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COST OF EDUCATION

One New Britain speaker stated the other day that the cost of education is high. Fifty cents out of every dollar in tax money in this city, he said, goes for the maintenance of the schools.

Well, what of it? What does it prove? If anything, it indicates that the school system has been measurably developed to a point somewhere in the vicinity of the requirements of the city; and that some other public functions have not been developed to this point.

It is a matter of relative. If the city has been extraordinarily economical in providing some services—such as water disposal, sewer disposal, garbage disposal—it means that a small percentage of the total money goes for these services.

New schools were built because they were necessary, could not be longer delayed; and the end is not yet. We have more and better-trained teachers, a higher administrative expense that goes with a larger school plant.

If the state law had specified that the city simply had to meet all requirements as to water, sewers, garbage and what not, as is specified in connection with the schools, then the total of such expenditures would be much higher and the schools would not exact as high a percentage of all the expenditures.

The tax rate in New Britain has been low compared with most other cities in Connecticut. The schools cost their present ratio of the tax money because of this fact. It is to be hoped that the tax rate can continue to be kept low compared with other cities.

Suppose, through the exercise of some species of legerdemain, the tax income should be greatly reduced. The school costs then might reach a much higher percentage of the city's income—yet the total outgo for schools would be the same.

If, however, the cost of increased municipal services is greatly increased—which seems likely within the next five years—the percentage of school outlay to the whole can be expected to decrease, although actually the cost may stand still or increase slightly.

We mention these facts in order to combat the idea, current in some circles, that local education costs are inordinately high. Considering them on a percentage basis they may look that way, but too much depends upon the total of other costs to warrant one in coming to a superficial conclusion.

The percentage of school costs in New York State to all other state costs is, if we remember rightly, 24 per cent. This looks lower than in New Britain, but in reality the sum expended for schools in New York has risen seven-fold during the past decade. The reason the percentage in New York seems lower than in New Britain is because New York has made other enormous outlays, which have more than kept pace with the increased school expenditures.

difference between New York and New Britain is that the former could not lag in such expenditures—it has been forced to go the whole route. During the present week innumerable citizens have visited the schools; they have again been impressed with their efficiency. The new buildings have been admired and nobody with a child in any of them has considered the cost worth worrying about.

Operating the schools is every city's biggest enterprise. Knowledge would be utterly useless for humanity if it were not imparted to the young so that they, when grown, became superior citizens—citizens with better developed minds than we possess ourselves. If the nation is to advance in all things worth while every city must patriotically contribute its due share; and nothing we can do is remotely as important as the instruction and training given the young. Cost is secondary, relative; it appears disproportionately high in this city because we wisely have concluded it is more important than some other matters that cost money and which we have been able to postpone until the schools were partly looked after.

OUR NEW STATE PARK

Taking over of Sunset Rock park by the State Park and Forest Commission concludes the final disposition and conservation of one of the most notable scenic spots in Hartford county. This eminence, deriving its name from the beautiful sunsets that can be seen from there, is known to almost everyone in New Britain and Plainville, being between the two. It will now be improved by the state, a new or repaired shelter house at the point overlooking Plainville being necessary. From the time the Sunset Rock association began correspondence with the state to the present the environs of the eminence have been allowed to shift for themselves, so to speak. A recent visit showed that a certain part of the public seems to care very little for the appearance of public property.

The park was a joint gift of the Sunset Rock association, and Landers, Frary & Clark. The park is larger than most residents perhaps realize, being half a mile long, and contains 13 1-2 acres. Most people have thought that Sunset Rock referred only to the point where the shelter house was built. The park, however, takes in a narrow strip along a godly portion of the area of Bradley mountain.

This state park is the nearest to New Britain; it is the only state park in Hartford county. Under state jurisdiction it ought to attract the attention of motorists from throughout the central portion of the state in much larger numbers than heretofore.

