

OUR SCHOOLS.

PAPER NO. 2.

BY PROF. WILLIAM H. HAND.

Beggars Salaries for Teachers. The services of a bank cashier, of a book-keeper, of a carpenter, and a school teacher have a market value. The market value of these services is based upon what the employer feels that the employee is worth to the business. What value have the people of South Carolina put upon the services of a white school teacher? Last year the State paid an average salary of \$267. a year, or \$45.87 a month for a little less than six school months in the year. This salary is lower even by the month than the wages of an experienced dry goods salesman or a competent stenographer. By the year, the salary of the teacher does not compare with that of the unskilled carpenter, or plasterer, or bricklayer. Almost every town of 2,000 people in the State pays, by the month, higher wages to its policemen than to its women school teachers. Men teachers are paid a little better, but beggars' salaries have run almost all the men out of the schoolroom.

"As will be seen by the various figures I have given, either men or women working in the cotton mills and exercising less patience are readily making more money than the average public school teacher," August Kohn, in *The Cotton Mills* of S. C.

Is it reasonable to expect the services of competent men at \$60 and \$70 a month, and competent women at \$55 and \$60 a month, for a few months in the year? The answer involves a very simple question in economics. It has cost either person from four to six years in time, and from \$800 to \$1500 in money, to prepare himself to teach. And if either is fitted to teach, his preparation fits him for something decidedly better peculiarity. If neither is fitted to make more than \$267 a year in some other vocation, he is on the high way to penury.

Why do our people pay no more for teaching? Is it due to poverty? There was a time when that explanation could have been given, but not so now. We have on every hand too many evidences of plenty and even luxury to accept any such excuses now. The real explanation is hard to admit. These salaries represent the valuation our people place upon education. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our people rate the education of their children when they employ teachers, somewhat as they rate their land when they visit the tax lister. Our people are well able to pay better salaries, and they will pay better salaries only after they have come to appreciate the value of better teachers and better schools. Many of the praises of good schools are mere lip-service.

Incompetent Teachers. To discuss this feature of our schools is very distasteful, but it must be done, and done fearlessly. Every well-informed person knows that our schools are burdened with a host of incompetent teachers, persons fitted neither by nature nor by training. Such teachers waste the money of the children, ruin the children themselves, and discredit teaching itself. They know nothing about what to teach, and even less about how to teach. Time and again I have sat in school-rooms watching the blind blunderings of teachers plodding through recitations without ever getting hold of a teaching fact or a teaching principle, until my very heart ached in sympathy for the children who had to endure it all. Yet I have gone out from just such scenes to be told with in three hours by some patron that in that school they had a fine teacher. The travesty of such teaching is bad enough, but when the patrons are pleased with it, it becomes pathetic. I can put my finger on the names of dozens of white school teachers who could not to-day pass an examination in the eighth grade in the Columbia city schools. Yet to these incompetents are entrusted the education of children, and the people are satisfied, and are paying to them the children's money.

I know teachers by name who go to their schoolrooms day after day without having studied a single lesson they are supposed to teach. Some of them do not own a single book that they are attempting to teach. How can such a teacher succeed? If he has in his mind nothing of the student, how can he expect to inspire a pupil with the zeal of the student? To such a teacher the name of Spencer and Arnold and Mann are but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. Some teachers and some patrons bank largely on the teacher's experience. Experience is an excellent thing when coupled with other qualifications, but when divorced from them, experience is to teaching precisely what it is to the practice of a medicine—it kills as often as it cures.

Scholarship, studiousness, training, and energy are all necessary to the highest success in teaching, but there is another qualification which far outweighs all these combined—manned! The personalty of the teacher is the first consideration. Is the teacher able to take hold of the life of a child and guide him upward to the limit of the child's capacity? Is the teacher's life worthy of being reflected in the life of every child he teaches? If not, he is incompetent. Will your teacher measure up to this standard?

Why are so many incompetent teachers employed? There are several reasons. The one most obvious is, that such teachers can be had cheap. Most people wish to keep open their schools a reasonable length of time, and the pitance in the school treasury will not employ a competent teacher for long. Hence, a plug as the horse-jockey would say, is put in charge of the school. Whenever a school board goes out to find a cheap teacher, it succeeds in getting a cheap one in every sense. If a man goes on the market with seventy-five cents with which to purchase a dollar article, he need not be surprised to get shoddy. A school board need not expect to get a \$750 teacher for \$267. Why will not a \$1,000 man teach school for \$500? Simplicity because he has never enough to teach school. To-day in South Carolina any competent man teacher of two years' experience can get a nine-months school at from \$10 to \$100 a month. School boards are adver-

BRYAN FACETIOUS

OINTED CRITICISM OF TAFT AND ROOSEVELT.

