

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Winnetka Talk,
Gentlemen:

I should like to register my feeble protest at the continued fallacy of my country's actions toward Mexico. In my opinion, it is only my fellow countrymen's utter ignorance of true conditions to the south of us that prevents public opinion forcing our government into proper action for the good of Mexico.

The writer spent two years in Mexico City and its environs some fifteen years ago and looked forward for years to taking his wife down through that very beautiful country. This dream came true this winter, and, the fact that the dream was changed to a night-mare, prompts this letter.

It is common knowledge in Mexico City, and throughout Mexico, that Obregon's platform before he became president, was that he would hang all foreigners to lamp posts, and it is also common knowledge that his side partner, Calles, is worse than Obregon ever was at his worst. Knowing this, you may imagine the feelings of your fellow Americans and other foreigners, in Mexico, at the proclamation that our government is selling the above pair ammunition and guns to enable the so-called "Federal Government" to put down the revolutionists, headed by their one hope, which de la Huerta seems to be at the present time.

My wife and I went into Mexico via Laredo in December and were unfortunate and fortunate enough to get out of Mexico via Laredo just one week later, after having planned to spend a month in Mexico City itself. We encountered our first trouble in San Luis Potosi, where we were urged by our American Consul there to leave Mexico at once. As our baggage had gone through to Mexico City, we continued on to the capital, where we were also urged by the consulate to depart in a hurry, and did so two days later.

Just so long as the United States continues permitting Mexican grafters to pillage and intimidate their own people and others, just so long will conditions remain the same in Mexico. The writer only trusts that some day a near-Roosevelt will come along, and if necessary, take that wonderful country over until it learns to function properly.

Very truly yours,
E. D. BRADSTREET.

Editor Winnetka Talk.

Dear Sir:
Accompanying is a copy of a letter directed by me to Mr. Ballard, president of the Winnetka Board of Education, relative to a matter which, I believe, should be seriously considered by readers of Winnetka Talk.

Mr. E. Ballard,
President, Winnetka Board of Education.

Dear Sir:
I am in receipt of Mr. Washburne's letter advising the dosing of the Winnetka school children.

Don't you think that instead of the Winnetka Board of Education establishing the precedent of administering patent medicines to the school children, it would be wiser for a committee to investigate the matter?

If an intelligent, unbiased committee studies the matter scientifically, they will find that sufficient iodine is present for every child's needs in the natural foods, such as whole wheat bread, cooked fresh vegetables and fruits, fresh fruits and some raw vegetables (lettuce, celery, endive or cabbage).

I am not a Christian Scientist, only a "common sensitist," and am sure if the Board of Education would start a campaign against the devitalized white bread and for whole wheat bread with all its vital elements, they would accomplish more good than by educating the children to the use of patent medicines.

Thanking you for your kind attention, I am

Respectfully,
MRS. R. T. BRACKETT,
255 Ridge Avenue,
Winnetka.

P. S. Because I think this is a matter to be seriously considered, I am sending a copy of my letter to the Winnetka Talk.

THE SUBWAY QUESTION

Winnetka Talk,
Winnetka, Illinois.

I note your editorial inquiry in the issue of January 5th, stating as follows: "What do you think about the advisability of closing the Willow Street Subway?"

It is probably unnecessary to recall the arguments either against or for the

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Talks About Our Winnetka Schools

By CARLETON W. WASHBURNE,
Superintendent, Winnetka Public Schools.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

There is no phase of elementary school work in which the Winnetka Public schools have made so great a contribution to the science of education as in the field of history and geography. Yet we are far from having come to any final conclusion as to materials or methods of instruction in these important subjects.

The functions of history and geography teaching include, among other things, familiarity with those facts to which allusion is frequently made. If a person does not know whether Paris is a city, a mountain, or a river, he cannot read or converse intelligently with people who assume that he has this knowledge. If a person does not know whether Abraham Lincoln was a Roman general, the discoverer of America, or a Hindu idol, that person is clearly not reasonably intelligent concerning facts possessed by most people.

In such instances as those just cited, it is perfectly obvious that the schools should impart knowledge to the children. But how about the host of facts that are on the border line? Should every child know what Antietam is and where? Is Shenandoah a name that should be familiar to every school boy? How about Mecca, Confucius, and Lao Tse?

Writers of history and geography text books have simply guessed in the past as to which were the most important persons and places, and which the least important. Importance may be determined, of course, in

closing of that Subway, as it will occur to you and every other person interested that there are some advantages in either arrangement.

Just as an expression of my personal opinion, I would very much regret to see that Subway closed. A careless person speeding through the Subway, or past the Subway might cause a personal injury and property damage, but an automobile stalled in the Subway is not liable to lead to serious consequences; whereas the most cautious driver might, if inexperienced, stall his automobile on the grade crossing and cause injury and damage. If possible, I always use the Subway in going from one side of the tracks to the other, and have advised my family to do so, and noted with much satisfaction that the school busses, running from the southeast section of the village to the Skokie school, use that route. It is the one means of getting from one side of the tracks to the other without crossing the tracks, and unless there are reasons more convincing than I have yet heard, I would sincerely regret seeing this Subway closed.

Very truly yours,
William F. Babcock.

Winnetka Again Helps Glencoe Put Out Fire

The Winnetka Fire department went to the assistance of the Glencoe department for the second time within two weeks, when they responded on Sunday, January 6, to a call to the Baker garage at Railroad avenue and Adams street. The garage was badly damaged by the flames.