The highway leading to the park from Plainville road is attracting more homesteaders every year. It is not an improved highway in the modern sense, but is far better than it used to be. Back in 1925 the population of the islands voted dry—and the experiment was begun. Why New Zealand took this step in the first place has never been adequately explained, as it never had "American saloons," the hotel bars closed early, and licenses were limited. But almost all the dominions seem to have been willing to try almost anything—once. New Zealand the other day, after three years of prohibition, voted for the old system of limited licenses.

Of course, New Zealand—like the Canadian dominions—did not make the mistake of putting prohibition into some organic law like a Constitution. That isn't the British system; it is the system of fanatics who take an unfair advantage of their fellow-citizens during times of emotionalism, and who are able to spend millions of propaganda money to achieve some such permanent result, at least in theory.

SKULL INDICATES MAYAN LINKS WITH EUROPEANS

La Rochelle, France, Nov. 17. (AP)—A stone covered with neolithic sculpture, discovered in the bed of the estuary of the river Vire by a local antiquary, Marcel Baudouin, has set all the savants guessing. For among its ornaments is a bas-relief representing a human profile, strongly resembling an American of the pre-Columbian epoch, such as are found among the Maya hieroglyphics of Yucatan. Experts are quite at a loss to account for its origin and presence on the shores of la Vendee.

VEILED MOSLEM WOMEN ARE SUBJECT OF PROTEST

Baku, Caucasus, Nov. 17. (AP)—The school teachers of Baku have submitted a petition to the central executive committee of the local soviets to forbid the wearing of veils by Mohammedan women.

MEXICO CITY BANISHES BEGGARS FROM STREETS

Mexico City, Nov. 17. (AP)—Mexico City's inspectors are to be cleared of beggars. Inspector General of Police, Rios Zertuche, holding that the many waifs, cripples and others who seek alms in the capital's streets constitute an eyesore to the city, has ordered that they be rounded up and sent to the public poor house.

Unfortunately, not a day worker ever thinks of the hardships that unnecessary noises provide for the night worker who is trying to sleep while the sun shines.

THE S. O. S. DELAY
It is being said for Captain Carey of the Vostrik that he could not have delayed sending out an S. O. S. call for ten hours merely to save his employers a heavy charge for salvage. Says the Herald-Tribune: "If subsequently, after sending out an S. O. S. he had found he could repair and right his ship and proceed without assistance he could have countermanded the call without loss to his line. Claims for salvage do not hold in law unless the assistance rendered is concrete."

No one will ever know why Captain Carey delayed sending out a radio call for help for ten hours. The venerable skipper is past testing. But regardless of what the Herald-Tribune says, it is probable that S. O. S. signals in case of threatened disaster are delayed for salvage reasons. It is true, too, that countermanding the signals avoids the salvage charges; but such a countermanded call might be used against the captain's record by his employers. Captain Carey was to have been given command of a new ship in a short time. No one can say whether that didn't weigh in his indecision.

We are aware that there is widespread criticism of the salvage law. We are inclined to agree that the criticisms are justified. It yields a premium for delay; yet it is hard to imagine a captain who would place human life in jeopardy on account of salvage damages. Men who attain eminence on the sea are not built that way. But once in a while—who knows?

HARSH WORDS

"After years of sonorous silence only punctuated now and then by the utterance of some discreet inanity, he (President Coolidge) suddenly delivered a sort of dying kick with a viciousness of which few people on this side of the Atlantic would have supposed him capable. His armistice day speech was in effect a denunciation of Europe and all its works from the standpoint of a 100 per cent New England backwoodsman."

Old Joe remarked sarcastically to his friends that no doubt wisdom would die with them, so the wise crack didn't wait.

Note for school boys of the distant future: They are different countries; one is shaped like a hammer and the other merely functions like one.

PROHIBITION IN NEW ZEALAND

The "noble experiment" of prohibition in the United States continues to be no guide to the thoughtful, self-reliant dominions of the British Empire—and the provinces within the dominions. The latest to scuttle the Prohibition ship has been New Zealand, which for three years had all it wanted of this moral issue. Back in 1925 the population of the islands voted dry—and the experiment was begun. Why New Zealand took this step in the first place has never been adequately explained, as it never had "American saloons," the hotel bars closed early, and licenses were limited. But almost all the dominions seem to have been willing to try almost anything—once. New Zealand the other day, after three years of prohibition, voted for the old system of limited licenses.

