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## OUR SCHOOLS

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**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?** Who is responsible for our ill-equipped high schools, with their short inefficient courses of study, their lack of teachers to do the work, and the relatively small number of pupils there? The answer is, the superintendents and principals, the people, and the colleges.

The superintendents and principals are rightly looked to by the people for leadership in building up the high schools. They are largely responsible for the educational ideas of their communities, and the attitude of the people toward high schools. If the course of study is overcrowded with subjects or is scrappy in its material, they alone are responsible. Many a high school without a map, a chart, a globe, or any other necessary apparatus, might have at least a few such things bought with the money spent on so-called commencements, baccalaureate addresses, invitations, programs, rule books, etc. Moreover, many a boy and many a girl not in the high school would be, if they had only a few encouraging words spoken to them. It is to be feared that the public high school teacher is not always mindful of the pupils who are out of school but ought to be in school. Finally, many a high school is running in a rut, because the principal is running in one.

The people are emphatically to blame for not supporting their high schools. They put neither their money nor their children in them. Throughout the State, in places easily pointed out, are high schools scarcely worthy of the name, but which might be made within five years to rank high, if the people in those places were only willing to use a little common sense business sagacity. Why a sensible man will refuse to help his home school by patronizing it, but instead will help to maintain one away from home by sending his children there, is one of the strange things in life. He gets no better advantages for his own children, and refuses to help his neighbor at home who is unable to send his children from home. Hence the home high school lags. It costs today \$250 to send a pupil a year to school away from home. Why will four men thoroughly familiar with the laws of business co-operation take their sons and daughters from their own high school, to send them away at an expense of \$1,000 a year? Why will they not put even half that money in the home school, thereby keeping their money and their children at home, and at the same time when the children need parental attention?

Anderson, one of the four places last year with a four-year public high school, has had to abandon its 11th grade, although 12 of her last year's 10th grade are off at college. Five from the 10th grade and seven from the 8th grade are at college! These 24 pupils are costing the people of Anderson \$6,000 this year; this year Anderson is paying her entire high school teaching force less than \$4,000.

Ninety-Six added the 11th grade this year, kept 5 pupils out of last year's 10th grade, sent 9 out of the same grade to college, and pays two high school teachers this year \$1,250. These nine pupils, with one from the 9th grade, at college, will this year cost the people of that town more than they are spending on their entire school from the first grade up.

The people of Pendleton, Seneca, Union, Woodruff and numbers of other places are impoverishing their high schools in the same way. What is the trouble? The people are still blinded by that fundamental error—that the function of the high school is to prepare students for college. Nine-tenths of the pupils who finish the 7th grade never see the doors of a college. True, in addition to the subjects necessary to college entrance we have added to the traditional course a large number of side-dishes, so to speak. These side-dishes are nothing but relishes, to be tasted occasionally. The people and the principals have put no meaty courses parallel to that single one which leads straight to the college door. The people by their own short-sightedness

and unwillingness to learn stand and see their own strong and sturdy sons step out of the school room at the end of the 8th grade, because these sons have found that their parents and teachers have put nothing in the high school except nourishment for the college candidate.

Is the reader beginning to see wherein the colleges are responsible for the unsatisfactory high school conditions? Every college in South Carolina, State, denominational, and private, is doing high school work in its college courses. This statement needs no proof; the high schools are not doing the work, and it must be done in the colleges, if done at all. Formerly, and not so long ago, the colleges were all but helpless in this matter—they had to take the raw unprepared material or close their doors against deserving boys and girls unable to get the proper preparation. I have already argued that the high schools are not yet ready to furnish properly prepared students to the colleges. The lines of demarcation between high school territory and college territory can not be definitely fixed, yet with respect to the age of the pupil and to a majority of the subjects of study involved there is already considerable unity of opinion. Taking into careful consideration the actual conditions which exist, let the college set a reasonable number of high school units (not grammar school units) as the minimum required for entrance. A standard three-year high school ought to do 12 units of work. Since most of our high schools are three-year schools, that standard ought not to be unreasonable. (A standard of years cannot be set up; every one knows that the tenth grade is not definite as to what is accomplished; besides, some schools run nine months, some eight, and a few only seven.)

First, let each college make its entrance requirements definite—let its standard be high or low, as it chooses, but let it be definite. Second, let the college live up to its published claim. Colleges cannot be uniform in standards, perhaps there is no need for such uniformity, but all can be honest in these standards. After all, it is a question of morals, and if a college should stand for anything it should stand for unswerving rectitude. It is just as reprehensible for a college as a body corporate to advertise one standard and act on another, as it would be for one of its professors to promise one thing and do another. The popular mind has come to look upon the published entrance requirements of colleges as fakes. With a college catalogue before you giving its entrance requirements in English, Mathematics, Latin and History, at a standard which the average school of ten grades is failing to reach, and you know it, your mind is likely to be disturbed when you know that the same college is taking pupils from 9th grades, and occasionally from 8th grades.

