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SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1925

Depress the Tracks. Give the Business Men Fair Play. Build a New Village Hall. Enforce the Traffic Laws. Build the Truck Road

GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS

George Wheeler Hinman, discussing in his column in the Daily Herald and Examiner the advisability of participation by the national government in the nation's business, says:

"President Coolidge has told the country a dozen times within a year that the government might better stay out of business, leave business in private hands and restrict itself to the occupation of governing.

"Why all these statements against the government in business? Because sober American statesmen fear that in the future, as in the past, any business that the government undertakes will be managed as a political venture according to political practice, and not as a business enterprise according to business principles.

"What does this mean? An example is at hand.

"A few days ago a member of the United States Shipping Board gave as a reason for getting rid of the United States merchant fleet that the public seemed to want, to say, go ahead and sell.

"The public wants these ships transferred to private ownership as soon as possible. Hence pressure to unload the ships on almost any terms. That was the idea.

"In other words, when the government is in business, the government should hold its ear to the ground, listen to what some of the people may say about the business, and should proceed then to guess what all the people want, and do it.

"Now, this theory of doing business is the death of any business that a government undertakes. Governments in Europe have made business successes, but never a one on any such theory as this.

"The whole suggestion is crazy. It is far crazier than would be the suggestion that the officers of a bank lend money in obedience to the whims or prejudices or preferences of the stockholders and employes from day to day. It is the democratizing of business gone mad. It would be the ruin of any private business. It must be the ruin of any government business."

THE KINDERGARTEN

"It is the kindergarten that must reconstruct the educational program of the whole world. It is the finest thing in our educational system."

These two statements were made by Professor Edwin Starbuck of the University of Iowa in a speech at the ground breaking ceremonies on the new north shore campus of the National Kindergarten and Elementary College. It is significant that a university professor should have made such strong statements regarding the high calling of the kindergarten and regarding its high standing in the educational system.

The statements are also remarkable for what they did not say. Other candidates for the supreme position accorded the kindergarten by Dr. Starbuck were the primary school, the

high school, the college, and the graduate school. Anyone of these might have considered itself pre-eminent in the educational field. The primary school, especially, has made much progress in methods of teaching and richness of curriculum. Within the other three schools, however, almost no notable advances have been made for a considerable stretch of time. If improvements had been made in the college, Dr. Starbuck, a college teacher, would not have called the kindergarten "the finest thing in our educational system."

What we want to know is why the other schools do not study the ways of the kindergarten and reform themselves? What excellent methods does the pre-grammar school use that puts it in the forefront of the educational agencies? We ourselves believe that the schools not praised by Dr. Starbuck should pay especial attention to the emphasis laid in the kindergarten upon the needs and interests of the individual pupils. They pay altogether too much attention to the subject taught and altogether too little to the pupils themselves.

The National Kindergarten College is in need of money. Why not contribute to that institution which is one of the foremost of those that "must reconstruct the educational program of the whole world?"

DEGREES

Experts graduate thermometer tubes and students by giving them certain degrees. The degrees given to the tube are marked upon it in black or red, and range from 40 or so below zero to 100 or so above. The degrees given to the student are bestowed upon him in a less material way and range from Bachelor of Kindergarten to Doctor of Philosophy.

So it is incorrect to speak of a student as "graduating." Speak of him rather as "being graduated." In fact there is no real sense in saying that somebody "graduated." He could only "BE graduated." Another person does the graduating to the student, marks him with a certain degree.

To repeat, experts (supposed to be) measure thermometer tubes with certain predetermined scales and according to certain standards and mark the tubes with certain degrees. Experts treat in the same fashion young human beings who have completed prescribed courses. These young humans who have been thus graduated don't know what's been done to them any more than the glass tubes know what's been done to them.

In June great herds of these "graduated" individuals, branded "A.B.," or "Ph.D.," or what not, are let loose from the corrals to forage wherever they will. If those of us who have been thus "graduated" will remember that all these brands are labels rather than honors, it will be to the greater benefit of others and ourselves.

171!

The daily paper tells us of a couple in Minnesota, who recently celebrated their diamond wedding. Married in 1850, they had lived as man and wife for 75 years. He, John Schenck, farmer, was 96 years old; his young wife was only 94.