The department responded to an alarm from the Harold Zeiss residence at 461 Maple avenue on Monday where a chimney fire threatened considerable damage.

Vagabond Orchestra Plays at Annual Firemen's Ball

Tickets are selling with encouraging rapidity and all details have been arranged for the annual Winnetka Firemen's Ball to be held at Community House on the evening of Saturday, January 26.

Dance enthusiasts of the community will be pleased to learn that the widely known eight-piece Vagabond orchestra is to provide the music for this frolic. Proceeds will be directed into the Firemen's benefit fund.

several ways. But certainly one element in importance is the frequency with which people refer to that person and place in their conversation and writing.

As has been stated in other articles in the Weekly Talk, a group of Winnetka teachers spent over two years culling through nearly 300 newspapers and magazines dated from 1905 to 1922, and listing every name of a person, place, or event that occurred. Over 70,000 occurrences of this sort were listed. Then with the help of the Commonwealth Fund in New York the whole was tabulated, and it became possible to know with considerable accuracy which persons, places, and events were most necessary to an understanding of current literature.

This list has been made the basis of a fact course in history and geography in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. It is supplemented by a course that will be described next week.

The fact course combines history and geography under a single head. When we are describing the Norman Conquest of England, we discuss at the same time, the geography of Normandy and the geography of England. When the Pilgrims settle in America, the geography of the land they are settling is studied as a clew to the hardships and life of this settlement.

A careful statistical record is kept of what portions of the course, as at present taught, are learned by the children and what portions seem to go over their heads. The whole course is revised in the light of these data.

The map knowledge of the children who have had this course is surprisingly accurate. The children have a grasp of world events and of the world background of American history that is greater than the background of many of their parents. In fact, a number of parents have borrowed copies of our history-geography course to read at home.

The findings of the Winnetka teachers and the course of study prepared by them have been reported in the Year Book of the National Society for the Study of Education, the Journal of Educational Research, and the Elementary School Journal. In an article to appear shortly in Collier's Weekly there is also a brief description of this investigation.

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Audit of Village Finance on File at Village Hall

The audit of the books and accounts of the Village of Winnetka for the six-month period ending September 20, 1923, by Wolf and company of Chicago, has been placed in the hands of the Finance committee of the Village council.

An additional copy of the report has been placed on file in the offices of the Village manager at the Village hall, where it may be seen by anyone interested in the matter. Manager Woolhiser also states that he will be glad to explain questions relating to the Village finances. The report is too detailed to be published it is explained.

The annual report of the Village government, now being prepared, will give a complete account of the finances.

Sample Light Standard Placed on Display Here

A sample of the ornamental street lighting unit tentatively selected by the Water and Light committee of the Village council and the Street Light-

ing committee of the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce, for the local business districts, has been erected at Elm and Linden streets for general inspection.

Definite action on the selection of a standard is to be taken by the Village Board of Local Improvements at its regular session Tuesday evening, January 15.

An ornamental electric street lighting system is planned for both the Elm street and Hubbard Woods commercial areas, the business men of both sections having expressed favor of the plans several months ago.

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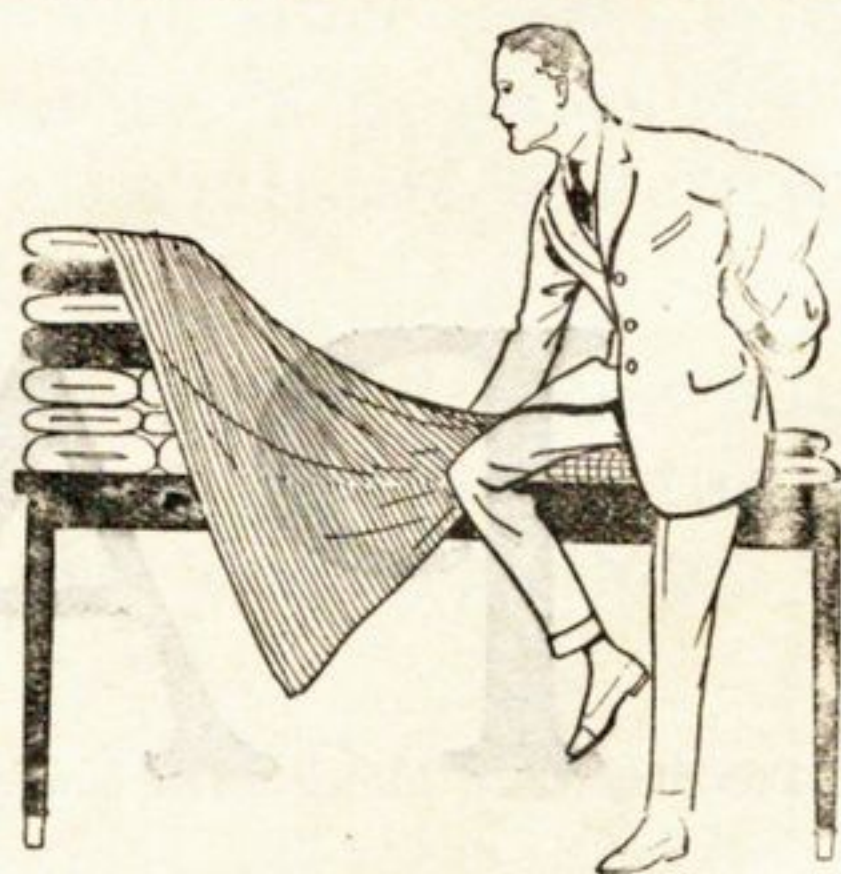


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