

NEEDED: A BETTER SCHOOL SYSTEM—NUMBER 6.

By Prof. W. H. Hand, State Inspector High Schools.

A good school is a difficult thing in a district that has almost no pupils. It is a more difficult task in a district without revenue. In a district without either pupils or revenue it is almost a hopeless undertaking. Literally hundreds of districts belong to some one of these categories. It ought to be patent to every thinking man that something must be done in order to better conditions. To accomplish such a task as is before us will require careful study of the whole State and a re-organization of perhaps nearly all the counties in the State. By this time we ought to be able to see the futility of patchwork in spots. The re-organization should begin before the State wastes any more money on an organization that is annually growing more disorganized. To go on building new school houses under the present district system will in the near future demonstrate the unwisdom of putting new wine into old bottles.

The 1901 school districts in the State are managed by as many sets of trustees. There are close to 6,000 school trustees in the State. Not only is every county in the State a law unto itself, but practically every board of district trustees is a law unto itself. Except for the restrictions made the State Board in granting appropriations from the State building fund, each board of trustees is left to build a good school house or a ramshackle as it prefers; and each is left to elect a competent teacher or an incompetent one, to run the school for a long term or a short one as suits its whims, to spend its public funds almost as it pleases, and to make a report of its doings or let it alone as suits its convenience. If any five adjacent districts in any county happen to be pursuing a uniform policy in anything pertaining to the schools, it is more or less an accident. Whenever any one or more patrons in a community become disgruntled with their school or its management, all these patrons have to do is to have a new district made for their convenience.

The only counties in the State that report the areas of their districts are Abbeville, Beaufort, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Dillon, Greenwood, Kershaw, Laurens, Marion, Richland, and Saluda—twelve in all. In some of these counties the surveys were made years ago and since that time almost endless changes have been made in the boundary lines of the districts, thus rendering the maps almost worthless. In a number of the counties the district boundary lines are mere matters of neighborhood tradition and hearsay. No valuable permanent work can be done toward a State system of schools until an accurate survey has been made in every county.

Perhaps the next step is to consolidate in almost every county a large number of the little starving schools and to transport the distant pupils to the central schools at public expense. The consolidation and transportation will not lessen the total expense of schooling these children, but it will give the children a far better school than they could hope to have as matters now stand. To accomplish this consolidation will necessitate substituting broad patriotism and community interest for provincialism and the neighborhood jealousies that are now so common. The patriotic majority will be compelled to assert itself and force the provincial and jealous minority to submit to a new order of things aimed at the betterment of all. The subject of consolidation and the transportation of pupils would require a more lengthy discussion than could be entered into here.

To make a still greater confusion in what at best is disorganization, almost all of these 6000 school trustees are inducted into office at the same time and their terms expire simultaneously. Under such an arrangement it can hardly be hoped that any school district will continue a given policy longer than two years at a time, for it is no uncommon thing to have an entirely new set of trustees appointed every two years. This matter could be easily remedied by changing the law so as to make the term of the school trustee three years instead of two, and by letting the term expire at the end of each year. In this way at any given time at least two-thirds of the school board would have been in office as much as one year, and there would be less danger of sudden reversal of policy in the district.

Every once in a while someone raises the question of electing school trustees by popular vote. Wherever this has been tried it has proved a destroyer of harmony and a fomenting of discord and neighborhood bickerings. It is to be sincerely hoped that our legislature will never take such an unwise step. Its advocates lay great stress upon the democracy of this plan. I shall discuss the

democracy of this question in connection with the county superintendent.

The whole district is out of date. A recent writer of national repute has this to say of the district system: "It was best adapted to a time of isolation, limited vision, and to the day of small things and petty interests. As a system of school management it is unadapted to the business or the educational needs of the present or of the future; it is inefficient, inconsistent, unintelligent, unprogressive, and expensive; it leads to the multiplication of small and poor schools, and to the building of an unnecessary number of small and cheap school houses, and, when population has increased sufficiently to warrant consolidation, the natural envy, jealousy, and ultra-conservatism of the different districts stand as a block in the road of educational progress. It has been condemned generally by school officials for forty years, and the chief reason for its retention is that the people in many States have never known any other system."

