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FIFTEEN MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

Have Returned To Their Studies Throughout the Land.

The Cost of Maintaining That Army at Its Work Costs \$181, 453,780 a Year, or \$18-62 a Year for Each Pupil.

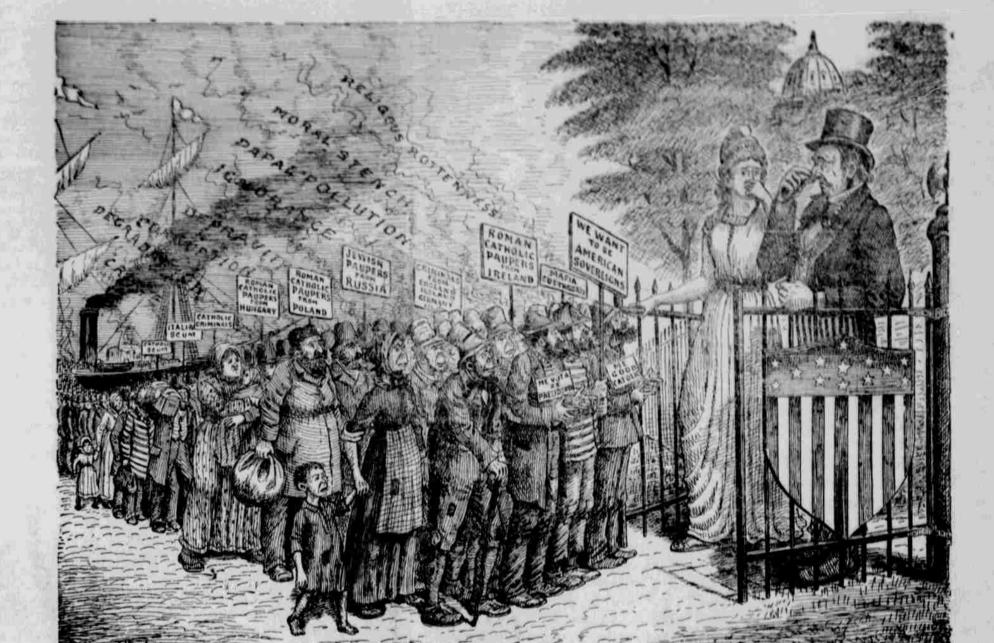
Nearly fifteen million American children are unhappy this week. The public schools are opening. The first week or two in September witness the opeaing of most of the schools.

It is all very well to say with Bacon that "Knowledge is power," but to the infant mind the author of the book of Ecclesiasties put it more correctly when he said: "He that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." How ever much the youngster may be fond of learning in seeming, really he does not enjoy the school routine. The boy who really likes to go to school is so scarce that he is pointed to more in scorn than with pride by his schoolmates. Think of the barrels of tears that are shed by the fifteen million school children, the billions of com plaints that are made, the trillions of sighs and objections, the quadrillions of wishes that they did not have to go. Plans are interfered with, pleasures anticipated must be postponed. The period of recreation seems too short. Yet the modern educators believe the summer vacation is too The child loses his habits of Vacation is a period of lawless-The lake and river are more terrible than ever to the parent. Closer chards and the melon patches

So, though young America may not be glad to get back to school, old America is. That is, all of old America except the teachers. They, poor mortals, rail at fate just as bitterly as do their pupils.

There is guesswork, of course, when one gives estimates of tears shed and wishes expressed. But there is none about the number of pupils. The commissioner of education makes careful inquiry as to their number. The public schools have an enrollment of 14,-465,371. This includes only those of elementary grades and second gradesnot those of higher education, even when supported by public taxation. of 1,531,826, making a grand total of one-fifth the total population of the United States. All of them do not go to school every day, the average daily attendance being 0,747,015, children. Even this latter figure is impressive to the person who has not stopped to consider. It means that 12 per cent of the people of the United States are at school each day. The average length of the school term in of days of schooling is 1,369,882,913. To teach these requires the services of 400 325 instructors, of whom 130,366 are male and 260,959 are female. The women teachers outnumber the men two to one. There are 240,968 schoolhouses, and the value of all school property is \$455,946,164. The cost of the public schools is \$181,453,780 per year, or \$2.61 per capita of population. For each pupil it costs \$18.62.

