The Evening Herald.

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"POLITICS IN NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS."

THE above caption is quoted from a headline in an El Paso newspaper of a day or two ago over a dispatch from Santa Fe. The dispatch itself presented nothing particularly objectionable in the way of "politics" in our schools, being devoted chiefly to a rather wide-of-the-facts discussion of probable candidates for the office of superintendent of public instruction in this year's election.

But the headline serves to call attention to a condition which has existed at times in the past in New Mexico's school system, and which may come to exist again both in state and county school administration, unless we are very careful in the choosing of candidates for administrative positions in school government. There have been times in the past when New Mexico's superintendency of public instruction has been regarded wholly as a political office and administered as such. Fortunately political activity appears to have been wholly excluded from the office during the present administration thereof. The result has been efficiency and important progress in our whole school system. Also during the past four years we have had fewer politicians in our county superintendents' offices than ever before, and county school administration also has been far more effective than ever before. Time was when the position of county school superintendent was looked upon as a political berth for an organization hanger-on; one of the minor jobs for willing workers, and of only such importance as could be measured by the size of the incumbent's campaign contribution and his willingness to manipulate matters in school districts and browbeat school directors. This condition has almost wholly disappeared from the counties during the past four years. Having seen the benefits to be had from the rigid elimination of politics from our school administrative positions we should be able without much urging to demand that this elimination be continued. Of all candidates for places on state and county tickets during the coming spring and summer we should scrutinize most carefully those for the educational administrative positions and any man who may reasonably be suspected of attaching more importance to success as a politician than to success as a school man should be barred by fighting public sentiment.

THE SMALL HERD'S DAY.

CONCLUDING an interesting review of cattle growing conditions in the Rocky mountain states during the past year, in the current number of Field and Farm of Denver, J. S. Hoy has this to say:

"The passing of the range has not diminished the number of western cattle entering the markets, but the growing population of the west and consequently the increased amount of beef slaughtered and consumed in this region have reduced the relative importance of our western cattle as a factor in the corn belt markets. Further, corn-fed cattle, which can be properly and profitably finished only within a limited section of the country, doubtless will continue in demand to a class of trade in which the cheaper grass beef of the west cannot compete.

"Conditions are settling down and are likely to be more stable; that is changes will be less frequent and less radical. A business-like beef production, which extends over such a vast area of country as the Rocky mountain west, where conditions surrounding it are so variable, naturally presents a most difficult problem. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that if there is to be any considerable increase in the production of beef cattle it will have to come from the establishment of small herds on many ranches throughout the country rather than from large herds on extensive ranges. Further than this we will have to grow more fodder stuff and do the greater part of the finishing ourselves."

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE CANAL.

A DETAILED account of the operation and maintenance of the Panama canal during the first ten months and a half after its opening to commerce in August, 1914, is given in the annual report of Governor Goethals of the Canal Zone, just made public. Final construction work just prior to the canal's opening also is described in the report, which embraces the fiscal year ending June 30 last, prior to the earth slide which blocked the channel.

Between August 15, 1914, and June 30, 1915, 530 vessels, representing a net Panama canal tonnage of 1,884,728 and cargo tonnage of 2,125,735, were passed through from Atlantic to Pacific, and 558 vessels, representing a Panama canal tonnage of 1,958,367 and a cargo tonnage of 2,844,957, from Pacific to Atlantic, making a total of 1,088 vessels with a net canal tonnage of 3,843,095 and a cargo tonnage of 4,969,792. During this period three minor slides interrupted traffic, the channel being closed from October 14 to 29 and October 21 to November 4, 1914, and March 4 to 19, 1915.

Construction of the canal proper, except for dredging, excavation and construction of the east breakwater at Colon, virtually was completed prior to this fiscal year. In the old Culebra cut, renamed the Gaillard cut, there were removed, in the process of construction during the year, 1,969,617 cubic yards at an average cost of approximately 42¾ cents a yard. In maintaining the channel—including removal of earth deposited by slides—there were taken from Gaillard cut 4,719,586 cubic yards at a cost of 34 2-3 cents a yard and from the channel at the Atlantic entrance 1,232,301 cubic yards at a cost of 19 1-5 cents a yard.

