

THE BLAIR BILL.

The Author of the Well Known Measure Refers to the Educational Cause of the Lone Star State.

He Quotes from an Interview with Professor Hogg, Superintendent of Fort Worth Public Schools.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—In a speech today on the educational bill Senator Blair referred to the educational cause in Texas and quoted from an interview with Professor Hogg of Fort Worth. Senator Blair said:

The state of Texas has by its representation on this floor declined emphatically, upon conscientious and constitutional grounds, to receive this aid, and has done from the beginning its utmost to defeat this measure. Its Senators have previously voted for the passage of bills of precisely the same nature, stronger, if anything, so far as any wrenching of the constitution is concerned; and it does seem that anyone who is earnest in a matter of this kind, as those Senators, who have devoted the most vigorous and powerful efforts of their lives to the destruction of the constitution, might be willing that it should be stretched even a little for the benefit of their people. But, of course, their consciences and their conduct are in their own keeping. I only make this remark in passing, because it occurs to me and I feel just as I say about it.

One of the most beneficial features of the bill will be that the country will know what the trouble is in Texas, if there be any, and Texas will have information in return as to the manner in which schools are conducted elsewhere, and these evils will be largely remedied. I think we are liable to overlook some of the principal benefits that may come from the more general diffusion of actual knowledge as to the condition of the school system of the country, if this bill shall become a law.

Mr. President, I have no doubt that the people of Texas as a whole do what they can for the maintenance of schools. I have no doubt they carry a more heavy burden than do the people of the north in proportion to their actual capacity for taxation, for in a new community where everything is being created, where the roads and the bridges, and the public buildings, and all the various expenditures that fall on a community, are being primarily borne, and where money is scarce, however much of substantial original resources may abound, it is exceedingly difficult for such a people to find the ready money required in the progress of maintaining a common school system. What I fear is that the people of Texas really need more of this aid than their Senators, in their strong devotion to their construction of the constitution, appear to fully apprehend. At all events it is not for me to decide.

I have here a newspaper account of an interview published in the Boston Globe last season. It is an interview with Professor Hogg of Fort Worth, Tex., who is, as the Senators I know will say, a gentleman of as high standing as there is anywhere in that state; a native of Virginia, a highly educated and polished gentleman, a Confederate and an officer during the war, educated in one of the colleges in Virginia, who has been spending, I think, most of his life in the state of Texas. During the last season he came north, and I met him in Boston. I knew of his strong interest in the matter of federal aid and had a conversation with him, and, as there had been a vast amount of miscellaneous talk all through the north in regard to the condition of the south and the most astonishing and unaccountable dereliction on the part of the north in disabusing the south and using as little of truth as subject (and that was true as much in New England and New York as in any other part of the country), I asked him if he would be interviewed by a Democratic paper and state what he knew from his standpoint of the actual circumstances of the south. Accordingly he was interviewed, and I will read what he said, and if either of the Senators from Texas has sought to say as to the character, or responsibility or reliability and the opportunities for thorough information on the part of this gentleman, I will be glad that they should make it known. He says: "I am a Democrat; I am a Prohibitionist, and the friends of prohibition in my section regard the recent Texas vote as a great victory for the cause."

[Showing in this respect that the honorable Senator nearest me from that state (Mr. Reagan) can well sympathize with what the gentleman has to say, and I am very glad to welcome him on behalf of the Prohibitionists of this country.]

Yes, there was an 80,000 majority against us in the election, but that was only little over half of the usual majority given to the Democratic ticket. Texas is a state, it ought not to be forgotten, with a habit of giving up phenomenal majorities. The Democrats dividing gave the recent prohibition vote. The Republicans voted almost solidly against the amendment.

[To the shame of the Republicans I interpolate myself.]

We were really beaten by the Germans, negroes and Mexicans, who voted as a man for their beer, gin and whisky. The bulk of the prohibition vote was thrown in North Texas. It is bound to come. By statute the pistol has been prohibited. The carrying it has been made a penal offense. It must go, and whisky, its strong ally, will go with it.