Mr. and Mrs. Schenck now have 12 children, all living; 61 grandchildren—marvel at that, you who have only one grandchild!—; 96 great-grandchildren—a world's record, we believe. A family with a gross-grand total of 171 members. Think of setting the table for 171 human beings, to say little of providing food for their Thanksgiving re-union!

We have figured out that if these 96 great grand-children marry and do as well as Mr. and Mrs. Schenck there will be on earth in 2025 about 5000 Schenck descendants. And if each of the 20 odd million couples in the U. S.—but our imagination is staggered by the colossal possibilities.

THIS AND THAT

Until We Find a Title

RECOMPENSE

The Poet was bemoaning fate And chiefly his financial state.

"What funny things these Poets!" Then The Robin carolled to the wren:—"I heard this fellow groan and whine Because they paid ten cents a line For something he called superfine. If his stuff's worth ten cents a line They ought to dig my worms for me And bring me cherries from the tree All day my melody flows free!"

Then Jennie gave this sage reproof Broadcasting from her cottage roof:—"Never mind Poets, Robin dear, Their music and their ways are queer. Free verse or meter, cadence, rhyme:— This is their fool talk all the time. One bug a line would be big pay For anything I've heard them say. I sing for the sweet joy that's in it And I'll just warble every minute If nobody ever listens to me As long as they give me my house rent free!"

If only the Poet would sing like a bird And not give a hang if nobody heard! —BARDOFF.

T. R. C.

I am sending you some lines which are certainly not high brow and have no antique words for the proof reader to murder. In fact they are so rotten I don't think anything you can do will make them worse. They are not poetry at all but doggerel.

—BARDOFF.

We deserve the above bit of a reproof, for in two recent poems of Bardoff's we erred. And we needs must make correction and ask pardon. In "My Heritage" we mistook the word "pleasances" for the more modern word "pleasures" which has an entirely different meaning. Thus, the lines should have read: "My Father did not wait till he was old To give me rare pleasures and much gold."

And in "Old Thunder Pumper" we made of "the messy bog" "the old marshy bog." We are sorry. We, not the pore ole proof reader, are to blame. And, inasmuch as the ole proof reader is blamed for practically everything that happens in this here office we are glad to take the blame off his drooping shoulders.

The moral, dear contribs, is "Type-write your contribs" and they will have about 100 per cent better chance of getting into this column as you write them.

WE'VE EVER FOUND IT THUS!

Infatuation Is like the sands Ever changing—ever shifting Great as a sand dune Its majesty changes in the night And is gone by dawn So is infatuation Fickle —EMPRESS MARGRET.

We Ask Yuh, Janey, Is This Nice?

Dear T. R. C.: Why all the silence on Medea's part as to what she did at that wonderful place of hers? But then, she is awfully shy about her own affairs, isn't she?

I give one guess to explain what she did. Bet she made a sock full of money at a refreshment stand, doling out stale baloney, applesauce, banana oil, etc. at half price.

Yours sincerely, —JANEY TOUGH.

Cum'on! Up and at her! Atta girl, Medea! Show that Tough gal where at she alights from!

THE PLURAL MARIE

(Seen on our own Movie Page) "Kiss Me Again" is the third picture that Mr. Lubitsch has made for Warner Bros., and this is the third time that he has featured Marie Prevost, who in his opinion, are three of the finest artists on the screen.

Some girl! Some artists! Marie are!

IT'S WORSE 'N WAR!

Speakin' of graduation, we passed through it this last week—we sweated, perspired—no, we did not glow, by no means—up on the platform in ole Pat and Jim last Monday. Gosh how we hated to do it, but last year we was too interested in the lovely June climate over in Michigan to be bothered with gittin our stiff-ticket—but we had to come around this year and go through with it.

War, even gittin married, couldn't be much worse than those endless hours of torture on a humid June day. But if, when we show the Boss our lovely sheepskin, he only gives us even a wee bit of a raise, it'll be worth while. But we doubt it, more likely he'll throw us out of his office if we go in to show it to him. That's the way they regard degrees and suchlike in newspaper offices, as a rule.

Well, it's all over now and we'll be all right as soon as we get our eye sight back where our pretty white tassel got mixed up with our left eye. —T. R. C.

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