

Time assigned for religious teaching must be clearly marked off and separate from the time assigned to secular education. This clause in the case of the board schools was overridden by the 'Copper-Temple' clause, which runs thus: No religious catechism or religious formulary which is distinctive of any particular denomination shall be taught in the school."

**THE NEW EDUCATION BILL OF 1902 IS DESCRIBED** by this same writer as follows: "The first object of the education bill of 1902 is to abolish everywhere, save in London, all existing authorities for elementary and technical education, and to establish one local authority for the education of the nation. The proposers of the bill contend that as regards elementary education the tendency has been to institute a sort of rivalry between board schools and voluntary schools, and consequently to tempt the board schools to spend more than they are justified. As the board schools levy the rates, they are capable of doing this if they are so minded. The government asks the managers of voluntary schools: 1. To provide buildings rent free. 2. To keep them in repair. 3. To make such alterations as the authorities, local and central, require. 4. To comply with the provisions for secular education. The government also insists, on the other hand, that the local educational authority shall: 1. Absolutely control the secular education in all the voluntary schools. 2. Inspect the schools and audit their accounts. 3. Appoint two out of every six of the managers of the schools. 4. Veto the appointment or secure the dismissal of teachers if unfit on educational grounds. In return for all this the government under the new bill provides for three-quarters of the cost of education from the state exchequer, leaving the local education authority to provide the remaining quarter out of the local rates. This bargain is objected to on two grounds: 1. That the voluntary school managers appointed by the supporters or subscribers to the upkeep of the schools are in the majority of four to two. 2. That government aid is granted to denominational instruction. It only remains to add that, as regards higher education, the local education authority has a free hand, and can develop the education of its area through all the recognized stages of secondary, technical, and higher instruction. In this is included the power of providing facilities for the training of teachers."

**ONE OF THE BURNING ISSUES IN THE** campaign of Representative H. S. Irwin of the Fifth Kentucky congressional district was as to whether he went to sleep during the last session of the house of representatives. Mr. Irwin took this charge so seriously that it was reported he had even secured affidavits from General Grosvenor and other republican representatives to testify that he was not only awake, but was watching the legislation with both eyes open. The New York World reports Mr. Irwin as saying in a recent speech seeking re-election: "Any person who makes the statement that I was asleep tells a falsehood. I want it distinctly understood I was not asleep. If I had been asleep I could admit it. Mr. Grosvenor, who was presiding, says I was not asleep, nor did my slumbers disturb him, as was reported. I showed him the paper making the allegation, and he said it was ridiculous. Mr. Hill, who was making a speech on the rivers and harbor bill at the time, says I was not asleep, and he is a democrat. Mr. Bromwell, who sat by me, declared the next day that I was awake. And I want to say, further, that the charge that I got affidavits to prove that I was awake is untrue. I never got a single affidavit."

**THE NEW YORK WORLD IS AUTHORITY** for the statement that the gigantic meat trust is now an accomplished fact. It will be capitalized for \$500,000,000. The millions of John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, have been invested in the project, and all the varied interests controlled by Mr. Rockefeller will unite in making it successful. The underwriting syndicate of the trust will be headed by Mr. Rockefeller, through his National City Bank of New York. After the formal organization of the trust in the United States it is the intention to invade Great Britain and, if possible, form a world-wide trust in meat. The trust will include all the large meat packers of Chicago, who have absorbed practically all of the smaller concerns.

**AN INTERESTING ANNOUNCEMENT WAS** recently made by the Chicago Tribune to the effect that archaeologists at work in Palestine have discovered the ruins of the Canaanite capital, Gezer, whose king and people were slain by the

Israelites, under command of Joshua. It is said that the excavation revealed four series of ancient walls and four layers of strata which, putting aside the buildings of later date, mark the site of the city as occupied by four different sets of inhabitants. The first and second layers were not always distinguishable. There were three unhewn monoliths fourteen feet high, with smaller ones between, and under an adjoining pavement were found jars containing the charred bones of infants, which would seem to indicate that it was a place of sacrifice where children passed through the fire to some predecessor of Moloch.

**DURING THE COURSE OF EXPLORATION,** two caves were discovered, one of which is believed by the archaeologists to have been a crematory as it was covered with a layer of human ashes and bones. Some pottery relics have also been discovered and all this leads to the belief that the city was inhabited by two successive races, of which the older race was slender and short, none exceeding sixty-seven inches, and most of them only sixty-four inches in height. The skulls were thick and heavy and resemble those of the earliest occupants of Europe in the Neolithic age. They were certainly a pre-Semitic race. The uncremated remains of the inhabitants of the third and perhaps the fourth city show that they were taller, the average height being sixty-six inches, while some of them reached seventy-one. They were also more strongly built, their faces were longer, their noses more prominent, and their skulls more circular.

**ALL THIS LEADS THIS WRITER TO THE** conclusion that the site of Gezer was therefore first inhabited by an aboriginal race of Palestineolithic people, who cremated their dead, and next by a primitive Semitic race in the copper age, both practicing human sacrifice. Then there were two later Semitic occupations, the Scarabs, indicating that the former of them was not less than 2,000 years B. C. Other relics proved that there was communication with Egypt, and one clay cylinder indicates there was direct or indirect trade with Babylon.

