

NIGHT SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS LONE HOPE

Take Half Century To Eliminate Illiteracy By Compulsory Attendance Law

Depending solely upon the action of the compulsory attendance laws of the State, it will require a full half century to wipe out adult illiteracy in North Carolina according to the estimate of Mr. W. C. Crosby, secretary of the State Committee on Community Service. The opinion is expressed by Mr. Crosby in the bulletin issued yesterday from the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on Community Service and North Carolina Day set for October 29 preceding the opening of Moonlight Schools in November.

"According to meager statistics gathered last year," says Mr. Crosby, "the average age of adult illiterates in North Carolina is forty-five. The expectation of life at that age, according to the American Mortality Experience Table, is 24.54 years. Since forty-five is the average age, there must be many who are much younger than that, which would materially lengthen the time when we should expect death to remove them. From this, it will be seen that if we wait for time alone to remove the stigma of adult illiteracy from the State, a full half century will probably be required. Can we afford to wait? A vigorous campaign for the moonlight school is the only alternative, and that should be our answer to the question."

"The strategic and most difficult point in this crusade against adult illiteracy," he continued, "will be to induce the illiterates to enroll in the night school and attend its sessions regularly. They are timid and sensitive and many of them almost utterly hopeless of being able to learn at their time of life, even if they should avail themselves of the opportunity. They must, therefore, be approached with great tact, sympathy, and considerate patience. If failure attends one effort to enlist them, another should be resorted to; no refusal must be accepted as final. Quietly, without bluster or parade, and with tactful importunity they must be won, enrolled, and taught."

"A most important step before beginning a moonlight school is to make an accurate survey of all adult illiterates in the district. This should be done not only with the view of locating them, but reliable information should be sought as to just what person or persons might be able to influence each one most, and what motivation would be apt to be most powerful in stimulating them to a desire to learn to read and write. There is no one who cannot be influenced by the proper person or motive, if only the person or motive is known. One principal reports that he visited a certain illiterate several times, trying to enroll him in a moonlight school which was being conducted in the community, but failed completely to get him in. He finally sent another illiterate who had already entered the school—and he brought him to school that very night. There is always some way to reach any person, if only we use judgment and patience. It may be the love of a little child; it may be the influence of a friend; it may be the desire to write a letter to an absent loved one; it may be pride; it may be the wish to read the Bible. But no hard and fast rule can be given, for each one is a law unto himself. The means by which illiterates are brought into the school does not matter; the all-important thing is not to give up till you get them in and interested."

French Red Tape.

Indianapolis News.

A little story that comes from Paris would seem to give color to the oft-repeated assertion that the French republic, through its officials, is badly tangled in "red tape." This is the story.

Comfortably seated in a railroad coach of the first class, a functionary of a prefecture was studying a report. He was furnished with a lead pencil and was making notes. Suddenly he was addressed by a traveler. "Monsieur, I am a traveling inspector of police. Will you permit me to look at that pencil?"

The inspector examined the pencil and put it in his pocket. "I shall seize it," he said. "It comes from the house of Hardtmuth, a German house."

The traveler protested and stated his occupation. "I regret this," said the inspector. "Give me your name, your address, and I shall have you reimbursed the value of your pencil in eight days by the general treasury of your department."

Commenting on this, Le Cri de Paris says that the esteemed employees of the departmental treasury will not fail to send in a few months five centimes (about 1 cent!) to the owner of the pencil—and how much paper was wasted to effect this reimbursement!

WOMAN AS A VOTER

(By a Man.)

"The Woman Who Answers Questions" is what they call her. Her real name is Mary Sumner Boyd and her official title is Chief of the Data Department of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

But at the headquarters of the National Association at 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City, Mrs. Boyd is known chiefly as the woman who tells people what they want to know about suffrage. She is the one who digs up, on demand, the facts regarding the suffrage movement, the laws concerning women and children, and who tabulates the pet arguments of the antis with the answers thereto. Seated at her desk, flanked by files and reports, and interrupted constantly by the telephone at her elbow, Mrs. Boyd sifts the statistics and data which the suffrage speakers need in the field.

It is no easy task. Demands for facts and figures in regard to woman suffrage come pouring into the national headquarters from all corners of the United States as well as from foreign countries, and Mrs. Boyd's task is to answer any question which may be sent in.

"Will you tell me how many states have equal guardianship laws?" comes a voice over the telephone, and Mrs. Boyd has the states on the tip of her tongue.

"Will you tell me which states have the initiative and referendum, and in which of these suffrage petitions are now being circulated?"

When Mrs. Boyd's telephone rings there is no telling what question is waiting for her at the other end of the line, and every morning the mail brings letters asking more questions. There is little doubt that there is a lively interest in the subject of woman suffrage judging by the inquiries which come pouring into headquarters.

A postal card received by Mrs. Boyd the other day reads as follows: "Please tell me if the 14 and 15 amend say yes all men and women 21 years of age must read and rite English. Before he or she can vote. My reason for asking you is I dont know. Ans. please." The writer was a man.