Many Things With Regard to Which Republicans Have Come to His Way of Thinking.

William J. Bryan left Lincoln, Neb., Tuesday for Chicago and thus began a three weeks' campaign tour, which will carry him into the middle West, the eastern states and back through the West into South Dakota before returning home.

Perhaps no recent news afforded the Democratic candidate for president so much interest as the announcement that Mr. Taft proposed making a campaign tour. Mr. Bryan regarded his opponent's decision as a distinct vindication of his course in the present, as well as his two previous campaigns, when he trekked over the country and delivered sixty speeches.

When asked if he had any comment to make on the subject, Mr. Bryan said:

"Well, I am getting a great deal of consolation out of the way the president and Mr. Taft have done. I used to be called hard names because I advocated an income tax and now the income tax has been endorsed by the president and Mr. Taft. I used to be bitterly denounced because I favored railroad regulation. Now the president and Mr. Taft have brought that reform into popularity and I am no longer considered dangerous. I used to get a good deal of criticism because I favored tariff reform, but now tariff reform has become so urgent that Mr. Taft is willing to have a special session called immediately after inauguration to act on the subject. It used to be that when I talked about independence for the Filipinos I was told the American flag never came down when it once went up. Now we have a Republican candidate for the presidency who believes the Filipinos must ultimately have independence.

"But I have reason to rejoice over the fact that some of the things I have done are now viewed in a more favorable light. When I made some phonograph records in order that I might discuss political questions before more people, the Republican papers ridiculed me and called it unscientific. But Mr. Taft has lifted the phonograph to eminence by talking into it himself.

"And now my greatest sin is to be a virtue by imitation. Surely imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. When I went out campaigning in 1896 and 1900 they said it was demagogic to run around over the country hunting for votes. Now it is eminently proper since Mr. Taft is going to do it, and I hope the Republican papers will make due apologies.

"They said in 1896 and 1900 that I was scared when I made speeches from the rear end of a train, and I was and the result showed that I had reasons to be. I have been wondering whether this explanation would be given when Mr. Taft starts out and whether the result will be the same with him that it was with me.

"It is hard for us to keep our patients from being infringed on this year. I am afraid they will try to raise a campaign fund by popular contributions next."

Aged Veteran Commits Suicide.

At Birmingham yesterday Robert Witte, an old veteran, shot himself.

After all, our bread doesn't fall "butter side down" more than half the time.

Those who think they have all religion are the ones who most need to worry whether they have any.

Lots of people let their daily manna spoil while they pray for butter and sugar to spread on it.

The abuse of worship as an end does not prevent its value as a help.

Better Prices Coming.

We believe that cotton will advance in price in a short time. The damage reports of the crop from all parts of the cotton belt indicate that the crop of 1908 cannot possibly reach figures which the trade is generally expecting. The probability of only a normal supply of raw cotton this season to meet the world's demand for the next twelve months, and fill the already depleted gaps in exhausted supplies, should not only tend to encourage farmers to stand for good prices, but should advance the price of cotton even in the face of "Bearish" manipulation. The effort of foreign spinners, backed by speculation, to depress the price of cotton to 8 cents within the thirty days, will fail. There is absolutely nothing upon which to base a demand for such low prices, except the selfish greed of those who might be personally benefited under such a contingency. We look for cotton to advance in price in the next few weeks.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean thinks that the Democratic party is showing a cohesive tendency that is disquieting.

So as to keep in the limelight Roosevelt had a report sent out that some one tried to shoot him a few days ago.

With certain well-defined qualifications, still, a man or woman may pass an excellent examination, but prove a dismal failure in the school-room. Such can be eliminated only through a responsible and competent supervisor. Until some such plan is adopted, we may make up our minds to having our schools filled with inferior teachers. Sept. Martin recommended last year a beginning in the direction of reform in these matters, and the General Assembly showed a commendable willingness to take some action, but failed to do so.

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AFTER IT IS PICKED.

FARMERS LOOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BY THE

Careless Handling of Their Cotton After It Is Gathered and Being Prepared for Market.

