

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1923.

THE PASSING OF THE SCHOLAR

The number of students at Princeton who have elected Greek as a part of the college course is ten per cent. less than the number enrolled in those classes last year. At Columbia college only seventy of the Freshman class have elected Greek. Furthermore the report is that the voluntary pursuit of the study of Latin is almost unheard of. The classics are not in the lists of the popular courses, and those who fear for the complete dying out of the old-fashioned scholar have very real reason to feel disturbed.

Scholarship does not pay in this day and age. The only sort of learning that commands the respect of the community is that which makes a man or a woman an expert in the line of work which he or she has followed. Education that develops authority still commands a price. But the education that used to be the prized possession of the person who had enjoyed the advantage of four years of college is no longer worth the time that it takes to acquire it. Communities do not look upon their scholars with pride. The world of money has no place for them. Social distinction no longer rewards them. There is no reason for the pursuit of Greek and Latin that can appeal to the imagination of the undergraduate. Education no longer leads out to wider fields. It leads up to a realm of particular achievement in some particular branch of science or some particular profession. Whatever does not add to the fullness of knowledge of the particular subject is undesirable.

It will be a pity to lose the scholar. It is a gain to have the expert and specialist. Who shall say whether the gain is greater than the loss?

OH, FOR A JUDGE!

In days long gone "God raised up judges to rule over Israel." From the most unlikely quarter came the leader who directed the fortunes of the people through the crisis.

A faith in miracles alone can hearten the American people as they see their government obstructed and progress blocked, all because there is no great leader to guide the bodies which hold the welfare of the nation in their hands.

The vision of a Congress slowly talking itself to death is not an inspiring one for a great nation. The prospect of another following in the exact footsteps gives us no hope. The complacency of a people that permits its business to be so conducted inspires no trust that things will be better in the future. How long shall we be able to stand stork-still?

TELEPHONE FACTS

Ten years ago the limits of telephone transmission were about 1,200 to 1,500 miles in open wires. Today, practically all parts of the United States may be placed in communication with each other over distances of 4,000 miles and upward.

Telephone service in Japan costs \$500 for the installation of the instrument and a government tax of \$40. The government owns the system.

THE WISDOM OF INEXPERIENCE

Mussolini is a newcomer in the lists of the diplomats. That is perhaps the reason he dares to call a spade a spade and to say what he thinks, as well as to think what he says. He has not learned the ways of the Circumlocution office. He does not see the usefulness of red tape nor appreciate the love of the people of being fooled. He cares not for the popularity that cannot endure the truth. He is not a professional statesman. He has not been trained in the courts of the world.

Mussolini hopes "that the Turk will accept our Lausanne terms. If not, there will be war," he says. War is not a favorite word with the people of any European country just now. They have had enough of it. They are not eager to put more into the business of killing than they have already done. They prefer their statesmen to talk as if war were a thing impossible, whether it is or not.

It is only because the new leader of the Italians is untrained in the ways of statescraft that he has the courage to say what he thinks. It is a very great asset to the Italian people and to the world in general to have such an example of honest expression of opinion on a subject of such importance. The world needs more men who are not afraid of facts nor of their own voices stating them.

ARBUCKLE'S RETURN

Arbuckle is to be reinstated in the movies. It is a Christmas gift from the director general of the motion picture industry to the once favorite comedian. It is a gift of doubtful value to the general public.

So much scandal was spoken during the trial of the actor that it is impossible to say how the public

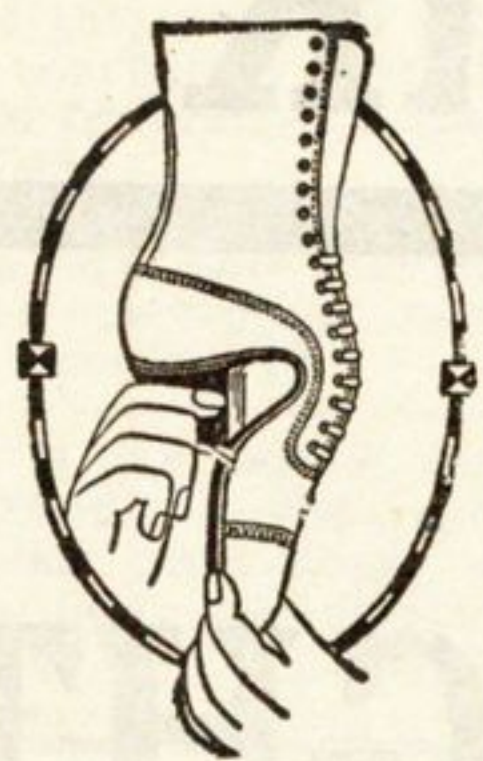
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will react to the generosity of the movie chief. Perhaps it will develop that the prestige of the comedian has been increased by the advertising that he received during the progress of the trial. Perhaps there has already been so much to fill the demand of the public for sensational reading that the incidents of the Arbuckle trial have been forgotten and the former screen favorite will be welcomed as if nothing had happened to cast a shadow over his fame.

Just what will be the public reception of the new Arbuckle films Mr. Hays would perhaps give a good deal to know. He is banking on the short memory of the American people and the general apathy towards such questions as the effect of the appearance of men and women upon the stage concerning whose private life there is disapproval.

THE NEW CHAPTER IN HISTORY

The history that is being made today in the financial policies of the United States will show a remarkable service that has been rendered the nation by one of her citizens who is possessed of an exceptional capacity for organization and a willingness to lend that capacity for a time to his country. The work that has been done by General Dawes in the development of the budget system for the national expenditure and his more recent contribution of the statement of the conditions that exist in the Post Office department will show in history as the beginning of a new

policy, a policy that has for its basis the expenditure of the money contributed by the public through taxes for purposes of the government, without a levy for the personal political needs of the men who compose the government.

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