

"EXAMS" IN GRADES ARE ABOLISHED

Chickasha School Board Follows Recommendation of Supt. Ramey and Adopts More Progressive System

"GRADS" GROUPED IN FOUR CLASSES

Special Honors at Completion of Work to Furnish Incentive for Better Deportment Throughout Year

That instrument of torture, for "school kids," the final examination, is to be relegated to the shelf in Chickasha public schools in every grade from the first to the twelfth.

Numerous reasons are given for the change, chief of which is that the public school system of America is gradually getting away from the old rote system and getting down to the attempt not to pour into the child a certain amount of memorized information, but really to train his mind and to teach him the rudiments of what he must know if he is to fill his place after he leaves school.

"The change is not a new move," Supt. Ramey said at his office this morning. "It has been adopted by a large number of the more progressive schools of the United States in the past few years, and we believe it has proved a success wherever it has had proper surroundings. It is based upon sound principles. There is no reason why it should not prove a great factor in making our public school system of greater actual service to its pupils."

There are any number of arguments against the old examination system, Prof. Ramey says, not the least of which is the great strain most pupils undergo at the close of school through fear that they will fail in part of their work. "They attempt to cram and learn a lot of what becomes to them disconnected facts," Mr. Ramey said, in explaining the change. "Their sole object in the cramming is to pass the examination. That over with, the facts committed to memory for the special occasion of the finals are forgotten almost as rapidly as it was committed."

"Then in considering the health of the pupil, we have found that the final examination is extremely bad. We have had cases of pupils, especially girls, being worked up to such a tension during the finals that a nervous breakdown follows. We do not believe this high nervous tension with the damage to the physical powers that accompanies it is necessary to the success of the school system. In fact, we believe it is a distinct hindrance. We must consider, too, that the building up of the physical body comes just as much in the sphere of the public school."

"Another great objection to the final examination, especially in the high school," Mr. Ramey says, "is the fact that it wastes so much time. Not less than two weeks of the last of school are required to prepare for and give the examination. It takes a week in the middle of the year. During this time, either examinations are being given or work is demoralized by the nervous tension that always precedes them. These three weeks are lost to the school year. If we can keep up regular work until the last day of school without the finals, we will have saved to the pupil just three weeks of his time."

Of course, Chickasha's school superintendent is taking it for granted that the teacher can tell who should be promoted and who should not be at the end of the year without the aid of an examination. She can, he says. A teacher who cannot tell what quality of work a pupil is actually doing, and what quality of work he is capable of doing, at the end of a half term of school has no place in the Chickasha city schools. Moreover, he says, the

new system will force the instructor to keep in close, sympathetic touch with the pupil throughout the school year.

The matter of department came up for consideration before the change was made. Under the old examination system, pupils who made 90 per cent in grades, with department no lower, were permitted to pass without taking the finals. The subject of an incentive for good department has finally been decided upon, and Mr. Ramey thinks the new incentive is a far greater one and will produce better results than the old.

The system in the high school is this: No student can be graduated unless his department averages 90 per cent for the four years, then those who are graduated are placed in four groups, the group depending upon grades made during the four years' course, and the department being one of the grades especially required to be high.

Those who make an average during the four years of 95 per cent, with no grade below 90, and with no grade in department below 95, will be graduated "with highest honors." Those in the next class, who make an average in studies and department of 90, with no grade during the four years below 85 and with a minimum grade in department of 92, will be classed as graduating "with honors."

Those in the next class will be characterized as graduating "with credit." They will have made an average of 85 with 80 as the minimum in all except department, for which the minimum shall be 90. The fourth class will be those who merely are "graduates." They must have made a general average during the year of 80, with department averaging 90, and with 75 the minimum grade allowed.

"The purpose of the change," Mr. Ramey said, "is to give our schools the highest degree of efficiency during the entire nine months. We will have written recitations often and parents will receive a written report from teachers once each six weeks."

FIRST CORN OF SEASON MARKETING

The first new corn of the season reached Chickasha today. There were two loads of it, raised by S. A. Ogle and his brother ten miles east of Chickasha. It was bought by Miller & Cox, at the Custom Mill, for 73 cents per bushel.