"Cucaracha slide," the report says, "was very active from July to October, 1914, quiet during the dry season and active again with the beginning of the rainy season in April. On the west side at Culebra the slide showed little activity through the greater part of the year, but in June, 1915, the general movement of the bank was noticeable, and it was estimated that 5,000,000 cubic yards of material were in motion on June 30, 1915, on the west side. It is estimated that about 4,000,000 cubic yards will have to be moved from the east side."

Of the $295,399,149 appropriated by congress to June 30, last, the report states that $14,080,873 has been spent on fortifications, $750,000 to cover three annual payments to the republic of Panama, $6,440,000 for the operation of the civil government of the canal zone for the fiscal year 1916, $4,289,139 for the operation and maintenance of the canal to the end of the fiscal year 1915, while the stock on hand aggregates $2,225,000, leaving $257,436,045 as the net amount expended for the actual construction of the canal and its adjuncts.

Two million dollars of this was invested in collters, and $8,562,067 was returned to the treasury department up to the close of the fiscal year 1915 as miscellaneous receipts, leaving $257,436,048 as the net amount expended for the canal, including the amount available for work still in progress. A dry dock, two coaling stations and terminal piers not included in these figures are yet to be constructed.

Health conditions in the canal zone, the report says, were very good during the year. The total death rate from disease was reduced from 14.46 in 1914 to 11.17 in 1915. Victims of malaria, the principal cause of disability, were reduced 29 per cent in number, and the death rate 32 per cent in the year. The admission rate to hospitals from typhoid was reduced more than 36 per cent, from dysentery 50 per cent, and the death rate from pneumonia was reduced more than 29 per cent.

Labor conditions were excellent. More than 6,000 men were given transportation home because they could not be used.

ENLISTS AS PRIVATE: IS LIEUTENANT COLONEL

London, Dec. 23.—The most rapidly promoted man in the British army is Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Asquith of the seventeenth reserve battalion of the Cheshire regiment, who enlisted as a private in that regiment on August 26, 1914. He enlisted as a stranger, with only some militia experience, behind him, and rose rapidly through the non-commissioned ranks to a commission and then from quartermaster to adjutant, company commander and battalion adjutant with the result that at the end of eleven months he was commanding a regiment.

TO USE TOP OF GATUN DAM AS GOLF COURSE

Panama, Dec. 24.—The broad flat top of Gatun dam is to serve for a golf course and a club is now being organized by officials of the Panama canal and others. Major General George W. Goethals, U. S. A., governor of the Panama canal, has approved the formation of the club and has given permission to use the Gatun dam.

The club will be organized under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian association which already has a substitute club building at Gatun.

AUTHOR'S GRANDSON GAINS A DECORATION

Paris, Dec. 23.—George Victor Hugo, grandson of the great writer, has been decorated for distinguished service in the fighting at Navarin, northern France. He is a sub-lieutenant in the French infantry.

HEADQUARTERS OF GERMAN ARMIES IS BUSINESSLIKE

Except for Uniforms Worn Establishment Might be Corporation Office Engaged in Constant Reorganization.

(Associated Press Correspondence.)

A Town in Serbia, Dec. 15.—A general headquarters in the held of the German army, resembles closely the management of a large business. The officers are branch managers, whom convention and necessity has stuck in to uniforms, and the private soldiers take the place of employes about the office. For their stereotyped garb there is no better reason than that combatants, according to military law, must indicate their status by distinctive dress. Beyond that a general headquarters is not a military institution in the popular conception of that term. It is purely an administrative office constantly organizing and reorganizing.

War on the scale the European struggle has reached becomes, by the huge demands it makes, by the pressure it exerts upon participating individuals, and by the recurrence of the necessity of doing a certain thing, a business. Even the head of the group, the commander, the tactician and strategist, is again and again confronted with the same demands of the military situation; there are times when he must leave minor tactical details to his staff officers, and all phases of his work which recur too often, and are therefore commonest, he must leave in the hands of subordinates altogether. General headquarters is, in other words, an aggregate of trained managers and workers, which could successfully run any enterprise, and which, by virtue of its discipline among all concerned, would be a dangerous competitor to a civilian organization in the same field.