What are the facts? With fully twenty high schools yet to hear from, I have the names of 154 pupils who have entered college this session from 9th grades, and 36 pupils from 8th grades. These students reported as entering the preparatory department of a college, were of course not included. Every college in the State, and several outside, are reported as sharing the spoils. It is hard to reconcile these cold facts with the constant wail of the colleges for better prepared students, and with the perennial announcements about having raised standards. If a college after ten or twelve years of standard-raising is canvassing for 9th grade pupils, and taking 8th grade ones, what must the standard have been when it began raising!

The evil genius which dominates our colleges is greed for numbers. Boards of trustees, faculties, and the people are all under the magic spell. There is no objection whatever to numbers in the colleges, if their presence is not bought with a price. The constant cry is, "Send us more students; make room for more students; look at the students being turned away from the college doors." The public mind in its hysterical moments fails to grasp the significance of the plainest facts. For instance, the college enrollment in South Carolina last year was more than one-third the high school enrollment. What is the significance of this fact? Again, Winthrop College had this year 1,047 applicants for admission. 520 were admitted; 527 were refused. President Johnson reports that fully 300 of

those refused were not prepared to enter Winthrop at all. Clemson had 1074 applications for admission. 728 were admitted; 246 were refused. President Mell reports that 206 applicants failed on account of examination. The other colleges have similar experiences. The cry should be for better high schools better patronized.

Concluded.

### Prominent Confederate Veteran Dead

Washington, Special.—Albert G. Holland, a member of the first company organized in Washington to fight for the Confederacy, died suddenly in this city Sunday. Mr. Holland took part in the first battle of Manassas, fought valiantly until captured and sent to Camp Chase, where he was released at the close of the war. He was a member of the firm of Copeland & Co., and it was said manufactured flags for the Federal government while it was his aim to destroy them during the war.

### Industrial Education to Be Promoted

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The second annual convention of the national society for the promotion of industrial education, the membership of which includes some of the most distinguished educators in the country, will be held in Atlanta Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. Exhibits from twenty-three industrial and technical schools of the country will be displayed in the State capital.

### Will Be Extra Session.

Washington, Special.—That a special session of the Sixty-first Congress will be called soon after the 4th of March to take up the matter of tariff revision, became positively known Sunday when William H. Taft President-elect, after spending the day at the White House as the guest of President Roosevelt, stated that he intended to call the special session to meet as soon after his inauguration as would be reasonable.

### Passenger Trains Collide.

Jacksonville, Special.—Passenger trains Nos. 39 and 10, of the Atlantic Coast Line, came together in a head-on collision near Camden, a small station about ten miles from this city Saturday morning, killing James A. King, of Sanford, Fla., and Alexander A. Bell, of Palatka, both negro mail clerks, and slightly injuring several others. A relief train was sent out from here and the dead and injured brought to Jacksonville. The trains, it is said, had orders to meet at Camden, but No. 39 ran by with the fatal results.

### Morris Haas a Suicide.

San Francisco, Special.—Morris Haas, who shot Francis J. Heney, committed suicide at the county jail by shooting himself through the head. One report says that the pistol with which Haas shot himself was concealed in his shoe where he hid it before shooting Heney. Another report says the pistol was secretly passed to Haas by a friend since his incarceration.

### Mr. and Mrs. Bryan to Visit Florida Fair.

Tampa, Fla., Special.—In a letter to President T. J. Brown, of the State Fair Association, William J. Bryan has accepted an invitation to visit Tampa during the fair. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan will arrive in Tampa the latter part of January, going to Cuba for a short visit and returning will spend at least a week in Tampa. Preparations are being made for Bryan day at the fair.

### Complaints of Cotton Rates.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Failing in its suit before the city court of Montgomery to force the Central of Georgia Railway to cease alleged discriminations against the people of Union Springs, Ala., in the cotton compress case the Alabama Railroad Commission has sent a complaint to the Interstate Commerce Commission against cotton rates in general. All railroads doing an interstate business in Alabama are made defendants in the complaint.

## THE CUBAN ELECTION

Gomez, Liberal Candidate, Elected President By Large Majority.

Havana, By Cable.—At the close of an election which was conducted with great enthusiasm and complete absence of disorder, it appears practically certain that General Jose Miguel Gomez and Alfredo Zayas have been chosen President and Vice President respectively of the new Cuban republic, with strong liberal majorities in the Senate and House. Throughout the island, according to the reports, an extraordinary heavy vote was cast, vastly in excess of that cast in the August election where 182,000 failed to vote in a total registration of 450,000. This was especially so in Havana City, where the vote probably will reach 66 per cent of the registration against 49 per cent in August. The heavy vote was due, not only to the prevalence of fine weather, but the strenuous efforts made to bring out the silent vote. The slow incoming of the returns is attributed partly to the heavy vote and partly to scratched ballots on Representatives. Incomplete official returns from the precinct of Havana indicated that the city was overwhelmingly Liberal. Few returns have been received from the provinces but estimates give the island to General Gomez by from 25,000 to 30,000. The Conservative leaders generally admit the defeat of their party.