The corn was declared to be excellent in quality and well matured. It will do to shell after it has been in the bin a day or two, Mr. Miller says. It is of the Yellow Dent variety.

The two farmers have about a hundred acres of corn, a good part of which is of the early variety marketed today. It is making about thirty bushels to the acre.

In the Washita Valley many farmers expect their corn to make from 50 to 60 bushels per acre.

OIL PRICE ADVANCES

Tulsa, Aug. 21.—A further advance of ten cents a barrel on crude oil was posted by the Prairie Oil and Gas company at their local offices this morning. The new market is 75 cents per barrel. This is an advance of 35 cents per barrel in the course of a few weeks.

Increased activity in the oil fields is expected as a result of the raise. Some big producers have already made arrangements to open new wells at once. Other purchasers met the Prairie prices this morning.

COUNTY HAS CATTLE.

The county has already taken possession of the cattle belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Skaggs following the disappearance of her son, George Mason. Masoner was on bond charged with stealing a cow. His mother was one of his bondsmen, giving the cattle as security. Sheriff officers took the cattle last night from the Skaggs pasture and placed them in another near Norge.

HOPEFUL OF AVERTING BAD BREAK

Situation Growing Out of Sinking of Arabic Tense; Administration Seeks to Avoid Rupture in Relations

REPORTS FROM BERLIN AWAITED

Ambassador Gerard Sends No Word; British Admiralty Declares Vessel Attacked Not Convoyed by Warship

By United Press. Washington, Aug. 21.—Officials here today, while not discussing the Arabic case for publication, give evidence of being hopeful that the affair will not lead to a bad break in the relations between America and Germany.

It is understood that explanations of the conduct of the submarine which sank the ship are looked for from Berlin.

In spite of the optimism manifested by officials, it is generally admitted that the situation is tense. The administration is not satisfied with the British report on the affair and is waiting to hear from Berlin. Ambassador Gerard has not yet been heard from.

It is recognized that a break with Germany may be inevitable. The administration, however, is determined to avoid one if possible.

London, Aug. 21.—The admiralty today announced that the liner Arabic was not being convoyed by warships when it was torpedoed.

More Bodies Found.

Queenstown, Aug. 21.—The patrol ship Adventure arrived here this morning with three of the Arabic's lifeboats and the bodies of a man and a woman. The Stormcock brought back four empty lifeboats.

Suggestion Ignored.

Washington, Aug. 21.—The state department admitted that several weeks ago Germany attempted to feel out the United States in regard to Germany, by buying arms factories in this country to prevent the allies from obtaining munitions. The suggestion was ignored by the United States government.

It is understood that officials here are considering the following points in connection with the Arabic case: "Whether any Americans have been lost and whether the Arabic actually was torpedoed without warning."

"Whether the Arabic, by having been convoyed on the beginning of her voyage, had, under international law, paraken of the character of her convoy and waived her right as a non-combatant."

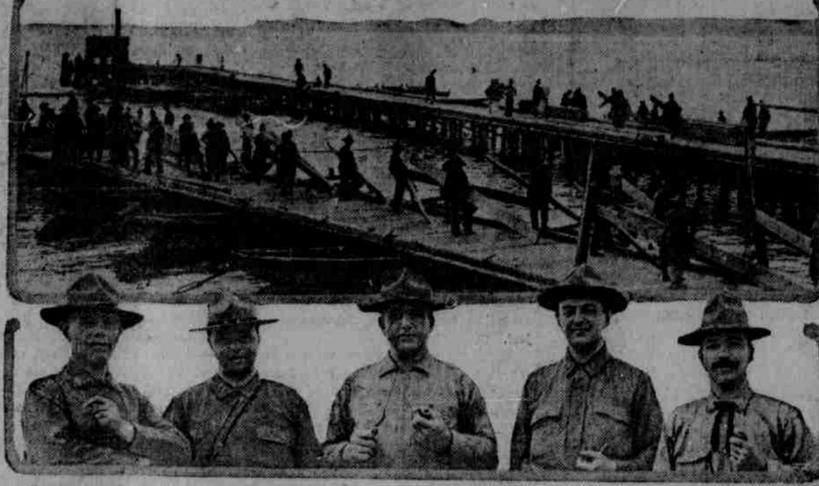
"Whether, by proceeding to the vicinity of the steamer Dunsley which had been torpedoed just previously the Arabic's commander introduced a qualifying circumstance by violating a rule of the British admiralty which forbids a ship to risk itself by attempting to assist another which has been torpedoed."