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Facts and Fancies

A stranger in Chicago is one who thinks that was a blow-out.

When money talks, it too frequently says: "Good-by, sucker."

We are an idealistic people and will make any sacrifice for a cause that won't hurt business.

If Nature is so grand, why didn't she arrange a cut-off so food would quit tasting good when the tummy is loaded?

Among the disappointments of a European trip is the discovery that real liquor tastes much like the bootleg stuff.

Still, the man who thinks he never makes mistakes usually thinks he made one when he selected his wife.

All things are relative, and Sallie is a social leader in Podunk Center because her dad is in the State Legislature.

Awful thought! Planes flying far inland during the next war can drop crotches on noncombatants.

It would be nice to have the tariff studied by a commission qualified to be neutral about it, if Mars would lend us one.

Americanism: Howling for freedom; joining a book club to dodge the responsibility of selecting your own reading.

Chairman: A sucker who is willing to do all the work in return for a little imaginary honor.

If a stowaway is a profitless one who has no business aboard, old earth is giving millions of them a ride.

It's waste effort when lads of 19 turn criminal to get their thrill. There isn't any greater thrill than being 19.

If he uses his napkin to wipe out his plate at a restaurant, people begin to call him a bachelor six years ago.

If ten men are equally smart, and one is so astonished by his own smartness as to think the others should notice it too, he is a young intellectual.

Some reformers remind us of the fact that Americans began to scorn land-grabbing after taking all they need from the Indians.

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COMMUNICATED

Makes Suggestion for Employment Editor, New Britain Herald:

The "Facts and Fancies" of a recent Herald said this: "Uncle Sam needs large cruisers that can range far without coal. You see, most of Wall Street's loans are made to lands far away." I think this thought is worthy of more thought.

This United States of America sends her money outside to promote prosperity in other countries when there are millions of men unemployed in this country. Our country may be prosperous as a whole, as the Republicans have just finished telling us, but nevertheless, there is much room for more prosperity. Now that winter is coming on, the farmers will need much less help; the automobile industry will slow down, building operations will be slower, etc.

Why send domestic capital outside the country when so many men are unemployed here? Why can't the industry be created to absorb these unemployed men by using this money which is being loaned to other countries? So far as I can see, these loans to other countries only promote hard feelings between these countries and the United States. We have already seen the attitude of some of the countries toward us, referring to our country as a Shylock and a money grabber, and among their people, off the press, probably as a bunch of crooks and so on. The least they can do is that we want to control their body and soul, demanding a pound of flesh as Shylock demanded it of Antonio. So far as I know, our loans were made in good faith, dealing with these countries in a considerate, business like way, as one honest man would deal with another. What is the sense of making other countries feel against your country who you would not want an individual to feel toward you? We teach history in our schools so that our children will profit by the mistakes of our forefathers.

I can't understand why so much of our money goes out of our country when it is not necessary. We have plenty of men here to do the work, plenty of resources in our country to start anything, and people to absorb the products of our industry who have the money to pay for these products. Most people of the United States have a sense of squareness but charity should begin at home.

We have the best country in the world under most any conditions; better wages, the richest—most every way; but what an individual has to do to get it? Much better. Our people have spirit, energy and common sense. Why not use it to better advantage? And I don't consider building new workshops a sensible way of consuming that money and energy. There are better ways.

Fun Shop
Read all communications to Fun Shop Editor, care of the New Britain Herald, and your letter will be forwarded to New York.

Wouldn't You Just Know It Was November? Wild geese fly South on days like these.

While time ones, on the bleachers freeze. The "Debs" begin their social fling and aud-eyed poets write of Spring!

Pretty, Pretty! Host's son: "Let me see your pretty penny, will you?"

Guest: "But I have no pretty penny, child."

Host's Son: "Yes you have. Pa said you made it out of the bootlegging business!"

THE FUN SHOP NEWS WEEKLY

Query "There is nothing thicker than blood," declared the defeated presidential candidate the other day.

