

FOR FREE EDUCATION

France Adopting the Free School System of United States

STATE SCHOOL TO BE FIRST

A Contest Waged by the Government is Finally Won—Free Education and Liberty Go Together

By the decisive majority of 216 to 209 the Paris chamber of deputies passed the government bill for the suppression of all forms of teaching by the religious orders. This supplements and completes the work begun by the former premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, in 1901.

The first law suppressed the unauthorized teaching orders, which had for a long time carried on their vocation despite the lack of legal sanction. The new law does not make any distinction between authorized and unauthorized congregations, but sweeps away the whole fabric of teaching by religious orders, thus in effect substituting the system of state schools for those heretofore conducted by the orders.

Besides effecting the educational system, the passage of the bill is the achievement of the principal work undertaken by Premier Combes, and it is believed that the premier will now voluntarily retire.

The parliamentary battle over the bill was one of the severest which the chamber of deputies has seen in recent years.

The minority failed to develop any serious strength, but carried its obstruction to the point of a fine art, and moreover Premier Combes suffered severely by defections from his own side. Premier Combes, however, maintained his majorities on the main features of the bill and the closing vote was in the nature of a personal triumph for him.

OVER HUNDREDS OF MILES

Devastation by Prairie Fires in Rock, Holt and Wheeler Counties

Blackened by the hungry flames which ran across them during several days of the week just passed, hundreds and hundreds of square miles of the finest hayland that was ever put on a map, lie desolate and barren today in the northwestern part of the state. Licked up by the all-powerful tongues of the prairie fires which were fanned into monstrous belings by the gales that blew so strenuously, thousands and thousands of tons of this crisp, clean, heavy crop of grass has disappeared into the smoky heavens and along with the hay have gone dozens and dozens of homes and barns and sheds full of live stock that belonged to the ranchmen of Rock, Holt, Wheeler and Keya Paha counties. The loss will exceed \$100,000.

Board After the "Tontines"

The right of a company transacting business of a tontine nature, or resembling that of the home co-operative companies which have been barred by the supreme court from operating in Nebraska, to collect on old contracts is to be tested in the courts by the state banking board. The board has instructed the attorney general to investigate the action of the Fidelity Loan & Trust company of Chicago to collect premiums on contracts written by the old Reserve Investment company of America, an Omaha concern which was forbidden to do business in the state when the law against co-operative institutions of this nature went into effect last year.

Boys, Shotgun and Death

An accident occurred near Odell, Neb., resulting in the death of a 12-year-old son of Mrs. Irene Armstrong. The folks having gone to town to do the afternoon trading, the Armstrong boy went over to the home of his cousin, Ben Barnits, who lived upon an adjoining farm. The boys got down an old shotgun, with which they were playing when the gun was discharged, the load taking effect just back of the Armstrong boy's ear, causing instant death. There were no witnesses to the accident, except the children, and in their fright and excitement, they could give no intelligent account of it.

Joe Gans Lightweight Champion

Joe Gans of Baltimore was given the decision in a ten-round bout with Gus Gardner of Saginaw, Mich., for the lightweight championship of the world.

Arranging to Celebrate

The Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges of Table Rock are making arrangements for the celebration of the 85th anniversary of American Odd Fellowship. Committees have been appointed from each of the lodges to complete arrangements for a proper observance. A program will be prepared for the day time and in the evening there will be a supper, the proceeds to go to the fund for the establishment of an Odd Fellows' home, to be located in the near future in some Nebraska town.

SENATOR BURTON GUILTY

Jury Says He Illegally Accepted Money from Rialto Company

Joseph Ralph Burton, senior United States senator from Kansas, was convicted by a jury in the United States district court at St. Louis, Mo., on the charge of having accepted compensation to protect the interests of the Rialto Grain and Securities company of St. Louis, before the postoffice department. The jury deliberated forty-one hours.

A motion for a new trial was immediately filed by the counsel for the senator.