A view prevailed that an attempt by the Arabic to succor those on another torpedoed ship was justified and was not affected by the British admiralty rule which was made as a matter of policy for warships and was not a matter of international right. Whether the Arabic's movement toward the Dunsley might be interpreted as an attempt to ram the submarine is another point to be developed.

WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma. Tonight and Sunday, fair. Local Temperature During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 a. m. Maximum 82 Minimum 69

TRAINING OUR NATIONAL GUARD ENGINEERS



Engineers of the national guard of various states are receiving valuable training from engineers of the regular army at the summer encampment at Belvoir, Va. Above, New York guardsmen are shown constructing a pontoon bridge across the Potomac. Below, left to right, are: Major Conrow, N. Y. N. G.; Capt. H. C. Woodward, Capt. J. C. Dieges, Chaplain Fell and Lieut. Frederick Wendel, all of the United States Army.

BIG NAVAL BATTLE IN PROGRESS

Strong German Forces Engage Russians in Gulf of Riga; Italian Airmen Bring Down Enemy Machines

London, Aug. 21.—According to dispatches received here, the Russian war office says "strong forces of the German fleet have penetrated the Gulf of Riga and are fighting with our ships."

It is suggested that possibly the biggest naval battle of the war is in progress there. Ten German dreadnaughts are reported to be engaged.

Airmen After Austrians.

Paris, Aug. 21.—Italian aviators pursued Austrian airmen along the Adriatic sea and brought down three of the enemy's machines, according to dispatches from Turin.

Demand on Turkey.

Rome, Aug. 21.—The Italian government is expecting an early reply to the demand on Turkey to permit Italian reservists to leave that country. A declaration of war is believed to be imminent.

Bring Down Zeppelin.

Petrograd, Aug. 21.—A report from the front today says a bomb laden Zeppelin that was approaching Vilna was brought down and the crew captured.

GALVESTON CLEANING UP AFTER FLOOD

Ten Feet of Debris Left in Some Sections; Ten Bodies Recovered at St. Louis; Six More Missing

Galveston, Aug. 21.—Hundreds of citizens have been forced to join the street cleaning gangs here, following the floods of the first of the week.

In some places the debris is ten feet deep. The rotting carcasses of animals in the outskirts of the city are a menace to health. Five fishing smacks that were believed to have been lost on the gulf have arrived with their crews safe. Three other vessels of the same kind are still missing. Wreckage from Galveston has been found eighty-five miles out at sea. Six persons are missing and thousands of families are homeless as a result of the floods in this section.

WARSHIPS SEE LINER THRU ZONE

Five Fighting Vessels Convoy Cymric; Three Thousand Passengers Pass Through "Sub" Infested Seas Today

New York, Aug. 21.—The liner Cymric, with 189 passengers aboard, arrived here today after having been convoyed through the war zone by five British battleships in relays.

Several other big liners, including the Lapland with 318 passengers aboard, are passing through the submarine district today. Among others are the American liner St. Paul and the Norwegian liners Frederick the Eighth and Kristiania-Fjord. They are carrying a total of over 3000 passengers.

Three are Awaiting Prelim. Hearings

Fender Polk, awaiting trial on the charge of firing a gun at Sheriff Bailey while the latter was running to the scene of the killing of Dude Stack, has been arrested on the charge of violating the liquor laws. He is now out on bond awaiting preliminary hearing.

Fred and Ernest Bass are also awaiting preliminary hearing on a liquor charge. They were arrested by Jim Dillon, Deputy U. S. marshal, and they are now out on bonds of \$500 each on the charge of introducing.

RECOVER TEN BODIES.

St. Louis, Aug. 21.—The police recovered the bodies of ten negroes that were drowned by the high waters here. The flood waters are now receding.

No word has come from Westwood and Benbow City, Ill., where five hundred persons were marooned when the levee broke.