Has he tried postoffice ink?

Travelogue An explorer says that among some savage Indian tribes it is regarded as improper for a mother-in-law to speak to her daughter's husband.

With such refinements of superciliousness it seems very unjust to call them savages!

Medical At St. Louis doctor was arrested after falling down two flights of stairs.

He complains of having been shaken before fallen.

Theater Chorus girls, we are told, are trained to dance mauldily.

This quality seems also to be encouraged in their singing!

Social Women, it is stated, have a keen sense of humor.

The more you humor them the better they like it!

Needless "So you've torn down the old sheep shed?"

Female: "Yes, I didn't have any eyes for it!"

—C. A. Cline—

The most unsophisticated young man on record is the one who refused to eat onions before going to his first party in the younger fast set!

His Father's Excuse! Four-year-old Bobby and his mother often watched the mail arrive over their isolated ranch in Wyoming.

One day it was later than usual, and Bobby contemptuously remarked: "Probably some female airplane kept it from starting on time!"

—Mrs. M. C. Smith

GOTT UND KEMAL

By Thomas Adamson Folks, put the old record on the gramophone and listen to about Filipp recount some facts about Constantinople!

Believe it or not the natives of this burg are Regular Turks. Up to a few years ago they had harems and diseases resembling pyorrhea, that is, four out of five had it; but they passed a law against them, and today harems are about as popular in Turkey as gin and beer are in this country!

It was here—that old joke about "that wasn't my husband, that was another Fezzar," originated.

Turkey and this country, have much in common. In Turkey, if the husband gets tired of the wife, he puts her out. In this country, he puts her out, and how!

The city was formerly the capital of the Ottoman Empire, but somebody mustapha got there. Ankara, it is located on the Pampirus. The Bosphorus is an alimutary canal connecting the Black Sea with its appendix, Marmora.

We could keep on giving you data like this, but it might get us into deep water. The Bosphorus keeps Asia from touching Europe. Europe like to touch, but doesn't like to be touched!

Never mind the noise, Effendi, it is that Stamboul loase again. As the old Sultan said, "I mustapha kemal, Allah, my kingdom for a kernal."

"You are too fatima," the bold Saracen replied, nonchalantly kissing the Sultan's!

IF WELL-KNOWN REMARKS WERE ILLUSTRATED



"His Breath Came in Short Pants."

"No Haunting! "I'm a first-class paragon, ha'man, and—"

Mrs. Sawyer: "You won't do. I want somebody that pases it on!"

THE OBSERVER— Makes Random Observations On the City and Its People

Fire Commissioners Report Worn Buttonholes

If the biblical story of the barley loaves and fishes could be repeated in this city, but instead of edibles the basket would give forth a limitless stock of fire department positions and lieutenantcies, four citizens who today displayed the gold badge of fire board members might once again return to the pursuits by which they make their daily bread and might once again enjoy a few minutes of rest or a squirt at the evening paper.

Only a commissioner, or one who has at some time been on a fire board when a vacancy has occurred in the department, has the slightest conception of the buttonholing a board member receives in the interests of candidates.

Having been appointed to the board for the express purpose of conducting its business and presumed therefore to have at least a smattering of personal knowledge of the department and its personnel, it should not be unreasonable to suppose that the board members might be in the best position to make the selections. Perhaps they are, but discussion with members of the present board, would convince anyone that they are not wanting for advisers.

A telephone call comes. "This is such-and-such, Commissioner, will it be possible for me to see you for a minute today?" The commissioner greets his teeth and makes the appointment, knowing full well he's about to get "the business" on the qualifications of this candidate or that candidate. Half an hour of that day already budgeted to something that will probably accomplish nothing.

The candidate himself. "I don't like to bother you, but, etc., etc." The commissioner listens and when he gets through he wonders if it wouldn't be in the interest of efficiency and economy to fire all present members of the department and appoint this individual to handle all fires alone.

"Well, I'm glad to see you on the board; now efficiency will be recognized," being another. Nine times out of ten, recognition of efficiency would put him out of the "running without question."