Judge Adams thereupon ordered that Senator Burton appear in court either in person or by proxy from day to day until the court has heard the arguments for a new trial, and if decided against him, to fix his punishment.

For a time there threatened to be a disagreement of the jury. The jury was brought before Judge Adams who asked the course for the long delay. He was told that eleven jurors had agreed, but the twelfth stood alone.

The court admonished the lone juror that the expense of a new trial should not be incurred because of him failing to agree with the majority of the jurors. A precedent was quoted showing that the majority of the jurors should decide the case before them and a verdict be rendered accordingly. The jury was then told to go back and poll its vote once more. Soon after the jury reported, bringing in a verdict, but Judge Adams found that the third count had not been considered, and again he sent the jury back to consider the case, without having announced the verdict returned.

The third time the jury entered the court room the result of its deliberations was announced, and United States Senator Burton stood convicted of the charges brought against him in the indictment.

GIRLS CHANGED SHOES

Then Easily Defeated the Minneapolis High School Girls

The Nebraska university basket ball team had better luck in the game with the Central high school girls at Minneapolis, defeating them by a score of 16 to 9. The Nebraska players returned to Lincoln with the firm belief that they could beat the Gopher girls if they were to meet again this year. The floor was so slippery that the visitors were unable to stand up, in the game with the Gopher team, while the Gopher girls were equipped with shoes that made a slippery floor advantageous. The contest with the high school girls was played on the same floor, but the Cornhusker girls had a new set of shoes before the second game. The girls say they are convinced that they can give the Minnesota team a harder game than they did, because with their new shoes they defeated the high school by the same score that the Minnesota 'varsity team made against the same five a week before.

Waugh Gets Four Years

Four years in the penitentiary was the sentence imposed on Edgar Waugh for stealing \$2,000 from the treasury of Lancaster county.

The prisoner listened meekly, standing with bowed head before the bar of Judge Cornish. Not a word did he say in extenuation or explanation.

Sitting some distance behind the prisoner were his father and mother, wife and his wife's sister. Part of the time they were in tears, but when the judge came to the conclusion of his remarks and gave sentence, Mrs. Waugh sat upright and bravely listened to the judgment.

Waugh turned to Deputy Sheriff Tucker, standing near, and walked from the room to the jail without once looking to his relatives or to the many who were present in the court room.

Kansas Man is Chosen

W. M. Davidson, superintendent of schools at Topeka, Kan., has been elected superintendent of instruction by the Omaha board of education. The vote was unanimous, one member being absent.

Twenty-seven candidates were previously discussed for an hour in executive session. In committee four votes were cast for A. H. Waterhouse, principal of the school. Mr. Davidson is elected to serve until August 1, 1905, the unexpired portion of the term of Carroll G. Pearce.

An Effingham Auctioneer is Still "Crying"

sales although well along in his 82d year. He estimates that he has auctioned off the property of 1,000 men.

Lincoln's Boys Are Champions

The Lincoln high school boys' basket ball team easily won the championship of the state in the final game of the season, defeating the Omaha high school basket ball team by a score of 40 to 25. The game was played on the floor of the Omaha Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, and the small space around the sides of the room and in the balcony was filled with one of the largest crowds that ever witnessed a game in that city.

JAPS FAILED AGAIN

A Bold Attempt to Blockade Port Arthur Harbor

RUSSIANS TOO WIDE AWAKE

One Destroyer Did Terrible Execution to Japanese Craft—Japanese Run Away Out of Range

Under cover of darkness, Vice Admiral Togo made another desperate attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, but failed again, and when after daylight Vice Admiral Makaroff steamed out to give battle, the Japanese commander refused the challenge and sailed away.

The Japanese practically repeated the tactics of February 24 by sending in four fire ships, preceded by a torpedo boat flotilla, with the exception that the fire ships this time were armed with Hotchkiss guns for the purpose of keeping off the Russian torpedo boat destroyers.