Everybody knows, of course, that the Uni ed States has more school children But it is not so generally known that the schools. the United States, with but one-twentieth of the population of the world, within her confices has one-third of the world's school children and spends onehalf of the amount spent by the world



Stem the Tide of Immigration.

and greatest English law of the generation, provision for the school accommodation of children, was made obligatory on all cities and parishes and a'tendance was made compulsery on

The first free school in the United States was opened in Boston April 13, 1635-a period of only five years after was similar to the English charity 1896 this had risen to 4.28 years. The to their fainting souls. There is a schools. Connecticut was the first of the states to establish a common school fund. This was done in 1795. New The private schools have an enrollment York followed in 1805 and Massachusetts in 1834. The federal government 15,997,197 students in the common early showed interest in the public This vast army is more than schools, a national land ordinance of 1785 dedicating one thirty-sixth part of the western territory then in possessic n of the government to common schools. It is to this rich provision that the efficiency of the schools in the western states is largely due. The government has granted for common schools 67 893,-010 acres, valued at \$250,000,000. A national department of education was established in 1867, reduced the followdays is 1401, so the aggregate number log year to the bureau of education, which still exists and is of inestimable

There being no system controlled by the national government, diversity ob- prisoners. The walls still show the tains in the different states, and yet recesses into which were let six crosses. there is a remarkable similarity. The Before one of the crosses the hapless funds are primarily raised by local tax- prisoner was hanged in chains, so aration, and when there is a state educa- ranged that he could neither sit nor tional fund it is divided among the communities in proportion to their needs as a supplement, never as a substitute Each town or city chooses its he was ready to confess or die. It must principally in Italy, which, being near own school board, to which it intrusts have been a sacrilegious travesty of the vatican, feels less the fascination and papal blessing, which any nation than any other country in the world, the organization and management of crucifixion.

quite recently even in England-until Each pupil is taught by himself. In showed that these inner dungeons ing poverty there. A considerable blow every single Roman Catholic in the 1870, to be exact—there was no pro the old district school, with which were connected with the larger prison was given to Peter's pence by the insti United States. That is the proper vision for the educa in of the masses. many a Chicagolan of village ancestry chamber by a low, narrow tunnel, run- tution of the Propagation of the Faith place to commence, et home. Get There were foundation schools, richly is familiar, progress depended upon the ning through the walls four feet thick. of Lyons, which refused to pay the an- them to think for themselves, and endowed, which led to the universities, pupil. Some did well, but the rank This tunnel, before the transfer of the nual tribute of £40,000, which has been study the Bible for themselves, and not and there were some church and char- and file of the school learned a little old fort, had been blocked with mas- given from time immemorial, alleging do their thinking by proxy, and thereity schools, but for the most part the reading, writing and "ciphering," and onry-perhaps to conceal from the new that as the vatican bears no longer the masses of the population were left in probably studied the same book for sev- owners the testimony of atrocious cru- expense of protecting French missions ignorance. By the act of 1870, which eral winters, beginning at the first page city, or perhaps the tunnel was blocked in the Levant, they consider themselves to make Cuba and the rest of the isis generally recognized as the wisest on the first day of each school year. at a far earlier period.

> marked as to need no comment.-D. S. Richardson in Chicago Times-Herald.

Fort Marion's Dungeons.

The most interesting sight in St. Augustine is Fort Marion, as the old Florid s purchase, in honor of our revo- Mail and Express. lutionary general, Marion.

Sergeant Brown of the regular army is in charge of this historic pile. He will show you through the old case mates, each of them curious enough. and will reach his culmination of horror in the dungeons beneath the northwest bastion. Here, opening by a narrow passage from the central place of arms, is the place of punishment for

Until the year 1835 this large prison

who were slow and dull did not get Its length fitted it for the use of the £8,000. rack and its seclusion prevented the Turing the past generation the pro- groans and shricks of the tortured gress has been most rapid. In 1870 the from being heard, except, perhaps, as average total amount of schooling per they might faintly reach through the inhabitant in elementary and second- tunnel the chained prisoners in the the settlement of that town. But this ary schools was 2.91 years, while in outer chamber, to strike further terror progress in such directions as high small passage for ventilation in the schools, normal schools, manual train- roof, and it was that after many years ing and free state universities is so caused the break that led to the discovery of the torture chamber.