It has already been stated that our system is a mixed type. In so far as the county is with us a unit, what are the conditions? Each one of the forty-four counties is absolutely independent of the other counties, and almost independent of anything else. Each county board can and does have its own standard as to the qualification of teachers and the conditions on which they are to be employed. A county board of education may recognize or refuse a certificate issued by any other county in the State with reason or without reason. The county superintendents themselves have long felt the need of having this remedied. Sometime previous to the meeting of the General Assembly in 1912 the county superintendents of the State agreed to ask that body to pass an act creating a State Board of Examiners whose duty it would be to prepare uniform questions throughout the State, to examine and grade the papers of the applicants, and to issue certificates good to teach in any county in the State. This seemed to be a wise measure and there seemed to be every prospect of its immediate passage. Lo, and behold! when the bill came up for consideration in the committee of one of the houses, there appeared on the scene the heads of two of the teachers' employment bureaus in the State and a legal attorney to argue against its passage. Let me pause to say that teachers' agencies have a legitimate function, but when they step in and undertake to thwart wholesome legislation looking toward the building up and unifying of the schools of the State in order to protect their own business enterprises, it is high time for the people of the State to ask who is master of the situation. The chief argument made before this committee was that it would require \$7,500 a year to pay the salaries and expenses of this examining board. That was true, but why did not the gentlemen interested in the defeat of this measure state how much they thought the creation of this board would save to the ill-paid teachers of the State, four-fifths of whom are women? I suppose it is generally known that these agencies do not secure positions for teachers gratis. A teacher placed by one of these agencies at \$40, for eight months is bound to pay the agency five per cent of her salary, or \$16 in this case. The very fact that such a thing could happen as did happen is the very best evidence of our need of a system strong enough to protect the interests of those most vitally connected with the schools.

Section 1214 of the school law provides that pupils in any district may be transferred to any school in any adjoining district without even the consent of the district board receiving such pupils. It is not difficult to see that under this law it would be possible for any district to compel the adjoining district to house and teach every child in it. At the recent session of the General Assembly this section was amended so as to provide that the receiving district board may charge a tuition fee in proportion to the taxable property owned by the parent of the child transferred. No provision is made for such fees to be paid into the county treasury where a permanent record is kept—another act providing for the collection of revenue for which the State gets no credit. As to the amendment itself, it will require but a little while to see the dangers of it. A school system under county organization instead of district organization would obviate every difficulty met in either this original section or the amended section. Are our people ready to listen to anything that involves a change?

(To be concluded.)

Are Ever at War.

There are two things everlastingly at war, joy and piles. But Bucklen's Arnica Salve will banish piles. It soon subdues the itching, irritation, inflammation or swelling. It gives comfort, invites joy. Greatest healer of burns, boils, ulcers, bruises, eczema, scalds, pimples, skin eruptions. Only 25c at Sibert's Drug Store.

BLEASE AT GAFFNEY.

Says He will Appoint no Jones Man to Office—Has Just Begun to Grant Pardons.

Gaffney, Aug. 7.—Appearing before an enormous crowd, Governor Blease delivered one of his usual speeches at the baseball park in this city tonight. The address was possibly a little more highly spiced than some. He began by abusing the newspapers, saying that one would judge from the Gaffney newspapers that he was not wanted here, but that the people had shown that they did want him, regardless of what Ed DeCamp, Both Butler or Jim Bell said. Said the speaker: "As for little Jimmie Bell, we will let him ring his bell, and go to —." He declined to talk about Judge Jones, owing to the fact that the Judge was absent. Speaking further of the newspapers, the Governor said that tomorrow he would have something to say about why the newspaper men who are accompanying the campaign sent out the story that they did as to the Lancaster meeting. He said that he preferred putting off until the reporters were present, but that he would say that the explanation lay in a quart bottle sent up by 'Son Charlie.' He said that much had been said about his pardons, but that he had not yet started on the pardons; merely started to running. He said that William Thurmond, better known as Pussy Footed Bill, had been charged with murder in Edgefield County; that LeRoy Springs had been charged with murder in Lancaster County, and that both of them, through money, friends and influence, had secured a verdict of not guilty, but that George Hasty, of this city, when persecuted on every hand and hounded constantly, was tried, that without money or friends, he was convicted. He thanked God for being able to free that man. He said that if it was not for the pardoning power of God that one-half of the Jones supporters would be in jail before morning. The speaker said that on August 27 he would be elected over both his opponents by a majority of between 18,000 and 20,000, but that if he should die before that time, for God's sake to vote for Duncan. The speaker said that in considering friend or foe so far as justice went, that it made no difference, but that he would dispense justice to either, but when it came to filling appointments he would give them all to Blease men and would appoint a Jones man to nothing if he knew it.