Then comes the candidate who tries half an hour or more to tell how inefficient the other candidates are. So vigorous is he in his condemnation of his colleagues that he forgets to set forth a single argument in his own favor.

There are also the candidates who can spend an hour telling of his work at this fire or that. He plunged into absolute disregard for life or limb into the blazing building and did his work! Dramatic, to be sure, but exactly what the city pays him for.

Then there's the old school mate who seeks support on that ground, and there's the politician or fraternal member, the neighbor or the steady customer in a commissioner's business; there's a million and one reasons why each of 12 candidates for the one lieutenantcy should receive it, and the same condition exists with reference to the positions of regular firemen, where 25 men are bound to be disappointed. Some will be furiously angered. Some will decide there's no justice in the world, while others will immediately lay plans to change their political party registration. The commissioner will make four friends and lose forty—by the sad feature of it from the commissioner's standpoint is that, by all the rules of the game, they will be confronted with the same problem dozens of times before the newspapers on an April afternoon come out with a two column head, reading:

City Hall Shake-up Begins; Fire Board Comes Under Axe

Absence of Stray Cat Grievous West End Family

Out of a mysterious obscurity "Bunter" appeared, and back to unknown mystery he has returned. He was "silly a cat," but he was unusual in many respects and for the weeks during which he was known to the families in a west end neighborhood he endeared himself to them. And now he is gone, no one knowing where or how.

Bunter first appeared to his temporary friends during the late summer. Apparently deserted by some family which had gone away, he was a large, gaunt, gray Maltese cat with handsome white markings and sober eyes. He was in a half-famished condition and begged for food at houses along the street, but he did it in a dignified way and would not attempt to bolt across the threshold unless invited. For several days he met with rebuffs but finally one family admitted him and furnished him with some milk.

After that Bunter appeared regularly at the house every day at meal time.

They Shall Not Pass "Red" Osterboom, Kale's star quarterback, prepared to make the pass!

Our hearts were in our throats. Would it be good? Could he make it? It was only a second but it seemed as hours. The thrill of a lifetime!

Not a sound was heard from the spectators. The players were tensed ready for the big moment. The suspense of a nerve-racking moment!

"That's three—a wild moment. Was it good? Did he make it? All eyes were upon the clump of tangled players.

The dice wobbled, three—nine—and settled at seven.

"Red" had wane for dear old Kale!

—A. E. Burr

The Wise Guy! First Cigarette Lighter: "I know I don't always succeed, but I try to maintain a reputation for dependability."

Second Cigarette Lighter: "That's where you're wrong, old fellow, that is in the case of women, anyway. Keep 'em guessing, that's my system!"

—A. E. Cristy

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time and had milk, meat, fish, and special food lavished upon him until once again his flanks were fat and firm. He found favor also at other times in the neighborhood, but it was this particular evening which he made his particular home.

He possessed exceptional dignity and reserve for a cat. He always sought companionship and sought the company of the members of the family, stretching himself out at their feet or following them about as they moved around the house. But he did not enjoy being petted or played with. He would play by himself for hours, but the joy disappeared as soon as anyone interfered and he would soon for the intruder as warning that he wanted to be let alone. Yet he was not at all sure and would be perfectly content as long as someone was near him. When it was feeding time he would sit up and beg like a dog, and he was scrupulously careful not to allow food scraps to slip off the paper on which his dishes were placed.

In a nearby home he found another large cat, a beautiful Persian of advanced years, but undiminished agility, and Hunter and Felix passed many a pleasant hour together. There was a small kitten in another house, and Bunter paid regular calls there every day, spending hour after hour playing with the tiny feline and good naturedly allowing himself to be batted about by the youngster.

Then one day, as if he knew some arduous or fateful event was impending, Bunter virtually gorged himself with food, eating more heavily even than during his first semi-starved days. That night he was missing, and he has not been seen since. Many persons admired him as they passed the house and one of them has stolen him.

The commissioner listens and when he gets through he wonders if it wouldn't be in the interest of efficiency and economy to fire all present members of the department and appoint this individual to handle all fires alone.