Every year cotton farmers worry themselves almost into nervous prostration over the matters of seed selection, excess of moisture, drought, "ring," army worms, rust, boll weevil and a dozen other ills to which the growing plant is subject. But when the staple has come to maturity and been harvested (in a more or less careless and wasteful manner), what do they do? This is the question propounded and unanswered by the Savannah News.

Beginning with the picking and running through to the final marketing there is a tremendous amount of waste, roughly estimated to amount to more than a million dollars per crop. The "clean" picker is the exception rather than the rule. The average picker, hustling to get out the greatest number of pounds in the shortest space of time, leaves many ripe bolls unplucked to take the weather and drops other open cotton upon the ground to be trampled and lost. In hauling to the gin-houses much more cotton is lost through careless handling. In ginning modern methods have made the losses inconsiderable, which is also true of bailing. But after the fleece is baled then follow the greatest and most inexcusable losses of all.

The farmer will watch his growing crop as carefully as he would a sick child, and then, after the cotton is ginned, permit it to be badly baled and rolled out into the open to take the sun and rain as they come. It is not an uncommon sight to see hundreds, even thousands, of bales of cotton "parked" in the open air at a shipping point, the bales ragged and unkempt, and without protection against water or fire; and the same sort of thing is true on a great many farms. The producer seems to labor under the impression that his duty to this crop ends when he has got it picked and baled. He will see the bales get soaked in a heavy rain without "turning a hair," or he will see the bales rolled through mud without entering a protest. But if he were to see a bug in his growing crop he would have a nervous chill.

Bad bailing inflicts a tremendous loss upon the cotton growers every year. It is unreasonable to suppose that spinners will pay as much for a bale that is dirty and wet and rotten on the outside as they will for a bale that is clean and dry. It is against the very common sense of things that they should do so. Indian cotton nearly always reaches the spinner in excellent condition, because great care is taken in the baling of it and the bales are always kept in good order. When the Indian bale is broken open at the mill there are no 10, 20 or 30 pounds to be thrown out as unfit for spinning, as is very often the case with American bales.

Efficient packing of cotton, of course, costs a little more than poor packing and there is some expense attached to the creation of sheds, but these added costs are, in the long run, real economies.

Kural Information.

The lost traveler accosted the freedkin lad astride the gate post.

"Sorry, how far is it from here to the next town as the crow flies?"

"Danno, master, I ain't no t'ink."

"Well, which is the best way to hit the pike?"

"Hit it any way you want, it ain't got no feeling."

"Tut, tut, my boy; don't be so frowns and tell me if I can make the next car."

"Hardly. It's already made."

The traveler frowned and removed the perspiration from his brow.

"You appear to be a pretty smart youngster."

"Not half as smart as my brother, master."

"Huh! What made him smart?"

"Why, he fell into a yellow jacket's nest."

Grandfather or Grandmother.

A brewer in Philadelphia says that one morning he observed an unusually expansive smile on the face of the jovial German who is foreman at the establishment. An interesting event had occurred at the home of the German the night before.

"I congratulate you, Hans," smilingly said the employer. "Of course the new arrival is a wonder."

"Of course it is," was the emphatic reply. "D's baby vays more und fifteen pounds!"

"Splendid! And it is a boy or a girl?"

"By golly!" he exclaimed in chagrin. "In der excitement I had forgot to get out wedder I was a granddadda or a grandmudder!"

Preparing to Get Even.

"Ye'se," he said, "I wish to adopt a girl."

"A little girl?"

"No, a girl old enough to have energy and perseverance and one who has had enough experience with the piano to make her think she knows how to play it. And if she thinks she can sing, why, so much the better. I tell you I am going to get even with the people in the next flat even if I have to adopt two musical prodigies."—Lippincott.

THE Galveston News thinks that "Another thing needed in this country is juries that will put the man behind the gun behind the bars."

Proving the crookedness of other lives will not straighten your own.

When a man brags of his square dealing look out for the sharp edges.

This world is always godforsaken to those who have forsaken the good.

SIMPLE DIAMOND TESTS.

UNWARY PAWNBROKERS HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY STONE FAKERS.

"There are few persons," remarked a jeweller, "who are able to purchase a diamond on the strength of their own knowledge and observation and without placing implicit confidence in the man who sells the stone. It is a fact that even pawnbrokers have often been taken in by jewelry and pernicious stone fakers."

"Although it takes many years of actual observation and experience before one can become a diamond expert, there are a few simple tests which will considerably aid a buyer of diamonds. One test is to prick a needle hole through a card and look at the hole through the diamond stone.