Such is the impression one gets at the general headquarters of Field Marshal von Mackensen, presiding genius of the Austro-Hungarian-German forces in Serbia. In this establishment everything moves noiselessly, frictionless, positively, at a speed which is not expressed in the revolutions of machinery, but in the pulse-beats of a great, expansion-seeking, and seemingly inexhaustible force.

The character of an army is best judged by conditions prevailing at headquarters. The Associated Press correspondent spent two hours at the one in question. The captain in charge, a young man of about 26, presided in an inner office. Several non-commissioned officers sat at tables in an outer room. Officers and men came for the captain, usually addressing a sergeant. The crisp demeanor towards subordinates with which the German officer has been associated was wholly absent. Several officers wanted wheel transportation.

"Sorry, sir; none available at this moment," the sergeant would say.

One of the officers thought he would have to get a wagon, no matter how. This attitude took the case out of the sergeant's hands. Just then the base commander entered the outer room. The officer turned to him with an introduction of himself by himself and a vigorous clicking of his heels.

"Very sorry! Have no wagons here just now," said the base chief in a friendly tone which for all of its warmth told the other that the information given by the sergeant should have sufficed.

A major entered. He had been sent from Berlin to superintend the harvesting of the grapes which were on the verge of rotting on the hillsides, but whose juice would be welcome to the wounded in the hospitals. It seemed that he had caused a large and suitable cellar to be cleared for the barrels in which the juice was to be stored. During the night a cavalry organization had needed shelter for its horses and had used the cellar for this purpose. The major was indignant.

"That will happen," said the captain. "Get the cellar cleaned again and then we'll station a guard there."

The incident was settled. But the major had more trouble. He did not have men enough to gather the grapes and what men he had were none too competent.

"Very well! We can fix that. Ask Berlin to send you a hundred or so of boodtroom men from some town in the Palatinate or along the Rhine. They would enjoy the trip."

The major said he would do that and was fully satisfied.

The campaign in Serbia has been disagreeable enough to have soured the disposition of anybody. Rains have fallen constantly and one hears no longer of the absence of mud, but of how little there is. Everybody retires when the mud is only ankle-deep, and ready are called bad only when the stuff runs into the top-boots from above.

SCHEDULE GIVEN OUT FOR NATIONAL RIFLE SHOOTS ON GALLERIES

Washington, Jan. 1.—Plans for national defense and preparedness have given great impetus to the improvement of marksmanship among citizens and resulted in a much extended list of competitors this season for the interclub gallery championship of the United States held annually under the auspices of the National Rifle association of America which is fostered by the war department. This season seventy-two clubs have entered teams of ten men each. The five highest scores made by the team will be included in the club's weekly match score. The clubs have been divided in 18 classes with eleven matches each extending from December 25 to March 5. Each man will shoot 10 times at 75 feet, using .22 caliber rifles and ammunition, in prone position. The club making the highest score for the season will receive the championship trophy and medals will be presented to the winning team in each class.

Clubs composing class A are: The Park club, Bridgeport, Conn.; Peters Rifle and Revolver club, Lewis Mills, Ohio; Warren (Pa.) Rifle club; Bucyrus (O.) Rifle association; District of Columbia Rifle association; Bangor (Me.) Rifle association; Marion (O.) Rifle club; Manchester (N. H.) Rifle and Pistol club; First Missouri Infantry Rifle club, St. Louis; Buffalo (N. Y.) Rifle club; Hammondsville (Ohio) Athletic club, and New Haven (Conn.) Grays Rifle club.