Mrs. Boyd was chosen as head of the data department because of her long experience in collecting data in statistical and research work. She is a graduate of Columbia, and a former editor of the survey. She is thoroughly at home in a law library as well.

Anyone who is permitted to become at all familiar with Mrs. Boyd's filing system is at once impressed with the mass of accurate material which the head of the data department has gotten together, and the orderly arrangement of it. Someone has remarked that if a person is at all anxious to lose sight of an item or a letter, the most effective way of going about it is to have his stenographer file it. Not so with the system which Mrs. Boyd has put into operation. Child labor, working hours for women in every state in the union, illiteracy tables, lists of organizations and individuals who have endorsed woman suffrage, newspaper clippings and the great mass of material which has to do with woman suffrage is to be found carefully and systematically catalogued and labelled in Mrs. Boyd's file.

There is a constantly increasing demand from speakers, from students, from the general public and the press for data on woman suffrage, and the national association acts as a clearing house for such information.

AT HELM IN BATHING SUIT.

Steamship Captain Says Gale Would Have Blown Clothes Off.

Mobile (Ala.) Dispatch. Good seamanship and a bathing suit possessed by Capt. W. Hansen, of the United Fruit Company's steamer Bluefields, saved the vessel from damage and possible loss during the recent tropical hurricane.

The Bluefields left Mobile and encountered the storm the next day, but succeeded in weathering it, while the United Fruit steamer American was badly damaged and compelled to return to Mobile for repairs. The Bluefields arrived in the city Monday morning.

"We were warned before leaving Mobile of the hurricane that was sweeping through the Caribbean Sea," said Captain Hansen, "and were prepared to meet it in the Gulf of Mexico. The frontal part of the storm struck us Saturday morning and continued with unabated force until Sunday evening. The gale was worst Sunday morning from 3 to 4 o'clock, when its velocity reached 100 to 130 miles.

"The wind blew so hard that I could not keep my clothes fastened, so I left the bridge and donned my bathing suit. The seas that burst over the Bluefields knocked me down once, but I was unhurt."

Captain Hansen told officers of the United Fruit Company that it was the worst storm he had ever encountered in the Gulf of Mexico, and he has been in the gulf trade more than 25 years.

Most of the tea raised in Burma is pickled and eaten as a condiment.

A VISIT TO BERRY HILL

It is to give a brief history of this comfortable, ancestral home and its hospitable owner that I ask a brief space in your paper. After spending a happy summer in our lodge in a chestnut grove in the mountains of North Carolina, we turned our faces seaward the latter part of September—first passing several days in that beautiful and progressive city of Charlotte. Then two days in Durham where an electric sign of various colors proclaims that "Durhams' Renowned the World Around," then to Raleigh where I have watched its progress from a little child, and ever been proud of our beautiful capitol. Then to Norlina where two grand sons of our host, Mr. William H. Burrell, awaited us with an automobile, and took us twenty miles through a prosperous country to Berry Hill, where a cordial welcome awaited us.

Mr. Burrell and Judge Henry R. Bryan graduated at Chapel Hill sixty years ago next June in 1856 that were devoted chums during the whole four years of college life and at graduation one delivered the Latin Salutary and both were marshalls. During all these years, they had only met once for a few hours, one can well imagine how cordial was the hand clasp of these two old friends.

As I sat on the vine-covered piazza and looked down the long avenue, which just hid "the little church around the corner" and listened to old remembrances and jokes of bygone days, I felt thankful, indeed, of this meeting.

These two fathers represent thirteen daughters and six sons, and forty-four grandchildren. Mr. Burrell is the soul of hospitality and Berry Hill the scene of much pleasure, often thirty or forty people take dinner at his house, and a cordial welcome to all.

His children have had every advantage of education, both literary and musical, and not a dollar in the world does this good man owe. What a commentary on the fault finders of the present day! I feel like saying to our young men, marry a wife and buy a farm. Mr. Burrell is a North Carolinian, but Berry Hill is just on the line in Virginia, and all that part of the country is filled with the children of the land-holders, charming neighborhoods, educated people, every few miles a church, kindness the prevailing trait. Berry Hill is not far from the old time famous Shecco and Jones' Springs, where the belles and beaux of the East danced to the music of Frank Johnson's band, and where as a little girl I bought candy and toys from Oscar Alston's table on the lawn. Oh! what good old times they were! We said good bye to our dear friends, and his charming wife with great reluctance, and began our homeward journey, the judge bearing in his hand a cane, given him by Mr. Burrell which was presented to him by Dr. Goode of Buffalo Springs, a kinsman of his. This cane was cut in Holly Wood Cemetery, near the tomb of James Madison, at the Confederate reunion in 1896, a valuable memento of our last cause. We passed the historic old St. John's church where the ashes of Bishop Ravenscroft's wife repose. Long live our remarkable host and his interesting family.

New Bern, N. C. M. N. BRYAN.

GREAT MEN AND THEIR HAIR.