At the conclusion of his speech the ladies in the audience sent up a bouquet of flowers by a little girl. The Governor gathered the child in his arms and said: "A little child shall lead them. I had rather have this little girl's trust and confidence and find her arms around my neck than the vote of the entire world." A man in the audience spoke up and said: "Because she doesn't know any better," at which the Governor said: "If you will come up-town, you dirty liar, I will give you the worst beating a coward ever got." The man referred to answered that a trip to town wasn't necessary and invited the Governor to come back where he was and try it then. Trouble was avoided by police officials becoming active and a plea from the presiding officer.

The Governor took a hand primary at the end of his address, which seemed to indicate that his forces present were largely in the majority. He was constantly interrupted during his entire speech by yells of approbation.

John T. Duncan spoke after the Governor concluded his address.

Judge Jones was not present on account of a throat trouble. Fifty extra policemen will be on duty tomorrow to preserve order.

The Trials of a Traveler.

"I am a traveling salesman," writes E. E. Youngs, E. Berkshire, Vt., "and was often troubled with constipation and indigestion till I began to use Dr. King's New Life Pills, which I have found an excellent remedy." For all stomach, liver or kidney troubles there is nothing better. Only 25c at Sibert's Drug Store.

The One Great Problem.

The one great problem, therefore, is for those who believe that Gov. Blease should not be re-elected to go to the polls and vote. The people who today are wringing their hands and lamenting that South Carolina is going to the dogs are the men who will be chiefly to blame if a victory for civic righteousness is not recorded on the 27th of August.

Indian Killed on Track.

Near Rochelle, Ill., an Indian went to sleep on a railroad track and was killed by the fast express. He paid for his carelessness with his life. Often it is that way when people neglect coughs and colds. Don't risk your life when prompt use of Dr. King's New Discovery will cure them and so prevent a dangerous throat or lung trouble. "It completely cured me. In a short time, of a terrible cough that followed a severe attack of grip," writes J. R. Watts, Elvada, Tex., and I regained 15 pounds in weight that I had lost." Quick, safe, reliable and guaranteed. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free at Sibert's Drug Store.

MODEL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Imperial to Be Wired by T. M. Bradley & Co., with Model Apparatus.

The Imperial will have one of the most complete telephone systems of any hotel in the State when the plans of wiring it and installing telephones have been completed. Mr. A. L. Jackson, who is building the hotel, is now in the city, having come on from Waynesville, where he is managing a hotel during the summer months, to look after the progress of the work on the building and made statements to this effect Friday.

The system of telephones installed throughout the building will be that originated by the Western Electric Company and the work of installation will be done by T. M. Bradley & Co., a local firm, which has already secured the contract for the wiring of the building for lights. The telephones will be in each room and a special switchboard arrangement will make it possible to connect from the rooms with local and long distance telephone systems.

Mr. Jackson stated that he was pleased with the progress which had been made on the building, but he could not state when it would be completed. He said that there had been delays on account of not getting material. He stated that he thought that this would be a very pretty building when it was completed, the tapestry brick showing off especially well on the front and sidewalks.

WOODROW WILSON CAMPAIGN FUND.

Sumter's Fund Now Totals \$137. Amount Should Exceed \$200. Many Not Yet Subscribed.

While the Wilson campaign fund for Sumter now totals \$137 there are many others in the city and county who should subscribe.

Subscriptions will be received at the Bank of Sumter. Those who have added their names to the list since the last publication are:

- J. H. Guthrie.....\$1.00
- S. A. Harvin.....1.00
- W. F. Shaw.....1.00
- D. W. Cuttino.....1.00
- W. W. Rees.....1.00
- W. Percy Smith.....1.00
- Cecil Wilson.....1.00
- F. C. Manning.....1.00
- Herbert A. Moses.....1.00
- N. B. Murray.....1.00
- Rev. Wm. Haynsworth.....1.00
- Hubert G. Osteen.....1.00
- R. J. Bland.....1.00
- D. R. McCallum, Jr.....1.00
- Geo. D. Levy.....1.00
- A. L. Jackson.....1.00
- J. W. Jackson.....1.00
- R. D. Lee, Sr.....1.00
- H. T. Edens.....1.00
- J. Dittler.....1.00
- I. C. Strauss.....1.00
- J. C. Cooper.....1.00

Rocky Bluff News.

Rocky Bluff, Aug. 6.—The crops were doing very nicely until the cool spell of the last few days which was very injurious. Most people say it was the coldest weather they ever saw in August. The worms have played havoc with the young corn.