Class B clubs: Watertown (N. Y.) Rifle club; Gichon Rifle club, Madison, Wis.; Youngstown (O.) Rifle and Revolver club; Ogden (Utah) Rifle and Revolver club; Hopkins (Minn.) Rifle club; Milwaukee (Wis.) Rifle and Pistol club; Salt Lake City (Utah) Rifle and Revolver club; Detroit (Mich.) Rifle and Revolver club; Kane (Pa.) Rifle club; Adrian (Mich.) Rifle club; Boston (Mass.) Rifle and Revolver club, and Tacoma (Wash.) Rifle club.

Class C clubs: Tucson (Ariz.) Rifle club; Albion (Ind.) Rifle club; Hoosier Rifle club, Indianapolis, Ind.; Sioux Rifle club, Louisville, Ky.; Louisville (Ky.) Rifle and Revolver club; Corinna (Me.) Rifle club; St. Paul (Minn.) Rifle and Pistol club; Cypress Hills Rifle and Revolver association, New York City; Citizens Rifle and Revolver club, Rochester, N. Y.; Stanton (Neb.) Government Rifle club; Ashland (O.) Rifle and Revolver club, and Olympic Rifle and Pistol club, San Francisco.

Class D clubs: McKeesport (Pa.) Rifle club; Quinnipiac and Revolver club, New Haven, Conn.; Ashburnham (Mass.) Rifle club; Lynn (Mass.) Rifle and Revolver club; Portsmouth Norfolk (Va.) Rifle club; Lesterdiers (N. Y.) Rifle club; Ashburn (N. Y.) Rifle club; Middletown (N. Y.) Rifle club; Rifle and Revolver club of New York; Inc. Rochester (N. Y.) Rifle club; Fifth Regiment Rifle club, Baltimore, Md.; and the Rhoes (N. Y.) Rifle club.

Class E clubs: Guthrie Center (Ia.) Rifle club; Topeka (Kans.) Rifle club; Chicago (Ill.) Rifle club; Manhattan (Kans.) Rifle club; Toledo (O.) Yacht Club Rifle and Pistol association; Glendale Rifle club, Redford, O.; Tulsa (Okla.) Rifle club; Shawnee Rifle and Revolver club; Lima, O.; Mesker (Colo.) Rifle club; Fort Harrison Rifle club; Terre Haute, Ind.; Helena (Mont.) Rifle club, and Pierre (S. D.) Rifle and Revolver club.

Class F clubs: Tacoma (Wash.) Indoor Rifle club; Rensselaerville Rifle club, Albany, N. Y.; Erie (Pa.) Rifle club; Washington (D. C.) Rifle association; Detroit (Mich.) Y. M. C. A. Rifle and Pistol club; Quincy (Ill.) Rifle club; Covington (Ky.) Rifle and Pistol club; Knox Shooting club, Des Moines, Iowa; Fort Clinton (Ohio) Rifle club; St. Augustine (Fla.) Rifle club; Hydraulic Press (Mo.) Rifle club; Cleveland, O., and Portland (Ore.) Rifle club.

The secretaries of the clubs will report each week to the National Rifle association headquarters in Washington where the scores will be announced. Judges appointed by the association will witness each match.

Finds Father Dead, Not Uncle.

Silver City, N. M., Jan. 1.—To come from Beaumont, Tex., to Silver City to attend the funeral of her uncle and then to find the dead man was her father, D. A. Kell, from whom she had not seen for many years, was the fate of Mrs. Claire Smith the other day.

So overcome was the daughter by the shock that she was unable to accompany the body to its last resting place, Leadville, Colo. She was forced to return to her home immediately.

TRY A HERALD WANT AD.

RED CROSS CORPS REMAINS AT POST UNTIL WORK ENDS

Physicians and Nurses at Belgrade Stay at Work Until Germans and Austrians Take Possession.

[Associated Press Correspondence]

Vienna, Dec. 18.—Dr. Edward W. Ryan, chief of the American Red Cross mission in Serbia, has arrived here from Belgrade, with five physicians and eleven nurses who had remained on duty until, with the taking of Belgrade by the Germans and Austrians, the work of the Americans came to an end. There were still some 200 patients in the hospital when the mission was abandoned, but Dr. Ryan did not care to remain under the altered conditions.