Dark Brown and Black Prevailing Color Among Geniuses.

Philadelphia Evening Ledger. History shows that few great geniuses had red hair. Alone among the poets of the world was Swinburne, whose hair was distinctly reddish, and among the great reformers only John Bunyan's hair was really red.

The flaxen-haired blonde, or the man whose hair when an adult is a true yellow, also remains marked apart as being unlikely to possess genius. Should one such be, his only companion will be Thackeray, whose hair is described as yellow. Charles Kassel has carefully reviewed the biographies of most of the eminent people of the world, and has tabulated the results of his work so far as the color of the hair is concerned.

Dark brown to black is the prevailing hue on the heads of the great men. A list of 50 names has been compiled, in which the color of the hair is given by biographers, and 90 per cent are dark brown or black. There is not, strange to say, a single mention of premature grayness, nor a single case of that ashen brown hair known as "singled" or "mouse color."

The structure of the hair—whether straight or curly—is given in 26 of Mr. Kassel's list of geniuses, and of these all but four possessed curly or wavy hair. It is extremely notable that of the remaining four Napoleon and President Jackson were the two remarkable for "wiry hair," and that James Russell Lowell and Grieg were those having lank, straight hair. The poet's "ringlets" and the musician's shock of hair are by this list seen not to be mere accidents, but in some strange way are co-ordinated to their powers, and the general popular instinct is not at fault.

All of Berlin's sewerage is pumped out of the city to disposal farms, which cover an area of about 40,000 acres.

MRS. V.C. ROYSTER DECLARED WINNER

Awarded Prize in Lawn Contest, Auspices Civic Department of Woman's Club

A very commendable line of activity in seeking to beautify the city, has recently been begun by Mrs. J. E. O'Donnell, chairman of the Civic Department of the Raleigh Women's Club. Mrs. O'Donnell and the other members of her committee are actively devising plans towards the beautification of our streets, parks, lawns and gardens throughout the city.

Yesterday a lawn contest was held in which fifteen different lawns throughout the city were competing. Prof. W. N. Hutt, State Horticulturist, judged the lawns and awarded the premiums according to the following scale of points:

Smoothness	20 points
Grading	10 points
Texture	20 points
Freedom from weeds	20 points
Trimmed edges	10 points
Kinds of grass	10 points
Landscape features	10 points

Total 100 points

The first prize was awarded to Mrs. V. C. Royster for a fine blue grass lawn next to the lot on which the new Women's Club building is being built. A prize was awarded to Mrs. Joseph Weathers of Cameron Park for front and back lawns. A prize to Mrs. Carroll Mann of West Raleigh for her beautiful back yard. The committee is planning to hold future contests and hopes to be able to arouse a lively interest in the making and care of lawns throughout the city.

For the benefit of those who wish to make new lawns or improve those they already have, the following suggestions are offered by the civic department:

"In preparing a lawn have all necessary drainage arranged for so that there will be no washing of the land or settling of water in low places. The land should be broken as deeply as possible and all roots, stones and other obstructions removed. Care should be taken to see that the surface soil is kept on top and not covered with the subsoil. The surface should be carefully raked and leveled so that it will stand at a proper grade in relation to the buildings and the street. The land should be made rich by quantities of thoroughly decayed manure worked into the soil. Best soils for lawns are benefited by copious applications of lime. In addition to the manure, it is a good plan to apply high grade commercial fertilizers, especially bone meal.

"Lawns can be seeded at almost any season of the year, provided, there is plenty of water available for keeping the ground moist while the grass is getting established. Where there is plenty of shade from trees and buildings, it is possible to have the finest blue grass sod. Blue grass, however, does not last long where it is not protected from our hot sun. In sunny locations in the South, the most satisfactory lawns are obtained by using the common Bermuda or wire grass so much despised by farmers and truck growers. The characteristics that make this vigorous-growing grass disliked on the farm are the very things that make it valuable as a lawn grass. A Bermuda grass lawn becomes brown at the first frost but the roots hold the sod from washing during the winter. Next spring at the approach of warm weather, it is ready to make a solid green cover for the entire growing season.

"To secure a smooth, even surface lawns should be rolled occasionally with a heavy hand roller, especially after rains when the soil is soft. Lawns should be cut frequently so that the grass will not get so high that it has to be raked off. If cut frequently, the clippings will drop down and form a cover for the roots and will make the grass rich and fine.

"The worst weed pests in lawns in the South are broad and narrow leaf plantain, dandelions, wild onions, nut grass and a coarse grass known as Paspalum. Weeds such as the plantain and dandelions can best be removed by cutting below the crown with a narrow bladed knife. Nut grass, can be avoided by thorough spading and raking before the grass is sown so as to remove all nuts from the soil. On new lawns, wild onions can be removed by lifting out a plug of earth by means of a garden trowel and removing the little bulbs which usually lie four to six inches below the surface.

"By following these directions, it is possible without too much trouble to keep a lawn in a condition that will be a joy to the owners and a delight to the passer by."