

COMENIUS: A PICTURE TEACHING PIONEER

The United States commissioner of education has asked that the birthday of John Amos Comenius be observed in American public schools on March 28, in conjunction with its commemoration in Czecho-Slovakia. The Nafional Geographic society has issued the following bulletin concerning the famous Moravian educator, author of the first picture textbook and the first advocate of teaching science in the schools:

"The births of new nations usually mean the creation of new national heroes. Among the new countries of Europe not only will the men who played parts in their liberation be honored in years to come; but the new nationalities already are planning to pay belated tribute to the outstanding figares of the period of their oppression.

"Take Czecho-Slovakia, a country which holds a particular interest for Americans, since its declaration of independence was written in a Washington, D. C., hotel, and condensed so It might be printed in full in a Boston newspaper, and its constitution embodies many features of our form of government.

"It may augur well for the future peace of Europe that Czecho-Slovakia has chosen to commemorate as one of its major holidays the birthday, not of a warrior, or even a political leader, but of a school teacher.

"In reading about him there also will be much about pansophic schools, and the intuitive method, and naturalistic conceptions of education. But If you would get a more vivid picture of the ploneer service of this forerunner of Rousseau, Frobel, Pestalozzi, and Montessori, try to imagine your school today as a place where:

"Pupils devoted nearly all their time to memorizing page after page of drenry texts.

"All teaching had to be done through a foreign language (Latin). "No objects were studied and only

abstract words were used. "Little was studied which related to the physical world, the child's environment, or his daily experience.

"Nor was there any teaching of science, even geography, nature study, animal and bird life.

"None of the words, dealing largely with things the pupils never saw, were illustrated with pictures.

"And a kindergarten, physical exercise, play periods, attention to hygiene were virtually unknown. "If you can imagine that kind of

school you will gain some conception of the schools in the time of Comenius, which he tried to improve in nearly all of the particulars mentioned.

"Most widely known, perhaps, of Comenius' books is the 'Orbis Pictus,' thought by some to have been the first children's picture book, and certainly the first application of pictures for school teaching of visual instruction.

ORIGIN OF "APRIL FOOL"

Even in these times of turmoil and contention, there is still one day when not only may a man play a fool, but his friends are privileged to give him a headlong push down "fools' hill."

The origin of the custom of playing practical jokes on friends and neighbors on this "All Fools' Day" is variously explained. Some of these explanations may interest those who have eaten cotton pie and bean chocolates.

Some writers trace the custom back to the days of the miracle plays given at Easter time. One of the most popular tableaux satirized Ananias, Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod. In the decadent days of these dramas actors played largely for the amusement and applause of the groundlings, until Herod, in out-Heroding himself, and Pilate, in the performance of his ablutions, literally made fools of themselves.

A "Feast of Fools" was held in the early spring by the Romans, and the Hindus, since time immemorial, have celebrated as a saturnalia the vernal equinox, or Feast of Hull. During these festivities the chief amusement seems to have been that of fooling people and sending them on fruitless errands.

Many students trace the origin back no farther than France in the Sixteenth century. At any rate, the custom seems to have radiated from France to England, as well as to Germany, if we are to believe what Grimm says about it. France was the first nation to adopt the reformed calendar which decreed that the year should begin on the first of January. Consequently those who objected to sending out their New Year's gifts and felicitations upon the newly chosen date instead of April 1, as they had done previously, subjected themselves to endless taunts for being old fogles by going on visits that had no meaning. The French call the victim of a prank on April 1. "un poisson d'avril," or "an April fish," of which our American Slang, "you poor fish," is good translation. The origin of the expression used in this connection probably arose in the obvious comparison between the person who "bites" unwittingly and the April fish, which is a young fish and therefore easily caught.

In Scotland April Fool's day is observed, but under a slightly different name—the day for "hunting the gowk," or cuckoo. Some few of us who, in our unsophisticated days, have gone "snipe hunting" in this country, know how the fellow feels who hunts the gowk, and realize that to be called an "April-Cuckoo" is not a compliment, that bird being a byword of contempt in almost every land.