At the beginning of the bombardment preceding the taking of the city a number of shells fell near the hospital. Dr. Ryan immediately sent a strongly worded protest against this, pointing out that the buildings occupied by his mission occupied a prominent location plainly visible from the artillery positions. After that no shells fell near enough to be uncomfortable.

Dr. Ryan's most exciting experience came in Budapest where he stopped for a day on the way to Vienna. He was dining in a hotel when some Hungarian officials entered the room, asked if he was Dr. Ryan and, being assured of his identity, informed him that he was under arrest. He asked for explanations.

"Your trunk has exploded, injuring a number of people at the railway station," was the answer.

The doctor went under escort to the station. There he learned that when his trunk was unloaded from the baggage car and dropped on the platform there was a heavy explosion which had injured three men, one of them having a leg or both lacerated that he had to be removed to a hospital. The station was filled at the time and a panic ensued, in which several persons were thrown down in the mad rush to get out of the building. Fragments of the trunk and its contents were scattered all about the platform and other pieces of baggage and a trunk had been more or less damaged.

Dr. Ryan was informed that a fine on account of his trunk had been imposed on him, and that he must also satisfy the personal damage claims of the three baggagemen injured. There began a series of negotiations which lasted three days, during which Ryan found himself alternately in the hands of the civil and military power. The fine was gradually reduced to less than 200 crowns and the damage claims took the same course. Finally the fine was completely cancelled, and settlement was effected with the three victims of the explosion for about 100 crowns.

Dr. Ryan had a small Hotchkiss shell in his trunk at Belgrade and he concludes that the person who passed his trunk included the shell. The personal loss is considerable. The trunk, which was a large one, contained his instruments, a spare outfit, and some valuable gifts from grateful Serbian friends, including two fine old rugs.

It is probable that the members of the mission will shortly return to America.

SWISS TAKE HEAVIER INSURANCE ON THEIR TREASURES OF ART

(Associated Press Correspondence.)

Basel, Switzerland, Dec. 27.—A million and a quarter dollars insurance against damage to art treasures in the hands of auxiliaries has been taken by the swiss government and private parties in Basel. A great many valuables belonging to the government and private homes are placed in caves cut into the rock in Switzerland, a back-door North, Switzerland being not very safe.

The museum of French in Switzerland is being filled to the almost capacity of paintings. The Swiss are taking that course because they think that the Germans, and for the Germans, that the Germans are going to be in Switzerland before long.

MME. PETROVA, WHOSE NEWEST PICTURE "WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY?" BY RUPERT HUGHES WILL SHORTLY BE RELEASED BY METRO.

The name of Mme. Petrova has come to stand for the very highest mark in emotional acting. This is especially true of this marvelous artist, since she made her debut in the realms of the silent drama, under the auspices of the Metro Pictures Corporation. Mme. Petrova has won a wide following, distinctively her own. No sooner is one of her feature pictures released, than Metro is besieged with inquiries as to the name of her next picture.

Mme. Petrova will be seen again on the screen, and very soon, in "What Will People Say?" a five-part photodrama of modern society, based on the story of the same name by Rupert Hughes, produced by Popular Plays and Players for the Metro program. Her last feature was "My Madonna," and before that she was seen in "The Vampire" and "The Heart of a Painted Woman." She will soon give up the speaking stage entirely and devote all her time to the screen.

NORWAY SUFFERS AN INCREASE IN FOOD COSTS DUE TO WAR

(Associated Press Correspondence.)

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 26.—Prices of all sorts of foods in Norway have gone up from 40 to 100 per cent and are still on the increase. Some sorts can not be manufactured. The Norwegian paper mills, as for instance, can produce far less than of their product which usually is supplied by Germany.

The central cities in Norway are great market towns, much like northern Minnesota. The principal towns are poor and overrun and, thanks to the enormous collusion and paper mills, which have been built in the last fifteen or twenty years, the value of the lands has decreased considerably. So many factories have to stop because of the war, prices on the products from the Norwegian plants have gone up all calculation from $10 a ton before the war to $70 a ton now.

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