain was given orders
Before he left the port
To break the speed record,
Running the largest ship afloat.

So when she set sail for America,
The band's music filled the air;
There was no thought of danger,
And gladness reigned everywhere.

But before the voyage ended.
On that calm, April night,
The ship of giant power
A mighty iceberg did strike.

The captain and the officers
To the decks did rush,
Finding there a gaping wound,
Where the mountain of ice did
crush.

The passengers all became alarmed
At the actions of the crew;
"To the lifeboats!" said the captain:
Then their fate they knew.

But the lifeboats were insufficient
To take care of those aboard,
And the ship went down to the ocean's
bottom,
Carrying with her that precious load.

Those who lived to tell
Of the great Titanic wreck,
Told of those noble heroes
Who died upon that icy deck.

Of how they left their loved ones,
To give a more timid one a place,
While at that breathless moment
Death stared them all in the face.

The band had changed its music,
When the ship went beneath the sea,
From dance times and waltzes,
To "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Its notes were trust-inspiring
To those who must lose their life;
It taught them to die like heroes
In a sea battle of strife.

And now she sleeps beneath the billows
Of the mighty sea;
She will ever be remembered
As we sing, "Nearer, My God, to
Thee."

Peace be to those who died
And went to a watery grave;
They gave their lives as they should,
Some other soul to save.

From the sinking of this great ship,
We learn a lesson precious,
That too many lives are lost
While seeking earthly pleasures.

The shipbuilders in after years,
Before their ships set sail,
Will fit them with all things necessary
To withstand the stormy gale.

In the building of that great ship,
Man almost defied his Maker;
Said she was unsinkable,
And that no wave could shake her.

But with one move of His mighty
hand,
He put the giant ship to sleep
By sending her downward sailing,
To the bottom of the deep.

There shall be her resting place,
Till the judgment unlocks the tomb;
When some shall receive eternal re-
ward,
And others their eternal doom.

T. J. MARTIN, JR.

Pelham, N. C.

Non Sequitur.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The insane son of a brave Confederate Virginia soldier has been done to death in Massachusetts. Wonder what would have happened had he been the insane son of a Massachusetts soldier? UNION VETERAN.

New York.

Abe Martin

Don't you feel good when you git out o' a store where yon nearly bought somethin'. Constable Plum asked 'em Spain what states he wuz in when he traveled with a circus, an 'em said: "How'd I know? We traveled at night."

SPRING SCENE IN A COLLEGE TOWN.

Just Before Graduation Day.

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright: 1912: By John T. McCutcheon.]

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Equal Suffrage.

Is Miss Mary Johnston the leader in woman's suffrage in Virginia? Who was the first woman in Virginia to advocate equal suffrage?

MRS. J. B. HILL.

Miss Johnston is of great prominence and influence and value in the Equal Suffrage League in Virginia. The president of the league is Mrs. B. B. Valentine, who is, of course, "the leader," and this lady, and Miss Ellen Glasgow are among the earliest public advocates of equal suffrage in this State. It is likely that the honor of being the first may not with certainty be conferred on any one.

William Green, LL. D.

Please inform me where and when the distinguished lawyer William Green was born and where he was educated? RICHMOND.

Fredericksburg, November 16, 1806. At the schools of Mr. Goolrick, in Fredericksburg, and John Lewis, in the upper part of Spotsylvania county, Llangollen, near Waller's Tavern, or Lewis's Store, or Lewiston.

Virginia History.

Who is the first person with the title Governor of Virginia? What was the date of the marriage of Pocahontas? E. D. MORRISON.

Lord Delaware. April 5, 1613.

Gettysburg.

Please give the names of the officers commanding under Pickett in the charge at Gettysburg, and state whether they were all Virginians.

M. A. HOLLOWAY.

Brigadier-General James Lawson Kemper (born Madison county, Va.); Brigadier-General Richard Brooke Garnett (born Essex county, Va.); Brigadier-General Lewis Addison Armistead (born Newbern, N. C.) General Armistead's father was a Virginian, his mother, Elizabeth, daughter of Hon. J. A. Stanley, a North Carolinian.

Sowerby's Botany.

Will you give the date of publication of Sowerby's English Botany, and tell me where and at what price I may get it? D. C. HOLT.

The seven volumes were published from 1863 to 1867. It brings about $30. Dealer's address will be sent when stamped and addressed envelope is received from you.

Parson Brownlow.

Please inform me where and when Parson Brownlow, the antislavery agitator, was born, what his full name was, and what was his occupation.

T. M.

Wythe county, Va., August 29, 1805. William Gannaway Brownlow, Methodist preacher and editor.

Publishing.

I have sent to several firms the manuscript for a little book, and one or two have written several times to induce me to pay in advance for getting the work out. Do all publishing houses demand that authors pay the costs of publishing? M. S.

The contracts between publishers and authors are of every imaginable sort. The better publishers will not put their imprint upon a book if they do not think well of it, and, in general, it is not too much to say that first-rate firms like Dodd, Mead, Harpers, Scribners, Doubleday-Page, etc., publish no books except at their own expense, and pay royalty to writers. There are some so-called publishers who will encourage every sender of a MS. to have it printed. These people declare that there is a great future before every writer who corresponds with them; that they have wonderful and mysterious command of the "market" and can—on the receipt of several times the commercial value of the work to be done—print, bind and sell an enormous edition of anything. There are firms in this country whose name on the title page of a book would virtually destroy its chances of success, because they are known to all who know books as persons who have never published anything worth while, to whom nobody ever offers anything until it has been declined by all the better firms. If you will show your work to some friend who knows or can learn the prices of book-making and compare the figures he can get for you from some good firm of printers and binders with the prices your correspondents have quoted for getting out your book, you can then see for yourself how much overcharge they are making. As to the "certainty" of large sales held out to induce you to contract for the work, say to your correspondents that they know far more of such things than you, and suggest that they take your risk by advancing the cost and reap part of your profits from those sales which they consider so "certain." You will be pleased with the ludicrous celerity with which the correspondence will terminate.

Baseball and Hampton Roads.

Will you give date of the Temple Cup baseball play in Baltimore, and of the freezing of Hampton Roads?

W. A. MOORMAN.

We shall have to ask some reader to furnish the first date. The last is 1857.

Orchestra.

Will you give me the name of the director of the New York Symphony Orchestra? A. A. MOON.

Joseph Stransky.

Presidential Terms.

How many terms may a President of the United States serve?

F. W. KOMENSKI.

Just as many as the people will elect him for. There is no law on the subject.

NATIONAL STATE AND CITY BANK
RICHMOND, VA.
3% ON SAVINGS 3%

Forty-Two Years

Age in a bank, when accompanied by strength and experience and by large Capital, Surplus and Resources, is the best assurance of unquestioned stability.

Throughout the forty-two years of its existence this institution has shown a consistent growth in all these elements, and to-day it has Capital and Surplus of over $1,600,000.00, while its Resources exceed $6,500,000.00.

Checking accounts are received in any amount, and 3 per cent. compound interest paid on savings.

UNDER BOTH U. S. GOV'T. & STATE SUPERVISION