The institute at the Baker school house last week proved to be a great success. A nice program was carried out the entire three days and nights. There were large crowds there almost all the time.

Besides the men from Clemson and Washington, there was Miss Parker from North Carolina who taught domestic science and Miss Agnes Richardson, of Sumter, who taught manual training. The latter was so much liked that Miss Richardson has been engaged to give lessons there for a month and it is hoped that much good will be done by it.

Miss Madge Griffin, of Sumter, spent last week here with her aunt, Mrs. Andrews.

Miss Lou McLeod spent last Thursday night with Miss Essie Owens over near Mayesville.

Mrs. M. E. Capell and children spent a part of last week with relatives at Borden.

Miss Lucy Edens of Sumter spent a few days of last week and the first of this week with relatives here.

Miss Lou McLeod spent a few days last week with her aunt, Mrs. Andrews.

Mr. J. J. Hatfield and family spent Sunday at Mr. W. E. Baker's.

A Delightful Automobile Trip.

Misses Theo and Elizabeth Dargan, of Stateburg, were guests of Mrs. Gordon Bradley for the week-end. On Friday a jolly auto trip to Statesburg was enjoyed by the visiting guests of Mrs. Bradley. The party was delightfully entertained at Col. Dargan's historic home. The party included: Mrs. Chas. W. Dwyer, Miss Julia Seabrook, of Charleston, Miss Adele Bent, Misses Bessie and Mattie Murray, Mr. Randall and Mr. Leuchly.

AMERICA FACING A FAMINE.

Unless Agricultural Methods are Improved, Gaunt Specie Will Menace Land of the Free.

Chicago, Aug. 8.—That America is facing a famine unless agricultural conditions are vastly improved was predicted by speakers at the annual meeting of the National Soil Fertility league today.

"Statistics show that agriculture in the United States has been so neglected that within 20 years we will be forced to import our principal food products from foreign lands. We are facing an inevitable famine unless the soil is greatly improved," said H. H. Gross, president of the organization.

Other speakers urged the addition of agricultural extension department to the present colleges of agriculture maintained by the government and States.

H. H. Gross was reelected president. An advisory committee selected included: James J. Hill, chairman, President W. H. Taft, William J. Bryan, Franklin MacVeagh, Champ Clark and Samuel Gompers.

Political Campaigns.

Spartanburg Journal.

They are tiresome. They give no valuable information in this State. They are made just to catch votes. It is enough to degrade the best man in the county to travel around for several months shaking hands with every voter and manifesting a decided interest in him and his family. Honest, upright men may do it, but it knocks all the props of genuine manhood from under them. Even the speeches made are flat, stale and unprofitable, unless they are mean and malicious as they now appear to be in this State campaign.

Really a county campaign is not an educational affair. A candidate may visit every precinct in the county and become acquainted with half the voters and never leave a reasonable word or a helpful suggestion in his wake.

The State campaign, when conducted like the present one, lowers the dignity of the State and brings it into ridicule. It is shameful that it should be so. It brings the primary and subsequent campaign into disrepute. Many of our best men will not attend the meetings because they consider them a stain and blot on the honor of the State.

The growing turmoil accompanying our presidential elections is also an evil that distresses business men. One often hears the speedier election methods of Canada and England favorably commented on by comparison.

It will be recalled that the recent election of a parliament in Canada was accomplished in about seven weeks.

Our conventions place their candidates in nomination the last of June and the first of July, and four months and a half intervene before the votes are counted. It is a period during which business men look carefully at the old dollar before swapping it for a new one.

July and August at the best are pretty tough months for convention going. It is hard to get deliberate judgment out of a body of men when they are engaged in concocting cool drinks, swinging fans, and hunting shady places. It would be difficult to change the convention dates, unless they were carried over to about September 1.

Politicians often remark, after any kind of a convention, "If the election were tomorrow so and so would get there." Election day is a very different thing.

Which means that the sober judgment of the people is frequently just opposite to their off hand decision.

There is a certain element of pique and spite in human nature that resents defeat. For the moment, the most important thing appears to be to put your foot on the neck of those robbers who have dominated the conventions. Were the elections to be held six weeks after the conventions, many citizens would vote principally with the purpose of hitting some one. You can't do business on that principle.

By four months' time, the spite motive is ironed out of the public mind. The bubbles of promise have been pricked. The clowns have been laughed out of the ring. Perhaps it is none too much time.