RIO DE JANEIRO: CITY OF LURE

Rio de Janeiro, first of the three South America capitals to be visited by Secretary Colby on his recent journey of courtesy to our neighboring continent, is described as follows in a communication from Harriet Chalmers Adams to the National Geographic so-

"This city of lure terraces up from a glorious bay-the Bay of Guanabara, mountain - encircled, lsle - bejewcled. From the shore, where parks and boulevards are fast crowding out the old Rio of narrow streets, rise the forested hills on whose slopes the loveller portion of the city lies. Place your hands on the table, fingers spread, wrists upraised. Each finger represents one of Rio's hills; each space between, a canyon up which the city climbs.

"Many of the new homes cling to the hillside below the streets and are en-. tered from the roof. Others of these cliff dwellings perch high above the thoroughfare and are reached by a long flight of steps or by elevator or an inclined plane. Some bear the name of the lady of the manor over the front door-'Villa Rosita,' 'Villa Lucia'-and the dark-eyed lady herself is often seen leaning from the window.

"Can any other city offer such entrancing vistas as those from the mountain heights back of Rio? I have traveled far and have yet to find it. Turning bayward, we look down through a frame of tangled vines and branches, onto the tree-tops of the sloping virgin forest. A scarlet-winged bird filts to a nearby tree-fern; a big



Sugar Loaf, the Santinel of Rio Bay,

blue butterfly zigzags lazily by. There are purple orchids within reach and waxen begonins at our feet. Far below, set in verdure, gleams the kaleldoscopic city, with its crescent shores.

"The bay, set in its amphitheater of hills, sparkles like a sapphire. To and fro among the ships at anchor ply the busy paddle-wheel ferry boats to the islands and to Nictheroy, the little sister city across the way. In the distance tower the blue spires of the lofty Organ mountains. Today we can see the sharp crag called 'the Finger of God.' Often it is veiled in mist.

"Avenida Rio Branco, Rio's finest thoroughfare, is more than a mile in length and so wide that it consists of two distinct boulevards separated by a row of shade trees. It is thronged day and night with automobiles. The sidewalks, the widest I have ever seen, are black-and-white stones laid in mosaic design, like those in vogue in Lisbon. Both stones and workmen were brought from Portugal, but similar pavements, constructed later in other parts of the city, are 'home-made.'

"At the cinema theaters the people of Rio de Janeiro know real comfort. Unlike most of our moving-picture houses, those in Rio have spacious waiting rooms where you sit, listening to excellent music until the hour for the first reel comes round.

"Rio's climate is often maligned, but it suits those who like spring and summer weather. It is never as warm as summer in many of our Eastern and Middle-West cities, and the nights on the hills are nearly always cool.

"Now and then on the wide world trail we find a scene which dominates. Such is Rio de Janeiro, City of Lure. So long as glory of form and color giadden the eye, Rio will stand preeminent in beauty among the habitations of man."

MONTEVIDEO: CITY OF THE HAPPY MEDIUM

Montevideo, capital of the republic of Uruguay, was the second stopping place of Secretary of State Colby in his recent official visit to South Amer-

Physically situated so that it is one of the healthiest cities in the world, with an equable climate which makes it a delightful place to live in, and possessing an atmosphere free from the bustle and noise of the more modern and commercial Buenos Aires and the more metropolitan Rio, Montevideo has become the resort city of South America's Atlantic coast. Thousands of wealthy South Americans are to be found there at nearly all seasons of the year, participating in the carnivals. gambling in the great governmentowned casinos that may be compared to those of Monte Carlo, or merely enjoying the restful life of this city which still clings to the Spanish habit | luxe that Buenos Aires reminds the of looking to "manana."

Since Montevideo is in the southern hemisphere its sensons are the reverse of those in the United States. Visitors are specially numerous for the bathing season, which begins in October, corresponding to the northern May, and is at its height at Christmas.

