

## TEACHING FOREIGN PRISONERS TO READ

### Some Amusing Examples of Their Efforts at Stateville Penitentiary Given

Roll call at the Stateville prison school, brings together the strangest groups of primary grade pupils ever assembled in the state. Adult prisoners, some of them in middle life are assembled to learn their A.B.C.'s for the first time.

A visitor, entered room two of the prison school recently, as the teacher, an educated convict, was completing his morning roll call:

#### Answer Roll Call.

"Sixteen forty-five," called the teacher. "Yee W," piped an intelligent-eyed Chinese from Kwang Tung. "Twenty-two thirty," "Jesus G." chanted a heavy faced peon from Chihuahua.

"Thirteen twenty-seven." "Abram M." replied a slender, curly-haired youth from Armenia.

"All present now for the reading lesson," announced the teacher. "Turn to page fifteen in your readers."

"Pete J., will you start the lesson?"

Pete, a blond Russian from the Volga, rose, blushed and swallowed. His jaw muscles performed an evolution as he conquered his diffidence.

"Oh, see the warm doughnut. Step on it." Pete was striving patiently to show that he had mastered his lesson.

"A little mistake, Pete," the teacher spoke kindly. "Those two sentences, read, 'Oh see the worm! Do not step on it.'"

#### Pete Reads

Pete is a newcomer and, like others, is trying hard. Like many of the white pupils, he is of foreign birth, and has had no education before coming to prison. Few sons of American-born parents are attending the school, except the large group of negro pupils from the Southern states. The pupils are divided into two groups. Each spends a half-day at school and the other half at work. In the first grade, room one, there is a sub-class composed of men learning the sounds of letters of the alphabet and to associate the sounds with the letters. They receive individual attention until fitted to take their places with the main group of room one. There, they obtain rudimentary training in reading, writing and arithmetic.

#### May Carry On

Completing their studies in the classes, the prisoners are sufficiently

grounded to carry on alone in their cells if they desire.

As a means of improving the caliber of citizenship that Illinois restores its wards upon completion of their terms in penal institutions, Governor Louis L. Emmerson established the prison schools, primarily to eliminate illiteracy. Beyond their efforts to master "the three R's," the convict students may take up the rudiments of American history, civics, language and hygiene. Until these subjects have been mastered, prisoners are considered ineligible for parole.

## Military Tournament Is Great Success; Notable Spectacle Draws Crowds

In the presence of large and enthusiastic crowds, the Army Military Tournament and Exposition staged at Soldier Field, Chicago last week, under the auspices of the Sixth Corps Area, was acclaimed on all sides as the most successful and spectacular exhibition ever seen in this country. The vast assemblages which greeted each performance were loud and long in their praises and applause. More than two hundred officers and over a thousand enlisted men, participated in the great show, which included in addition to the exposition side showing millions of dollars worth of the very latest army equipment and material, the straight military side, or tournament, involving fifty officers, six hundred men, three hundred horses, a hundred airplanes, a dirigible, a blimp, three armored cars, a three-inch anti-aircraft gun, four anti-aircraft searchlights, a tank, and machine guns, artillery, and cavalry.

## Illinois Is Now Third Insurance State, Claim

Addressing the Chicago Life Insurance Lawyers' club recently, Director Leo H. Lowe, of the state department of trade and commerce, asserted that Illinois is the third largest insurance state in the country.

The amount of premiums collected by companies operating in this state totaled more than \$130,000,000 last year, Director Lowe said. "Over six millions of dollars come in to this department annually from the various sources," declared Mr. Lowe, "the principal item of revenue, of course, being the privilege tax."

The worst thing about this divorce wave is the trouble genealogists will have 100 years from now.—Geneva Daily Times.

## Holy Cross Church to Hold Carnival July 10-12

Plans are completed and everything is set for the carnival to be given under auspices of the Holy Cross church in Jewett Park Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, July 10, 11 and 12.

All the carnival attractions will be on hand, amusement and entertainment galore, the committee promises. Bring the children and give them a ride on the ferris wheel and merry-go-round, which will be a real treat.