COMBINE TO STRIKE SLAV LINE

Germany Moving Eastward to Attack Russians; Bielsk Captured; Reichstag Votes Huge Loan; Big Indemnities on Foes

Berlin, Aug. 21.—The German forces that invested the Russian fortress of Novo Georgievsk, the fall of which was reported yesterday, are moving eastward, joining the Bavarian troops under Prince Leopold, who is striking at the Russians northwest of Best Litovsk, it was announced today.

Marshal Mackensen is also reported to be concentrating his forces in the same locality.

Levy Big Indemnities.

Secretary of Treasury Helfferich told the reichstag today that if Germany wins the war she will levy big indemnities on her enemies. He said the war was costing the combined belligerents seventy-five million dollars a day.

Bielsk Falls to Germans.

Berlin, Aug. 21.—The Russian city Bielsk has fallen before the German invaders, according to a dispatch just received here from the Russian frontier. Gen. Von Galwitz was in charge of the Teutonic forces.

Reichstag Votes War Loan.

Berlin, Aug. 21.—The reichstag in session here this morning unanimously passed the new war loan bill. Dr. Karl Liebknecht, the Socialist leader, was hooted down when he refused to vote. The loan will be two billion five hundred million.

BRAVERY OF BRITON IS REWARDED

Lieutenant and Ten Indian Troopers Volunteer to Bear Bombs to Comrades Who are Hard Pressed

FACE FRIGHTFUL FIRE OF ENEMY

Press Forward Regardless of Rain of Lead and Reach Goal But With Ranks Reduced to Two Men

By WILBUR S. FORREST.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.) London, Aug. 10.—(By mail.)—The charmed life of Lieut. J. G. Smyth, fifteenth Laidlaw's Sikhs, and the manner in which his almost fanatical bravery won for him the Victoria Cross was described today in official dispatches from northern France.

Followed by ten volunteer Indian Sepoys of his regiment, which held a reserve trench May 17 near Ferme Du Bois, Smyth covered a perilous journey with desperately needed ammunition for comrades who had taken a portion of an enemy trench but who faced annihilation from an impending, reinforced attack.

Telling that with the break of day it was ascertained that the German section of this forward trench was packed with men ready to attack, the narrative continues:

"The situation was desperate. It was resolved to attempt to relieve it by sending up a bombing party from the reserve trenches. The nature of this undertaking may be judged from the fact that two attempts had been made by the Highland light infantry and both had failed, the officers in command being killed and the parties having suffered very severely.

"However, the position was critical, and Lieut. Smyth, a young officer who, in spite of his years—only numbering twenty-one—had already been brought to notice for his gallantry, was ordered to take command of the party.

"Volunteers were called for and were immediately forthcoming. The alacrity with which the demand was responded to speak volumes for the spirit of the regiment, for each man felt sure he was proceeding to almost certain death.

"Lieut. Smyth and his little party started at 2 p. m. to cover the 250 yards which intervened between them and our trench, taking with them two boxes of 95 bombs.

"The ground to be covered was absolutely open, devoid of natural cover. "The only possible shelter from the frightful fire which met the party as soon as they were over the parapet, was an old broken down trench which, at the best of times, was hardly knee deep, but now in places, was filled almost to the top with the dead bodies of Highland light infantry, Worcesters, Indians and Germans.

"Dropping over the parapet they wriggled their way through the mud, pulling and pushing the boxes with them, until they reached the scanty shelter of the old trench, where they commenced the progress which for sheer horrors can seldom have been surpassed.

"Pagsris (ropes) had been attached to the front of the boxes. By means of these the men in front pulled the boxes along over and through the dead bodies while those in the rear pushed with all their might, the whole party lying flat.

"At any moment the bombs might explode. "The whole ground was hissing with the deluge of rifle fire and machine gun fire, while the air above them was white with the puff of shrapnel.

"To the anxious watchers in the rear it seemed impossible that a single man should win through. "After they had accomplished a mere twenty yards of their deadly journey, Sepoy Fatten Singh rolled over wounded, followed in the next eight eighty yards by Sepoy Sacha Singh, Ujargar Singh and Sunder Singh.

"This only left Lieut. Smyth and six men to get the two boxes along. Under ordinary circumstances four men

would do the rest.

(Continued on Page Three.)