Detached Impressions of Montevideo will bring to mind many similes and contrasts with better known cities, Like New York, it covers a narrow peninsula from shore to shore; but in architecture it is the antithesis of the North American metropolis, being made up of a seemingly vast number North American metropolis, being of low stone buildings, a few two or three stories in height, the great majority of them but one story. The principal thoroughfare, the Avenue of the Eighteenth of July, extending along the ridge of the peninsula, with its colonnades and sidewalk cafes, gives a touch of Paris. As a great packing center for the live stock produced on the unsurpassed pastures of Uruguay, Montevideo is comparable to Chicago or Kansas City. Evidence of this fact is sometimes wafted on the winds when they blow to the city from the seat of the gigantic industry across the

In physical equipment Montevideo is modern. It is well lighted, well watered, adequately supplied with transportation facilities, and most admirably drained. Socially it clings to the past, following more faithfully than any other large city outside of Spain and the Orient the old Spanish-Moorish traditions of society's proper attitude toward women.

As in other large South American cities, moving picture theaters are omnipresent. Most of the films they show are imported from the United

Montevideo is famed for its port, which is one of the best on the Atlantic coast of the Americas. The city has a population exceeding 400,000, more than a quarter of the population of the entire 72,000 square miles of the republic. In 1800 Montevideo was the largest and most important city in South America. It is now surpassed by Buenos Aires, Rio and Santiago de Chile, while its rank as fourth city is closely contested by Sao Paulo, Brazil.

BUENOS AIRES: CITY OF SUPERLATIVES AND CONTRASTS

Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, which recently attracted world attention by withdrawing its representatives from the League of Nations assembly, is not merely the capital and chief port of a South American republic. It is a world center-a city of superlatives, contrasts and paradoxes.

Its population of close to 2,000,000 makes it, by a wide margin, the metropolis of South America and the Southern hemisphere. It is the greatest of Spanish-speaking cities, having nearly three times as many inhabitants as Madrid. It is greater than any Latin city except Paris. In the New World it shares third place with Philadelphia; only New York and Chicago surpass it. And now that Petrograd and Moscow have shrunk, white Berlin and Vienna are marking time, it probably ranks or soon will rank as the sixth city of the world, led only by the two metropolises of Europe, the two of North America, and Tokyo in Asia.

This great city is the focus of the culture, thought, politics, economics and social life of Argentina, as well as the funnel through which pour the millions of pounds of dressed meats and the millions of bushels of wheat which make up the contribution of the republic to the hungry peoples of the Old World. In its general aspect it is a combination of New York and Paris. Its language is the language of Spain, but many other things Spanish have been thrust aside. Its inhabitants would laugh at the idea of a mid-day slestn-so generally observed in most Spanish-American countries. The obsession of "manana" has been discarded; the people of Buenos Aires live in the throbbing present, going strenuously about their business in streets whose bustle and whirl are as balm to the heart of the homesick New Yorker, who feels that, after all, he cannot be far from Broad and Wall or Fortysecond and Broadway. Subways, commuters and taller buildings than can be found in any other city in South

America heighten the illusion. In progress and the possession of vision the people of Buenos Aires are unsurpassed even by the restless builders of North America's greatest cities, For centuries after its establishment Buenos Aires was without a port. Ships anchored miles from the shallow, sandy shore and all freight was handled in lighters. Within the last 25 years the municipality has constructed the largest artificial docks in the world. These provide adequate facilities for the thousands of ocean vessels and coasting craft that put into its port annually.

The narrow checker-board of streets in the business center which the colonial Buenos Aires bequeathed to the world-city of today has been a constant embarrassment in the face of the demands of modern business. The municipality has widened some of these narrow ways at a cost of many millions of dollars, into stately and handsome avenues, and is carving other arteries of traffic diagonally through

the closely packed squares. In the newer parts of the city streets of ample width and numerous broad avenues have been laid out. Many of the avenues are lined with the costly palaces of Argentina's multimillionaires. It is in this part of the city and in such semi-business avenues. as the tree-rimmed Avenida de Mayo, with its mile or more of fine hotels, clubs, cafes and business buildings de traveler of Paris.