The enemy's attempt was discovered by means of the shore searchlights and a heavy fire was opened from the batteries and from two gunboats which were guarding the entrance to the harbor. The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Sini was outside on scouting duty, and to the dash and nerve of her commander, Lieutenant Krinzi, is chiefly due the complete defeat of the plans of the Japanese. He at once made straight for the oncoming ships under a hail of fire from the Hotchkiss guns, and torpedoed the leading ship, which sheered off, followed by the others, three of them being piled up on the shore under Golden Hill, and one under the lighthouse. The Sini then engaged the entire six torpedo boats of the enemy, coming out from a terrific fight with seven killed and her commander and twelve of her complement wounded, but on the Japanese side only one boat's crew was saved.

WILL GO TO ST. LOUIS

State University Summer School Pupils Will Take Free Trip

The feature of the summer school at the Nebraska state university this year will be the excursion to St. Louis, open only to those registered for work in the school. A special train of day coaches and Pullman sleepers, decorated with university colors, will leave Lincoln on Saturday, June 25, and return from St. Louis July 2. First-class hotel accommodations at moderate rates have been secured by the authorities.

The purpose of the trip is to make a study of the industrial and educational exhibits under the guidance of the university instructors. The excursion will be under the charge of E. H. Clark, registrar. A large number of teachers have signified already their intention of taking advantage of the excursion to visit the big fair.

Classes will meet one day more each week during the summer session in order that those who go may not lose any time or instruction. Those who stay at home may have the use of the laboratories, libraries and workshops and a regular course of work will be planned for them for that time.

Details of Peru Normal Fire

The loss by fire at the Peru normal school will not reach \$250, according to a special report submitted by Superintendent Clark. The fire originated in a box of theatrical costumes stored in the corridor on the fourth floor and was caused either by defective electric wiring or spontaneous combustion. The fire afforded an opportunity for testing the new pumping plant recently installed and soon was under control. Resolutions of thanks and commendation were adopted by the state board of education in regard to Janitor Mumford and Professor Beck, who were the principals in putting out the blaze, and it has been decided to organize a fire company among the students and employ and adopt a system of fire drills.

Wins Against Telephone Company

The injunction suit of the Fremont Telephone Company vs. The City of Fremont, which has been pending in district court for several months, ended in a victory for the city. Early in the winter the city council passed a resolution declaring the franchise of the company forfeited because it had increased rates beyond the figures allowed by that instrument. The street and sidewalk committee was instructed to remove the poles and wires of the company from the streets after ninety days, but the company went into court and secured a temporary injunction. This was dissolved by the court.

Can Buy Discharge for \$40

An order issued by the war department and which is of the greatest importance to the enlisted force, prescribes the rules governing the purchase of discharges from the army. Discharge by favor is declared to be illegal and the only exception to the system of purchasing discharges is the case of a soldier who is the sole support of a surviving parent and who may be discharged after one year's service. Discharge by way of favor to veterans is prohibited. The purchase price of discharges is \$40.

NORMAL SCHOOL CONTRACT

Will be Built of Pressed Brick and Stone After Berlinghoff's Plans

Stone, pressed brick and plain brick were the subjects of discussion by the state board of education at its meeting in the office of Superintendent Fowler. The meeting was a special one and was called for the purpose of inspecting the plans for the Kearney normal school prepared by Architect George Berlinghoff of Beatrice.

The plans submitted by Architect Berlinghoff were approved in general and then the matter of building material to be used was taken up. Several of the members of the board favored a stone front for the building, the use of pressed brick in the rear and common brick on the sidewalks. Omaha pressed brick will be the standard and contractors must agree to furnish brick as good or better than the Omaha product. No decision was reached in regard to building material.

At the meeting the board accepted the plans in entirety and decided to at once advertise for bids for construction, bids to be in by 12 o'clock, April 26, at which time the board will meet in regular session and award the contracts. It has not been decided what material will be used in the construction, but bids are to be alternative on Bedford stone, artificial stone, pressed brick and common brick. As contemplated by the plans, the building will have a frontage of 170 1/2 feet and a depth of 63 feet. The main portion of the building will be somewhat deeper than the wings, the scheme of architecture being for a completed building of quadrangular form. The executive committee of the board will act as a special committee to inspect and report upon the several kinds of material and the members of the committee may make a trip to Denver to inspect several buildings constructed entirely of artificial stone. The plans are for a two-story building with basement, a chapel and general assembly room to be on the top floor.