Referring to the matter in which Professor Hogg is most deeply interested, the reporter asked him a number of questions about the Texas schools, and the responses may be summed up in this way: "In the cities of Texas," said he, "the schools are as good as they are anywhere." "How would they compare with Boston?" "Well, really, now, twice two are four all over this continent, and the branches usually taught in the public schools are as well taught in Texas as they are in Boston. Of course we have not the fine school buildings, nor the bricks and mortar that you have, but we have the same people with the same brains as your people, both as teachers and pupils. The trouble is in the country. Only some 17 per cent.

use it. Hence the Fort Worth schools have grown from 600 pupils and seventeen teachers to a daily average attendance of 1600 pupils and forty-three teachers. I repeat, the city schools do well because they are well supplied by a very heavy tax. And one-fifth of the entire fund of Fort Worth goes to the colored pupils. We have not in North Texas, however, so many colored people. The cotton belt, or southeast, is the portion of the state occupied by the blacks. But whether in North or South Texas, the fund is distributed strictly according to the ratio of the colored to the white pupils. Fort Worth pays the same to the teachers of the colored pupils as she does to the teachers of the white. The principal and assistants of the colored schools are all colored. The principal is a native Texan and a well-educated man. We also pay the women the same salary paid the men for the same service, whether as principals or assistants.

The nation must help us develop this fair and well founded system. I know our Senators have voted against the proposition, but wherever our representatives and the Blair Federal Bill they are for it, and if it could be discussed before the people generally they would be unanimous in its support. Persons engaged in educational matters—those acquainted with the bill and the needs of the schools—favor it. The superintendents of the cities and the public school-teachers all over the state, with the fewest exceptions, favor it.

I might say here that the Teachers' Association of Texas, in a large convention, has endorsed this bill.

If universal suffrage is based upon universal education, upon intelligence, upon the ability of the voter to read the name of his choice upon the selected ballot, there is a great crying necessity for national relief. It must be given at once. Illiteracy is increasing at a fearful rate, even among the white citizens of Texas.

That is a proposition I was not myself prepared to hear, especially as we had heard here so much of the ability and the actual fact of Texas educating her people and needing no help.

Mr. Reagan—The statement is simply not true.

Mr. Blair—I do not know. He says "illiteracy is increasing at a fearful rate, even among the white citizens of Texas." He proceeds:

In 1870 there were only 17,505 illiterate white voters, but in 1880 there were 33,085. There you have the startling increase of illiteracy among the white voting Texans of 90 per cent. The colored illiterates numbered 47,235 voters in 1870, and 56,699 in 1880, an increase of 26 per cent.

But I am not willing to pass this large increase in illiterate voters in Texas without explaining how it is so close together, but it shows that the education needed is not wholly for "the brother in black."

It may be justly asked, why should there be such an increase in the white illiteracy? It is simply because these voters are the sons of the fathers who laid down their lives, sacrificed their all, in the unhappy struggle for what they believed to be right. Their children, daughters as well as sons, were without school facilities. They really had no time to go to school, but with their mothers at home, were struggling for something to eat.

The census of 1880 shows that there are in Kentucky, above the age of twenty-one, of white women who can not write 22.8 per cent; and in North Carolina there are 33.4 per cent. of white women who can not write. If in the death of these fathers and mothers illiteracy should cease we should have hope for the republic; but upon investigation it will be found that illiteracy is not only increasing, but that it is an inheritance that multiplies with each succeeding year.

Under the provisions of the Blair bill, were it to become a law, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont, with a population of 12,724,322, would receive \$3,093,990, or 24 cents per capita. Texas with a population by the same census of only 1,591,743, could receive \$244 per capita, or ten times as much as these great states. That shows our disadvantage.

OUR DISADVANTAGE.

Little Alabama would receive seventeen times as much as those states. California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin and Oregon, with a population of 18,462,723, would receive \$4,486,860, or 24 cents per capita. Georgia, with a population of 1,542,180, would receive \$6,042,150, or nearly \$4 per capita, nearly seventeen times as much as all these great states.

Why is this? Simply because Georgia has seventeen times as much illiteracy as all this vast territory, teeming with millions of happy people who received their federal aid in grants of land from Virginia and the general government for school purposes. Need more be said upon the "necessity" of this aid?

Our southern states are positively doing all they can, and are doing more proportionately than the favored states of the north, more according to their means than the foremost states of this Union.