SMALL PROSPECT OF LOWER TAXES

Survey of Situation Shows But Little Hope of Less Government Expense.

DISLOYAL PROPAGANDA

American Legion Discovers Newspa pers Published in Bremen Being Distributed in Towns of Nebraska.

Washington, D. C .- A preliminary survey by the new administration has disclosed the fact that the chances of cutting down government expenditures in the next fiscal year are relatively small, and yet an effort must and will be made to lighten tax burdens of the people.

The problem, however, of maintaining the present ratio of government income, and at the same time granting a material reduction in the rates of taxation, both to corporations and to individuals is a staggering one.

President Harding, prior to the inauguration, and since that time, has listened to many plans from many persons, but most of them have been theoretical rather than practical,

Visit on Behalf of League.

Paris-Rene Viviani, former premier of France, on his visit to the United States soon, will go prepared to ask on behalf of the league of nations council if the Washington government will enter the league of nations provided Article X is stricken from the covenant. This has not been disclosed officially, but it is the understanding of Vivani's associates that such will be the primary object of his visit. He has talked over the question with members of the French government, the council and with various other persons in Paris.

INSIDIOUS GERMAN PROPAGANDA

German Newspapers Being Distributed in Towns of Nebraska.

Lincoln, Neb .- As further proof that there is an insidious German propaganda campaign under way in Nebraska, Frank B. O'Connell, state adjutant of the American Legion, turned over to the federal department of justice a copy of a disloyal newspaper circulated regularly to Nebraskans of German parentage. The newspaper, which states that it is "devoted to the furtherance of international understanding," is supposed to be printed in Bremen, Germany, and was shipped into the state by express,

Will Be No Further Prosecution. Smith Hamon, acquitted on a charge of having murdered Jake L. Hamon, in the manner of prosecution on the statutory charge filed against her and Hamon two days after she shot him, November 21, last, according to information obtained in the office of the county attorney of Carter county. Such action, following the young woman's acquittal, probably would be regarded as persecution, it was said,

Farm Help Will Be Plentiful.

Fargo, N. D.-Farm labor for spring and summer work in North Dakota will be plentiful at a wage between \$30 and \$35 a month, according to E. A. Wilson, Cass county agricultural agent. He made an investigation of the wage question in the state? Farmers are having no difficulty in getting help, he said.

Profiteering Indictments Dismissed. New York,-Federal Judge Garvin formally dismissed indictments charging profiteering returned under the Lever act against the "Big Five" meat packers-Armour & Company, Swift & Company, Morris & Company, Wilson & Company and The Cudaby Packing Company.

Big Increase in Sugar Production. Lincoln, Neb.-Nebraska produced 179,035,000 pounds of sugar in 1920, or 32 per cent more than in the preceding year, according to figures compiled by Secretary Leo Stuhr of the department of agriculture. The acreage increased from 59,253 to 71,730, and the best tonnage from 600,669 to 714,210,

Last Chance for Slackers.

Washington, D. C .- A last opportun-Ity for selective service law evaders to escape broadcast publication of their names as deserters during the world war is given by Adjutant General Harris of the army. Persons who believe that they will be charged with evading the draft, but who did not actually do so, the adjutant general announced, may escape the odium of being branded as a deserter unjustly by communicating all the facts of the case to him without delay.

May Have to Make Refund.

Washington, D. C .- The federal government lost an important income tax suit when the United States court of claims held that every estate, the net amount of which exceeds \$50,000 and which has been, or is hereafter compelled to pay the federal estates tax is entitled to deduct the amount so paid from its income tax return. The effect of the decision, should it be sustained by the court to which the government noted an appeal, will be that the government will be compelled to refund taxes already collected.

