

### SOCIAL TRAINING OF SCHOOL MUSIC

#### BIGGEST ASSET, BELIEF

#### Survey Shows Excellent Results From Organization of Bands and Such Organizations; Details Given

The violin and the horn are being heard in more public high schools today than are the old-time rounds and choruses that used to brighten up Friday mornings. This statement is based on the findings of a survey of 772 high schools in 48 states which showed that 89.2 per cent of the high schools have an orchestra, a band, or both, while only 80.4 per cent report having general chorus work. Fifty Illinois high schools were among these contributing their experiences to this survey.

According to the survey, 47 per cent of the high schools replying have both bands and orchestras, an additional 40.8 per cent have orchestras only, while 1.4 per cent have only bands. The remaining 10.8 per cent have neither. Forty per cent of the schools participating have courses in music history and appreciation. That the percentage of these organizations which require the purchase of instruments and formal instruction should so much exceed that of general chorus work is significant and would point to a recognition of the superior merit of such training from the standpoints of character development and general culture.

#### Organized Recently

Fully 67 per cent of the bands reported in the survey had been organized in the last five years, while the number of orchestras that came in existence in the same period was only slightly over 36 per cent. The apparent trend toward bands is explained by the fact that to the 40.8 per cent of these schools already having orchestras, the organization of a band would be the next logical step in their music program. The oldest band uncovered by the survey was that of the Union high school, Red Bluff, California, where the band had been in existence for twenty years. The orchestra there followed five years later. The oldest orchestra mentioned, on the other hand, was founded in 1886 at the Lancaster, Pennsylvania high school. Three years ago a band was started which now numbers 65 pieces.

#### Fifty-Piece Band

The survey also proved enlightening on the size of the school music organizations greatest in favor. Nat-

urally smaller groups prevail for orchestras than bands. The size band most frequently reported is one ranging from 30 to 50 pieces, followed closely by bands ranging in membership from 20 to 30 pieces. Ten to 20 pieces is the most popular for orchestra, although 20 to 30 pieces and 30 to 50 pieces are very common. As far as could be computed, 201 of the 374 school bands were entirely of boys, 165 were mixed, and eight were exclusively of girls. Out of the 678 reporting orchestras, 68 were of boys only, 587 mixed, and 23 wholly of girls.

There was almost no divergence of opinion in the minds of the educators partaking in the survey on the advantages of music for growing boys and girls. Special stress was laid on the social training afforded, the ability to get along with group, team-work, and the subordination of the individual's personal pleasure for the sake of the work in hand.

The British may be the brightest diplomats in the world but they certainly slipped a little when they recognized soviet Russia.

### PREDICTS ENGLISH UNIVERSAL TONGUE

#### Near East Director Sees Its Eventual Adoption by All Lands

The gradual adoption of English as a universal language is predicted by Prof. George M. Wilcox, educational director of the Near East Relief, in his annual report. His experience with 18,000 children of a half-dozen Near Eastern races, who are students in the orphanage schools under his direction, leads him to the conviction that English, "provided it continues to produce a great literature and to avoid puristic complications," will continue to extend its linguistic conquests.

"It has the advantage," he points out, "of being an amalgam of several racial elements, and of easily absorbing serviceable words from other tongues, even the most remote. Although already an old language, it is still young in its flexibility and adaptability, and is recognized the world over as the language of free-

dom, faith and friendliness,—the uplifting forces which are widening human life everywhere today.

"The world is in need of a universal language, and several artificial ones have been produced in an effort to meet this need. Volapuk has long since been forgotten; Esperanto and Ido have comparatively few followers. But a language, if it is to be accepted, must be a natural growth, and there can be no doubt that English

has at least as good a chance as any other of becoming the world's 'step-mother tongue.'

"If an artificial language were to be adopted, it might be provided by combining the words that occur in many spoken tongues, such as the word 'sack,' which is so universal that it must date nearly to the tower of Babel. But most of these words are already English.

"I find a universal eagerness among the children of the Near East orphanages to learn at least a smattering of English. And it seems to be astonishingly easy for these children to master a fairly fluent vocabulary. There is certainly no basis for the old-fashioned theory that English is a 'difficult tongue for a foreigner to acquire.'

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It is often difficult to impress those outside the building trades and often those that should know, the necessity of using only the best of plastering materials and the highest grade of workmanship—I mean a plasterer that has served an apprenticeship at the trade.

Most walls are covered with wall paper before the owner sees them and the defects are not seen until settlement or deterioration begins, then the secret of cheap and skimmed plastering is a realization. For the same reason some builders, but not all of them, desire to keep the costs down and are tempted to save on the plastering as it is natural to cut costs where it is least apparent.

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