THE \$33,333.33 ALL PLEDGED

State University Temple Building is Certain to be Erected

The fund for the erection of the Temple building at the state university has been pledged. This announcement has been made at the university. The amount which was to be raised by popular subscription was \$33,333.33.

The chairman of one of the committees which had been appointed to solicit pledges, said:

"I have done no work in behalf of the fund for more than a month, but when I quit we lacked less than \$4,000 of having the entire amount and it was increasing at an average rate of \$1,000 a week. The entire amount is now pledged."

\$300,000,000 Insurance Case

Before Judge Dinwiddie, in the circuit court of Madison, Wis., the case of the state insurance commissioner against the Equitable Life Insurance Society of the United States, was decided in favor of the state. The case is the celebrated one in which the state sought to compel the insurance company to distribute several million dollars of surplus funds among policyholders in Wisconsin. The case will be appealed. The suit is one of the most important ever brought in Wisconsin, affecting as it does nearly \$300,000,000 of surplus that has been withheld by insurance companies doing business in this state for the past thirty years or more.

Barred from Nebraska

Because its salary list is too high for the income of the National Masonic Accident association of Des Moines, Deputy Insurance Auditor Pierce has refused to permit the company to continue to transact business in Nebraska and its application for a re-license has been rejected. The concern is an assessment accident association. An investigation shows that in 1901 the association had a membership of 9,807 and a salary list amounting to \$10,500. In 1903 the membership was 11,000 and the salary list \$19,000. The auditor considered the increase in salaries out of proportion with the increase in membership.

Cambridge Beat Oxford

The sixty-first annual race between the crews of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge was rowed over the Putney to Mort Lake course, England, about four and a quarter miles, and was won by the Cambridge men, who crossed the finish line at 8:19, four lengths in front of their opponents.

Postmaster Passes Away

Postmaster A. M. Thomas, of Aurora, Neb., died of a complication of diseases. He had been postmaster about seven years, and had lived in Nebraska twenty-nine years. He served four years in the civil war with an Indiana regiment and was in Libby prison. He had a large acquaintance throughout the state, having served as representative in the legislature in the early 90s. He leaves four children, all grown. They live in Aurora.

COPE WITH TRUSTS

Stockmen Invited to Participate in Dodge City Meeting

CALL HAS THE RIGHT RING

Purpose of the Meeting is to Provide Ways and Means for Betterment of Prices on All Kinds of Stock

A call has been issued for a convention of live stockmen, to be held at Dodge City, Kan., March 31. The call is addressed to southwestern stockmen but copies have been sent to all parts of the west and from the number of letters received by H. B. Bell, the secretary, the convention will be one of the largest held in southern Kansas in many years.

Many important questions will be discussed at this meeting relative to the live stock business. Among other things the call states:

The purposes of this meeting are for the discussion of and to help provide ways and means for the betterment of present prices, not only of cattle, but for all live stock.

The undesirable conditions which have existed at the different great live stock markets of this country for the past year are no longer in comparison or proportion with the rates paid by the consumer, and while the country in general is enjoying prosperity, good prices for the most products and labor employed, there is no just reason why cattle should sell on foot at the present low prices.

The consumption of food products in this country made from the steer has materially increased, but the producer of live cattle has received no benefit therefrom.

Supply and demand are no longer taken into account in fixing the prices of cattle on foot.

The cause is lack of competition in buying, brought about by a combination of the packers.

To change this system is the question which is of all importance to the cattle producers of today, and at this meeting on March 31, this will be the great question presented.

The Independent Packing company recently organized believes it has found a remedy. It is legitimate and healthy competition. At this meeting representatives of this company will be present and fully explain how it as a company hopes to correct this evil of low prices and will try to instruct us how to better our conditions in the business in which we are engaged.