> It is with a shuddering realization of the possibilities of Spanish ferocity presents which he now and then makes when in unhridled power that one emerges from these dark, stone-walled the charity which he wishes to disstructure was rechrist ned after the shine with a gasp of relief .- New York £280,000 is spent as fellows: £28,000

DECLINE OF PETER'S PENCE.

Evil Effects of War Upon the Pope' Pocket Money.

The Hispano-American war has ha a considerable it fluence on the finances of the vatican, and especially on that branch known as "Peters Pence."

This voluntary contribution of the faithful toward the support of the of the present pope, in which year about £1,000,000 was gathered in. This stand, while every movement was an considerable sum was not only not suragony, and while the cross, emblem of passed or reached afterward, but the peace and love, hung above him until contributions gradually diminished, sense of power of that institution. In

free from obligation. The vatican, Those who needed no help from the The first of these dungeous, which however, did not allow the matter to teacher learned to help themselves and you examine by lantern light, is about rest here. Negotiations were entered from the United States. The protesenjoyed a delightful freedom. Those seven feet by twenty and fifteen high. Into and the institute agreed to pay tants have not been half awake to this

But the war stands pre-eminently above the other causes that make for a falling away in papal income. From Spain and America alone in the first was £12,000 less than last year. This shrinkage directly affects Luo's personal income, which amounts to £250. 000 a year, partially taken from Peter's pence. Of this sum the pontiff keeps for himself only £20,000, not only for his small expenses, but also for the to sovereigns and heads of states, and pense privately. The remainder of the the platto cardinalizo, of £1,000; £18,-400 to the poor dioceses; £72,000 to the prefecture of the palace, which, out of that sum pays the expenses of the court palace and museum. This is not a very extravagant outlay when one considers that the vatican includes 11,000 rooms. The effice of the secretary of state, which is the foreign office of the holy see, absorbs £40,000, the vatican employes £60,000 and the free church schools £41,600.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Papist's Grippe.

Where the papists have influence the people have religious la grippe. They are good for nothing but the might well be afraid of. They boast France, where the republican policy of that the protestant denominations will The progress of the schools cannot be chamber of comparatively public in. Leo XIII, did not meet with Catholic not be able to accomplish anything in pletured by statistics. But the advance prisonment and torture was supposed favor, the same dimunition is to be their attempt to make Roman Catholics is evident. The fact that population is to be the most thrilling relic of Span- noted. The cau-e at work in Austria in Cuba students of the Bible and think being concentrated in cities and towns |sh medieval barbarity. But in that and Belgium to the same end is the for themselves. They suggest, why leads to progress. They are able to year the moving of a heavy cannon on withdrawal of the hely see's support of not try to convert some of the Roman him for information. thus secure better teachers and graded the outside parapet above broke the Catholic socialists after creating Catholics about Washington? I think classes may be employed. In the small through a roof, and then were revealed the party; in Spain and Portugal the this is a good suggestion. Let every tinctive y American institution. Until rural schools there are no classes, two inner chambers. Investigation falling away is due to the ever increas. Christian protestant try to convert ICAN is \$2.00 per year.

by have a continuation of the confidence game in religious matters. If we want lands taken from Spain, protestant, attack their base of ecclesisstical supply question. Make a list of the Roman Catholics which you want to help, and give them things to read and help them to reason. Do some of this work every day and they will be captured as well as the Spanish fleet was. W. T. P.

Sends Paupers to the United States.

London, Aug. 24.-The arrival of many pauper immigrants and stowaways in New York recently is explained by the arrest today in London of Michael Winter, who claimed to be a mantlemaker. Winter is accused of being in a scheme with others to obtain money by false preteuses from many poor foreign Jews by offering to send them to the United States for \$12. for the so-called Cardinali di Curia, Evidence was given in court that two who receives a yearly sum, known as Jews had been smuggled aboard the steamer Barrymore while lying at the London docks. They were secreted in the bunkers and kept there without food for forty-eight hours. Their cries were heard by the crew after sailing. They were compelled to work their passage and were arrested as stowaways on their arrival in Boston.

> In another case two men were smuggled aboard the steamer Massachusetts, only to be sent back by the New York authorities.

> Winter was committed for trial .-Chicago Tribune.

Out of town Americans when visiting Omaha can save money and get a pleasant room by applying at this office. Room can be secured in advance by de-

Henry F. Bowers, Clinton, la., is the head of the A. P. A. in this country. Write him about your council and ask

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