But behind him he left a little community group of people and animals who felt that without Bunter something of perfect happiness was lacking. And especially was this sense of loneliness apparent in the small kitten, who for days waited for Bunter to re-appear and would dash expectantly to the door whenever he heard a meow, only to turn away in complete disinterest and dejection as he discovered that the meowing cat was not Bunter.

Many Radio Fans Annoyed By Reallocation of Stations

The past week has been a period of distress in the radio broadcasting field through the reallocation of broadcasting stations, according to many radio fans who, since Sunday when the order first went into effect, have tried in vain to make something out of the perplexing situation.

The average radio fan owns an average priced radio set and has been in difficulty since Armistice Day. It was thought that the first day or two would result in confusion among the owners because of the change of wave-lengths and thereafter receiving would be as good as before, or better, as prophesied by those who were optimistic enough to believe that the reallocation would benefit broadcasting. To the dismay of many, however, as the days passed, conditions did not seem to improve and the average fan with the average radio set wonders if after all the old system wasn't the better.

There are others who are under the impression that the new order has benefited the broadcasting game and that the many stations which never before could be gotten, come through without the slightest difficulty and with less interference. Opinion is divided, as a number of owners of expensive sets complain that even nearby stations like WPLC, Hartford; WBZ, Springfield; WEEV, New York; and WGY, Schenectady, heretofore coming through clearly can be scarcely heard.

One person owning a set of the most expensive kind has not been able to get WEAF, WBZ, WJZ and KDKA at the time, while prior to the change these same stations came in without the least bit of difficulty.

Complaints are many and vary and the radio fan is wondering what the ultimate result will be, at the same time expressing no little criticism of the federal commission's order and the cutting out of some of the nation's programs. The air is filled with turbulent waves, while the irate radio fan expresses little appreciation of the new order.

Carbon Monoxide Caused By Autos and Gas Heaters

With the coming of cold weather many people run to cover behind closed doors—close windows and even in closed garages—not because cold air is a menace to health, but because it interferes with one's personal comfort.

With the coming of cold weather, to the automobile engine fails to start quickly and so the time spent in the garage, preparatory to making the morning "exit" is considerably lengthened and thereby proves disastrous to one who does his engine coaxing in a closed garage.

Idling an engine to warm it in a closed one-car garage may so dangerously contaminate the air of that garage as to be fatal to life in from five to ten minutes. The state board of health says in a bulletin. So take warning and open your garage doors before starting your car even if the thermometer is near the zero mark.

Exhaust gases from automobiles contain a certain percentage of carbon monoxide which if allowed to accumulate in a closed garage takes a heavy toll of life because the person who breathes it has no warning of its insidious nature. This gas is colorless and odorless and so gives no indication of its deadly nature until the victim is found—often times to late for rescue measures.

Deaths from carbon monoxide are due to asphyxiation, just as in drowning. This gas when breathed, rapidly unites with the hemoglobin

of the red blood cells, replacing the oxygen which these cells ordinarily carry. In that carbon monoxide unites 200 times more readily than oxygen does on the cells of the body and rapidly robs the body of its life-giving oxygen and asphyxiates the lungs. Experiments show that it takes only a small amount of this gas to do the damage. The Industrial Hygiene Bureau of the New York state department of labor in 1922 reported that experiments made in a gas chamber with 4.5 per cent of carbon monoxide present, the blood showed 80-90 per cent saturation in thirty to forty minutes, enough to render the subject unconscious with headache, nausea, vomiting and vertigo. With 60-70 per cent saturation of the red blood cells with carbon monoxide, the result is death. So it is unwise to run any risks of exposure to this deadly gas, since the body has no protection against it, nor is there any indication of its presence.

Deaths from carbon monoxide are also reported frequently as a result of gas burners or heaters in houses where there is incomplete combustion of the gas. Sometimes coal furnaces will produce this gas when banked without sufficient air; fortunately other gases escaping at the same time with perceptibly disagreeable odors, give sufficient warning so the conditions can be remedied before tragedy occurs. Not as with gas heaters or burners, however. Water heaters are often dangerous because carbon monoxide results when