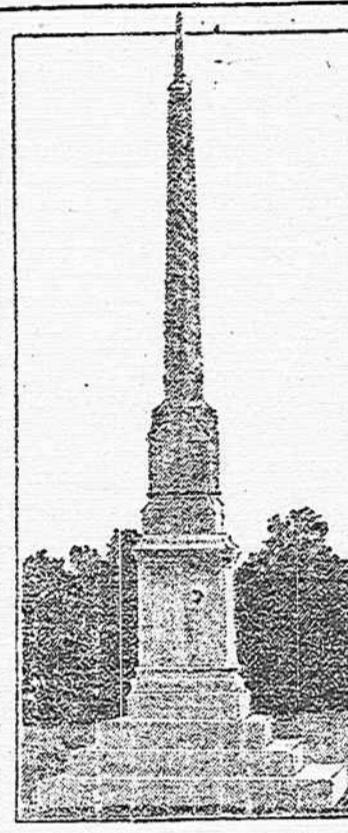
"If the latter is spurious two holes will be seen, but if it is a diamond only one hole will be visible. Every imitation stone which resembles a diamond gives a double reflection, while the diamond's refraction is single."

"This is a delicate test, because it is difficult to see even a sharp and defined object through a diamond. The single refraction of the diamond also allows one to determine an uncertain stone."

"If the finger is placed behind it and viewed through the stone with a watchmaker's glass, the grain of the skin will be plainly seen if the stone is not a diamond. But if it is a diamond the grain of the skin will not be distinguished at all."

"A diamond in solid settings may be identified in the same manner. If genuine the setting at the back cannot be discerned, but if it is a phony stone the foil or setting will be seen."

"There is no acid which has any perceptible effect upon a genuine diamond. Hydrofluoric acid, if dropped on a stone made of glass, will corrode it, but will not affect a diamond one way or the other. A trained eye can see the hardness in a diamond, whereas the imitations appear soft to the vision of the experts."



The Soldiers' Monument in the cemetery of Tipton, Mich., was the first monument erected in honor of the soldiers killed in the Civil War raised in the United States. It was erected in 1866, and was dedicated on July 4, of that year.

The Value of Expectation.

A popular New England preacher says that if his sermon ever stretches beyond the twenty minutes to which men always limit it to the words of his little daughter ring in his ears and he reflects that some of his congregation are doubtless feeling as she did on a memorable occasion.

The occasion was the little girl's sixth birthday, which chanced to come on Thanksgiving Day.

She went to church with her mother and sat quietly through the service. The sermon was unusually good, the minister could not help thinking; he had plenty to say, and he said it fluently.

"How did you like my sermon?" he asked his young critic as they walked home together; her smile was in the big one.

"You preached awful long father," said the little girl, "but I heard it because I love you, and I knew it'd have a nice dinner when I got home and forgot what I'd been through."

—Youth's Companion.

A Care for Seasickness.

A chat with a hardy Breton fisherman brought forth this novel cure for seasickness. While the old man told of the storms that he had been through, the narrow escapes he had had, and the long journeys he had taken, he was interrupted by the question, "And seasickness? Were you ever sick?" "Never," replied the old man, "and I'll tell you the reason if you like to hear—I never went on any ship without taking a little mirror in my pocket. As soon as I felt the sickness coming on I looked in the glass, and all symptoms passed away. I got the cure from my father, and I never knew it to fail." The receipt is easily tried and if it does not convince the skeptic there is the consolation that no loss need be entailed in giving it a chance.—P. T. O.

What the Waiter Had.

The Democratic Text Book. The Democratic Campaign Text Book for the present year which has just been issued, arraigns the Republican party for its failure to give the country relief from the burdensome tariff law and other Republican measures. It presents an array of facts and figures demonstrating with mathematical precision the unfitness of the party in power to conduct the affairs of the nation any longer.

The Democratic and Republican platforms are compared, plank by plank, and the emptiness or insincerity of Republican promises and pretensions are mercilessly exposed.

A party which has been in possession of all the machinery of the government for so many years singly indicts itself when it calls attention to grave abuses which are known to exist and yet have not been corrected.

President Roosevelt has pointed out these abuses in many instances, and whatever may be his own personal anxiety to secure the correction of them, the fact remains that the party as a whole cannot be willing to do so, otherwise it would be done.

He has no force with men who has no faith in them.

It's easy to get tangled up in truth's cutoff clothes.

People who are true blue never