### Negro Kills Eight.

Okmulgee, Okla., Special.—Eight persons were killed and ten others were wounded Sunday in a fight between James Deekard, a negro desperado and officers.

The dead.

Edgar Robinson, sheriff of Okmulgee county.

Henry Klaber, assistant chief of police of Okmulgee.

Two negroes named Chapman, brothers.

Three unidentified negroes.

The wounded:

Steve Grayson, Indian boy, probably fatally beaten Victor Farr, chief of Sioux, shot through shoulder; Deputy Sheriff, arm broken.

Seven others, slightly wounded.

### President-Elect Taft Invited to Spartanburg Banquet.

Spartanburg, S. C., Special.—President-elect Taft has been invited by the chamber of commerce to be the guest of Spartanburg upon the occasion of a banquet to be given November 20th, celebrating the building of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railroad to this city. A committee of citizens from the chamber of commerce, the city council and the board of trade will go to Hot Springs and extend the invitations. The banquet will be attended by the Governors of five States and the presidents of half a dozen railroad systems.

### Taft Renders Tribute.

New York, Special.—While cannon boomed, awakening patriotic memories of those sailor and soldier heroes who died in British prison ships in the revolutionary war, the prison ship martyrs monument at Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies Saturday in the presence of President-elect Taft, Secretary of War Wright, Governor Hughes and thousands of people who thronged the knoll on which the tall doric column stands. Mr. Taft made the oration of the occasion and after the ceremonies left for Washington, where he will meet President Roosevelt.

### Pushing Work on C. C. and O. Road.

Spartanburg, Special.—The contractors are pushing the work on the C. C. and O. Road. They are receiving steam shovels and all sorts of road machinery and the noise of the blasting is like the cannonading around Charleston in 1864, only it is not so constant and dangerous.

## CHINA IS AFFLICTED

Emperor and Empress Die On Same Day

### THE PEOPLE TAKE IT QUIETLY

Shortly After 5 O'Clock, Saturday, the Emperor Breathed His Last—Prince Chun, His Brother, Now Regent, May Be Accepted as Successor.

Pekin, China, By Cable.—The Emperor of China died shortly after 5 o'clock Saturday evening. As early as 3 o'clock in the afternoon, it was reported that the Emperor was so low that his death was regarded as imminent. The Foreign Board of the government has confirmed the report circulated Friday that the Dowager Empress is also mortally ill.

The Emperor had been ill for a long time and during recent audiences with foreign representatives he was unable either to sit up on the throne or even in an erect position. It was evident for a long time that he would be unable to withstand a crisis which sooner or later must develop in the disease from which he was suffering. Recent climatic extremes caused the development of fatal complications that resulted in his death.

At the moment of death the Emperor, the Dowager Empress' own death chamber chair was waiting in the courtyard. She, too, had been in a serious condition, and word that was brought her earlier in the day that the Emperor was dying, caused her to collapse. This has prevented her from assuming the relationship of grand mother to the successor to the throne, which, according to the Chinese system would enormously augment her authority.

There is little indication of emotion among the people over the events which have been transpiring. The Emperor's death and the probable death of the Dowager Empress within a very short time have had but little effect upon the Chinese, who are pursuing the even tenor of their way without signs of mourning.

Kuang-Hsu's later life was a pitiable spectacle to his attendants. His feebleness had rendered him a mere puppet and he had suffered long from ill health, which was combined with fear and despair. Lately he showed marked signs of mental disturbances, and even went so far last August as to declare himself mad.

The foregoing dispatch from Peking sets at rest the conflicting rumors of the past two days that have originated in Peking, and been published around the world. The Emperor of China is dead. The report from London of his improvement probably referred to a temporary condition only. The Peking message is the first unqualified statement to come from the Chinese capital and it specifically gives the time of the passing away of His Majesty.

The regent is Prince Chun, the Emperor's brother, and if he is accepted by the government before the Dowager Empress dies, the likelihood of any revolutionary outbreak in China will be materially reduced.

### Dowager Empress Dead.

Pekin, By Cable.—Tsze Hsi An, the Dowager Empress of China, the autocratic head of the government, which she directed without successful interference since 1861 and without protest since 1881, died at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The announcement of the Dowager Empress' death was official and followed closely upon the announcement that Kuang-Hsu, the Emperor, had died Saturday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but it is believed that the death of both the Emperor and the Dowager Empress occurred a considerable time before that set down in the official statements.

An edict issued at 8 o'clock Sunday morning placed upon the throne Prince Pu-Yi, the 3-year-old son of Prince Chun, the Regent of the Empire, in accordance with a promise given by the Dowager Empress soon after the marriage of Prince Chun in 1903. An edict issued on Friday made Pu-Yi heir presumptive.