The senate has advanced to third reading S. F. No. 185, amending the prohibition law to conform, with federal restrictions. The bill gives state authorities specific power to seize stills and mash, and makes more specific the rules governing the sale of proprietary medicines containing alcohol by druggists.

Senator Hoagland has inserted a new set of teeth in S. F. 343, which will now require that every rate boost be submitted to the membership, and that in order to come within the fraternal insurance act the lodge must have a governing body of at least 100

Establishment of a bureau in the state banking department which will trace every note, or bill receiveable, back to its endorser to ascertain its genuineness was suggested by Gov. S. R. McKelvie, while discussing the failure of the banking house of A. Sastetter at Blair.

As modified in committee of the whole last week, Senate File 79, the eugenic marriage bill sponsored by the children's code commission, was passed. Common law marriages, forbidden in the original bill, are recognized under the measure as it now stands.

The house is willing that the state government shall continue to function for another two years. H. R. 623, carrying \$21,527,757.43, in its amended form, avoided all the big rocks on the legislative sea in committee of the whole and sailed smoothly to third reading.

The governor has signed the Miner bill, H. R. 14, requiring a reassessment of real estate this year, again in 1922, and every two years thereafter. The bill has an emergency clause and is operative immediately.

As the amended marriage bill now stands, it requires five days' notice before licenses are issued, and prohibits the marriage of imbeciles, feeble-minded persons or those with hereditary insanity.

Without waiting for the house bill, which establishes a state reformatory and carries an appropriation of \$300,-000, the senate had passed to third reading S. F. No. 292, its own bill for a reformatory.

The house in committee of the whole has recommended for passage by an almost unanimous vote the house bill providing for the \$2,000,000 fund, the income on which is to be used for loans to disabled soldiers.

An attempt is to be made to raise Ardmore, Okla.—There probably will an appropriation item of \$25,000 to be no aftermath to the trial of Clara \$200,000 for the purpose of establishing in Lincoln or Omaha, a trade school for men disabled either in pursuit of their trade or in the army.

Voters at the general election in 1922, will have an opportunity to decide whether they wish to pay a bonus of ten million dollars to the soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the world war.

When the house passed H. R. 187, a special criminal act for bank holdups, it fixed the penalty at seven to twenty years. The senate judiciary boosted it to ten to twenty-five years,

Petitions prepared by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, asking the state legislature to pass House Roll No. 356, relating to ex-service men's relief, are being circulated.

Governor McKelvie has sent to the lower branch of the legislature a bill and special message proposing to continue the supreme court commission two years longer.

The house committee on education has put the Siman language law, passed by the senate, out on general file without recommendation and without amendments.

The senate has advanced to third reading a bill amending the existing prohibition law to conform to federal restrictions.

The house committee of the whole has approved the new bureau of securities blue sky bill with scarcely any opposition.

The proposal of the house finance committee to make all appropriations this year in lump sums is meeting with high favor among the disbursing offices. Heretofore the appropriation bill has carried a specified sum for each of the state's employes.

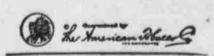
The first job that the house will have on its hands after the sifting committee takes charge of the calendar will be to discuss and pass apportionment bills. The house bills will be taken up first and then those that the senate has sent over.

Every school district which has five or more deaf children must maintain a school for them and hire a teacher, but the state pays the expenses, under H. R. 163, passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the gov-

Farmers in the house turned in and helped to put through a bill in the interest of consumers. The act was the Yeiser bill making it unlawful to hold perishable foodstuffs and permit them to spoil, for the purpose of controlling



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Take Car Marked "Thrift." "Pa, how do we get to Easy street?" "You come to it after fifty years' travel down Hard Work avenue, my son."-Boston Transcript.

A detachable wheel and motor have been invented for propelling railroad velocipedes.



WATCH THE BIG 4

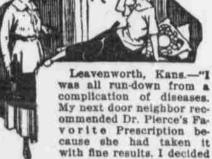
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