For instance North Carolina paid school taxes in 1880 upon \$160,000,000 taxable property. She realized \$400,000, \$1 to every \$400. Massachusetts paid the same year upon \$1,600,000,000, and the school tax amounted to \$4,000,000, or \$1 to every \$400 of taxable property. That is North Carolina pays for school purposes as much as valorem as Massachusetts, with this terrible drawback—her population being 300,000 more than that of Massachusetts, and is scattered over seven times the territory of Massachusetts.

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for primary instruction. That is, Charleston gives for her schools of lowest grades nearly half as much again as Boston. Add to this burden the still greater, namely, Charleston pays a total tax of 21 cents, while that of Boston is only 14.

What the Gazette.

Charlie Godbold killed himself working on Hardest's books, and though he held to his task early and late, always at work, his books were way behind when he left them, to go home and die. Tim Quick succeeded him at the desk, and though the business of the house has almost doubled since he assumed the position, and the office work has increased correspondingly, the books are now kept "up to date": Tim does not seem to do half the work Charlie did, and grows fat on the labor that killed his predecessor. Why is it that two men apparently of like capacity, should do so much difference in equal tasks?

The answer is easy. "One is possessed of tact, that quality distinguishing the American above all other nations, and the other is not." This valuable quality was well illustrated by an English mechanic who sought to show wherein his countrymen differed from Americans. Taking a carpenter's rule in his left hand and holding a pencil in the other, he said: "If an Englishman were asked to draw a line parallel to another, he would measure the distance very carefully from each point with the rule, mark it with the pencil, then adjust his straight-edge, and slowly but accurately make the line from point to point."

"Now hand the tools to an American mechanic, and before you have finished telling him what is wanted, he has slapped his rule to the wall and with an eye quicker than his hand has measured the distance (just as accurately as the other had with all his preparation); then with a nervous sweep of the pencil that makes the dust fly, leaves a line quivering with the genius of America."

So it is in every calling: the man of tact accomplishes more in less time and with greater ease than another possibly can, though the latter be learned in his profession, and the former be ignorant of his theory.

In housekeeping this difference is seen. Two women, neighbors, have the same duties to perform, and while the work of one is never done, and she is a very slave, knowing no rest or recreation, the other has time to visit, and to her accomplishments and rear a family of well cared for, well bred children, the latter feat the most important and valuable of all that any woman ever undertook.

It is noted in every calling, craft, profession and condition in life, and the secret of it is tact—and tact is knowing how—and at the right time, in the right place, and doing it.

A Model Report.

When it was first arranged for postmasters to send in quarterly reports, many queer documents were furnished. One of the funniest came from Waterford, Fulton county, Ill., and is a model of comprehensiveness, if not of grammatical precision. It is still on file at the Postoffice department, and reads as follows:

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RATES TOO HIGH.

What Must Be Done if Fort Worth Holds the Pandemic Trade.

TASOGA, TEX., Jan. 20, 1888.

To the Editor of the Gazette.

Will you please explain to us why it is the merchants and business men of this section of the Panhandle have to pay the same rates on freight from Fort Worth that we do from Kansas City? The best rates we can get out of Fort Worth is 75 cents per hundred. Kansas City ships freight right through your city to this point for 80 cents per hundred. Now, when the Southern Kansas taps the Fort Worth and Denver only sixty miles south of here, of course we can beat the above rates and will be compelled to transfer our trade to KANSAS City, which we do not wish to do. Can't the Fort Worth and Denver people be induced to look more to the interest of the city that has been so instrumental both in building this road and developing this country? Please let us hear from you through the columns of your great paper.

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Arrested for Horse Theft.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

MONTAGUE, TEX., Jan. 21.—Yesterday evening Deputy Sheriff L. L. McLean, Bob Mix and Mack Bush arrested one Jerry Huddleston, charged with theft of a horse in McLennan county. Huddleston was indicted at Waco in 1879, was arrested and given bond. He afterwards forfeited his bond and has been at large ever since. He resides in Hunt county. He and his family were in this county on a visit to his relatives when arrested. He has a family consisting of a wife and several children, who came in town yesterday with him. Huddleston is a man about fifty years old, and was living in this county at the time he was charged with stealing the horse. His wife and little children presented rather a pitiable sight. They followed him to the jail, though the weather was very severe. When Huddleston lived in this county he was considered a good citizen. The bond that he forfeited was made by parties living in this county.

Rheumatism is caused by lactic acid in the blood, which is a Sarsaparilla neutralizer, and thus cures rheumatism.