**EXPERTS IN BIRD TALK ARE COMPARA-**tively rare, but the Smithsonian institution in Washington contains one. Dr. Nelson R. Wood has made a study of the conversation of many kinds of feathered creatures. Dr. Wood believes that the best conversationalists among birds are found in chickens and turkeys, these bipeds exceeding in this accomplishment even the parrot and the crow. In an article in the Chicago Tribune, Dr. Wood says: "As talkers parrots have a much higher reputation than chickens simply because they are imitators. Barnyard fowls, though such close companions of man, do not mimic his speech; but this does not imply that they have not a language of their own. On the contrary, their language is rich, as any observant person may perceive for himself in the course of a brief visit to quarters occupied by poultry. Turkeys possess a range of speech hardly less wide than chickens, but ducks are inferior as talkers. Parrots are born conversationalists, and even in a wild state they do an immense deal of talking. These monkeys of the feathered world are mimics above all else, and in their native forests, where they fly about in great flocks, they are constantly imitating the noises of the woods and the voices of other creatures. But, oddly enough, the best talking parrot, in confinement, is not necessarily the best imitator. The so-called 'double yellow head' parrot of tropical America is unrivaled for conversation, but as a mimic it is excelled by the gray African bird with the red tail. Dr. Wood says that a good talking crow is a much better speaker than a parrot. It is not so versatile, the sounds it utters being less widely differentiated, but its speech is more humanlike. A parrot's voice has been compared to that of a crazy person, whereas the remarks made by a crow in the next room are readily mistaken for those of a human being. As imitators, however, parrots are unsurpassed, and their mimicry of laughing, whistling, chuckling, and other sounds is often marvelous."

**IN REGARD TO DOMESTIC FOWLS, DR. WOOD** is of the opinion that ducks do not possess a large vocabulary. Their ordinary "quack, quack," is a social note. The goose has no extensive conversational powers, though in indulges in a good deal of gabbling talk. Wild birds vary much in this respect, but, generally speaking, they have their vocabularies for expressing alarm, pain, curiosity, hunger, sorrow, joy, etc. Their powers of speech enable them to make their feelings known and to communicate their ideas on every important subject to each other.

**THE CAUSE OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEPRES-**sion that Germany is at present experiencing is set forth in the Chicago Tribune as being due to the change in the whole economic balance of the empire, the result being a vast overproduction of many kinds of merchandise, but an under production of food materials. This change of balance was caused by the population within fifteen years changing from agricultural to professional pursuits or some form of industry or trade. Farmers have gone to the cities so rapidly that not enough are left on the farms to produce enough food to feed the people. Prices have increased to such an extent that only the rich are able to pay those demanded. This information has been forwarded to the department of state by Consul General Mason at Berlin, who has written an interesting review of the conditions existing in Germany. The consul general says: "The period of industrial reaction and financial depression in Germany, which began during the summer of 1900, has continued, with varying and often suddenly fluctuating conditions throughout 1901 and down to the present. It is true certain branches of manufacture, notably the textile industry, have during the last eight months shown encouraging signs of recovery and there were apparent at the close of 1901 various indications that the worst of the crisis was past and that the process of recovery, however slow it might prove, had been definitely begun."

**CONSUL GENERAL MASON IS ALSO AU-**thority for the statement that Germany was in 1871 a nation of 39,119,000 inhabitants, of whom 60 per cent were engaged in agricultural pursuits. In December, 1900, it had grown to an empire of 57,793,000 souls, of whom 35 per cent derived their support from agriculture and 65 per cent—nearly two-thirds—were engaged in professional pursuits or some form of industry or trade. This transformation from agriculture to industries and commerce took place mainly during the period from 1880 to 1895. During those fifteen years the increase of working population was 17.8 per cent, of which agriculture gained only 7 per cent, while manufactures, mining, and the building trades were augmented by 29.5 and commerce by 48.9 per cent. It was a time when young men by hundreds of thousands left their native farms and villages and flocked to mines, factories and industrial cities and towns. The empire was by this time increasing in population at the rate of nearly 800,000—more than doubled. Trade unions multiplied rapidly and trebled their membership within five years and strikes increased in number from 73 in 1892 to 967 in 1899. Wages in all departments increased slowly but employment was steady, many mechanics and operatives worked overtime, the condition of the laboring classes improved, their wants increased, and their dwellings, food, clothing, and standard of living.

**AS ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT** Boer war, it is said that the Boers are now buying mules of dealers in this country. It will be remembered that during the progress of the war, large numbers of mules were shipped from this country for use by the British army in transport service in South Africa. As was to be expected it often happened that large numbers of these animals fell into the hands of the Boers and according to a Kansas City correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle, it was reported that the Boers found the Missouri mule a pretty good animal to deal with. He was sure-footed, faithful, reliable enough when duly watched, a little obstinate, perhaps, but tough as iron and a ready feeder on supplies that a horse would starve to death trying to live on. He made his own way in the world and built up his own reputation, having gone into a new country with nobody to vouch for him and under circumstances that were not calculated to make him popular if he did not really 'make good.' The Boers liked the Missouri mule. They considered his weaknesses and his points of excellence, and, summing up everything, they pronounced him good. The British government gave the Boers \$15,000,000 with which to restock their farms. When there was no longer any chance to get mules by the old method they wanted to buy them. Accordingly a Boer speculator who had money came to the United States to buy various things for his countrymen. In New York he found a Yankee with the trading instinct well developed and one of the first things they decided to do was to send a ship load of mules to the Transvaal. The Boer member of the firm wanted to get them where the British had bought theirs so they would be sure of getting the same kind of mules. Accordingly he came to Kansas City and a few days ago bought from the Guyton-Harrington Mule company 1,000 Missouri mules. They were persuaded to take better mules than the British bought at somewhat higher prices. The mules have been sent south preparatory to shipment.