Booths of new designs, beautiful lamps, dolls and children's prizes, lovely blankets which you will want when you see them, attractive sets of dishes, leather goods of all kinds, electric appliances, groceries, or a ham or bacon are a few of the things to be offered.

At the refreshment booth you will find cool refreshing drinks of all kinds as well as home made pies and cakes, sandwiches and coffee. In planning your outing next week be sure to include a visit to this carnival the committee urges.

## Altar and Rosary Society Meets Friday Night

The Altar and Rosary society of the Holy Cross Catholic church held their regular meeting on last Friday evening in the parish hall.

During the business session plans discussed and arrangements made for registration and refreshment booths at the carnival to be held July 10-12, of which the ladies will have charge. Refreshments were served by hostesses Mmes. Coleman and Garrity during the social hour.

A special meeting of officers and chairmen was held Monday evening.

## Deerfield Man Wins Marksmanship Title

Bob Pettis, president of the Deerfield Gun club achieved high honors in the Great Western Championship shoot at Lincoln park, last Saturday afternoon, when he won first place among numerous marksmen. He broke 192 birds out of a possible 200, which is mighty good shooting, and his friends are congratulating him on winning the championship.

## Noted Russian Choir Coming to Deerpath

One of the finest musical treats ever offered on the North Shore, it is declared, is the appearance at the Deerpath theatre, Lake Forest, on Sunday, July 20, of world famous Agrenea-Slaviansky Russian choir which has created a furor in musical circles in both Europe and America. This famous group of Russian singers and dancers will be an additional attraction, and on the same day and on the Monday evening following the talking picture feature will be "The Rogue Song," with Lawrence Tibbets. This promises to be one of the most pleasing and successful programs ever offered in this section. The Slaviansky choir has the distinction of having sung before more royalty than any other musical organization. They are en route to New York where they make their metropolitan debut at Steinway hall this month.

## W. D. MESSENGER DIES; FUNERAL SATURDAY

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ton where he was in charge of the emplacement of the famous siege gun, "The Swamp Angel." He was obliged to resign in 1864 because of ill health and soon afterwards, in 1865, came to Chicago.

#### Engaged in Banking

From that year until 1870 he was engaged in banking, first as a clerk and then with his own private bank. At the time of the fire he had established himself in the wholesale paper business and was burned out in that disaster. Immediately afterwards he re-organized and founded the paper company which bears his name to this day. He was a pioneer paper wholesaler of Chicago and at the time of his retirement from business in 1930 the oldest in active service. During these years of business life he gained a very wide acquaintance and a high reputation in business circles, being recognized as one of the men who helped to create the new Chicago, after the catastrophe of 1871. One interesting fact, probably growing out of his Civil war experience, deserves mention. After the Haymarket riots in 1885 some public-spirited Chicago citizen purchased and presented to the Government for military purposes the land now occupied by Fort Sheridan. Mr. Messenger was a member of that group.

#### Active in Church Work

Connected as he was throughout his mature life with various organizations and always an active member of the Loyal Legion Mr. Messenger found his chief interest, outside his home, in the Presbyterian church. For more than 36 years in Chicago he was actively connected with the Third Presbyterian church, serving for most of that time as an elder. During that period that church was one of the most prominent in the denomination. From 1903 until his death he was an elder of the Highland Park Presbyterian church and after retiring from business gave much time to the Presbyterian Home now located in Evanston, serving actively on the building and house committees of the board of trustees.

#### Family History

In 1870 Mr. Messenger married Miss Ella J. McCulloch, of Fremont, Ohio. Four children were born to them, Ralph Dorrance and Hubert McCulloch, both deceased, and Edwin D. and Mrs. Edmund H. Eitel, both of Highland Park. In 1897 the family moved to Highland Park and for the last 30 years Mr. Messenger had lived in his home on Prospect avenue. Mrs. Messenger passed away in 1919.

#### Funeral

The service was held at the Highland Park Presbyterian church on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. The Dumaresq Spencer Post of the American Legion, attended and the elders of the church acted as honorary pallbearers. The interment was at Lake Forest. To the members of the family who remain the community offers its sympathy in the passing of one who stood consistently for the highest things in patriotism, citizenship and the Christian faith.

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