It looks as if Roosevelt believes that the Bull Moose will not run well under a colored jockey.—Charleston Post.

Flying Men Fall

Victims to stomach, liver and kidney troubles just like other people, with like results in loss of appetite, backache, nervousness, headache, and tired, listless, run-down feeling. But there's no need to feel that as T. D. Peablos, Henry, Tenn., proved. "Six bottles of Electric Bitters" he writes, "did more to give me new strength and good appetite than all other stomach remedies I used." So they help everybody. Its fully to suffer when this great remedy will help you from the first dose. Try it. Only 50c at Sibert's Drug Store.

"UNCLE JOE" WINS OLYMPIAD.

Cannon Kicks 4 Feet 4 Inches—Others Contribute During Session of "Dog Days" Club.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Kicking 4 feet and 4 inches, "Uncle Joe" Cannon handily won the feature event of the Congressional Olympiad at a quiet little session of the "Dog Days" Club last night on the outskirts of the Capital. The whole business leaked out today. But it is said there were other high jinks and that among the best of them was Uncle Joe playing Old Black Joe on a violin without the E and G strings. The performances of the former Speaker of the House, remarkable as they were, formed only part of a programme provided by Representative Henry DeForrest, of Schenectady, N. Y., for thirty-five Republicans and Democrats who gathered to commiserate on the prolonged session of Congress and the troubled political times.

"Although you would not suspect it," said Mr. DeForrest to his guests, "there sits concealed behind a bush the great warbler and whistler of this or any other age and he will now oblige. Prof —, something new."

And from the carefree and happy face of Minority Leader James S. Mann there filtered through an iron gray beard, "Everybody's Doin' It."

"Early in life," said Representative Ned Taylor, of Columbus, Ohio, when dragged into the arena, "there was some question whether I should become a statesman or an opera singer? Modesty forbids that I dwell on what I have done in Congress, but here goes for some opera."

Whereupon "Il Trovatore," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Casey Would Waltz" and other selections brought forth thirty-five votes in the negative.

Representative Michael Conroy, of New York, contributed "Peggy Carey" and "Kathleen Mavoureen" until he was interrupted by Representative Michael Driscoll's stentorian demands to be "put off at Buffalo."

The meeting place was in dry territory in Maryland. Last night it was said the Montgomery constabulary had gone to Baltimore to buy a teething ring for the baby. The dinner was over when former Speaker Cannon's proposal that Jefferson Levy, of New York, take the entire membership of Congress to Monticello, Va., a week from Sunday, was carried with a roar.

Representative E. W. Townsend, one of the contributors to the feast of song, was lushed in the midst of his effort and commanded instead to write another "Chimmie Fadden."

Homer Pigeon Makes Home Here.

Someone has in the last week lost a very pretty homer pigeon for the bird has taken up his abode at Mr. H. G. McKagen's residence with his pigeons and seems well contented in his new home.

The pigeon arrived in town on Wednesday and has been at Mr. McKagen's ever since. On the pigeon's left leg is a silver band containing the following inscription: 13 F. D. K. 12, with the 12 turned sideways; on the other leg is a similar silver band with the inscription BB 2367 and a cross with a J in the center.

Mr. McKagen thinks the pigeon may possibly be a valuable one and is on the look-out to restore it to its owner.

Good for Candidates.

A Pittsburg man has invented a bullet, which, by means of a coating of morphine, puts a man to sleep when it enters his limb or body. When one of these bullets hits a man he soon subsides into a fast sleep, and it is said he becomes insensible to pain. The inventor wants to sell his invention to the War Department, but why not give the public the benefit of the use of those dope bullets so they can be utilized in political campaigns to put a quietus on a certain brand of politicians who use the loud pedal in playing to the galleries and put on the soft pedal when they play into the hands of the trusts?—Wilmington Star.

Where Was That Hat?

Three friends, who had all been operated on for appendicitis about the same period, met for the first time since their sufferings and began comparing notes, says the Pittsburg Chronicle. "Yes," said No. 1. "I had beastly luck! The doctor had to operate again because he found he had left a sponge inside the first time." No. 2 promptly capped this: "That's nothing," he said. "My doctor left a pair of forceps inside me!" No. 3 rose to his feet. He was pallid and trembling as he rushed toward the door in frantic haste. "What's wrong?" asked his two friends. "N-n-nothing," he stammered; only I've just remembered that as I came round my doctor said something about having mislaid his hat!"