We hope in this letter to impress on your minds the one fact more than any other, that the oppression under which the stock men and stock growers are now laboring will never be changed until we ourselves taken an active part in bringing about the desired result.

The promoters of the Independent Packing company, which was organized last winter have promised to attend this meeting and have issued a statement in connection with the call for the convention, a portion of which is as follows:

"The undesirable conditions which have existed at the various live stock markets for some time have caused every grower and feeder of cattle to give this question serious thought. Supply and demand is not taken into account in fixing the price of cattle on the hoof. We believe it is the rule of cause and effect. We believe we know the cause. It is a lack of competition in the buying, brought about by a combination of the packers of the United States. Now what to do to effect a change to relieve conditions from our view point is the question.

"If a sufficient number of men, who are engaged in the live stock business, will interest themselves in completing this organization, the promoters are certain of good results. The stockmen are a widely scattered body of men, and it is difficult to reach them, and fully explain in detail the plans of this new company.

"At this meeting representatives of the Independent Packing company will be present, and explain in detail all they expect to accomplish for the purpose of bettering conditions, now complained of. Also some of the benefits to the cattle industry generally."

Want Ministerial Limit Repeated

The Newark, N. J., conference of the Methodist Episcopal church has adopted a memorial to the general conference to be held at Los Angeles in May favoring the repeal of the church law enacted four years ago when the time limit for pastoral appointments was removed.

Kansas Postmasters Appointed

The following Kansas postmasters appointed: Brainerd, Butler county, Oliver P. Brumback, vice C. E. Brumback, resigned; Devon, Bourbon county, Elmer Butler, vice John J. Stewart, resigned; Dan, Wilson county, Charles S. Adell, vice Charles W. Browning, resigned; Strawberry, Washington county, Chas. Wurts, vice Mathias Wurts, resigned; Yale, Crawford county, Mrs. Ella G. Orden, vice Sylvester H. Dewitt, resigned.

BRITT THE BEST MAN

James Britt Gets Decisive Over Young Corbett at San Francisco

James Britt, of California, was given the decision at San Francisco over William Rothwell, better known as "Young Corbett," of Colorado, in a twenty-round contest at Woodward's pavilion.

Up to the seventeenth round Corbett's advantage was apparent, but in that round Britt rallied and rained right and left blows on various portions of Corbett's anatomy, forcing the champion to clinch to save himself. The styles of the two boxers were entirely distinctive. Britt fought for the body most of the time, while Corbett devoted his attack for the head, face and jaw. Britt weighed just 129 pounds, but Corbett's weight was not made public, though it is understood he was at least a pound and a half below the agreed weight, 139 pounds. Both men fought hard in every round.

It was without doubt the greatest fight fought in California. Britt's ability to take punishment and his endurance were simply marvelous. At no time during the twenty rounds did Britt break ground. He always brought the fight to Corbett, who was breaking ground and clinching most of the time. Britt was heavily punished, yet was at all times willing to take more and finally outgamed the champion.

Britt was better at the outfighting; Corbett superior in the infighting. Britt had the best footwork and the greatest speed. Corbett showed himself the cleverer fighter at times and the heavier hitter.

After the fight, Referee Eddie Grauey said: "I simply gave the decision to the man who had the best of the fight."

MANY RURAL ROUTES

Partial List of Rural Routes to be Established in Nebraska

The postoffice department has ordered the establishment of the following rural free delivery routes in Nebraska, April 15:

Arberville, York county—Route No. 1; length of route 15.6 miles; number of houses on route, 65. Cedar Rapids, Boone county—Route No. 2; length of route, 27 3-4 miles; number of houses on route, 107.

The following appointments have been made in the rural carrier service of Nebraska:

Bradish, route No. 1: John Gunnerson, carrier; Peat Gunnerson, substitute.

Humphrey, route No. 3: Matthias Gilsdorf, carrier; Joseph Gilsdorf, substitute.

North Loup, route No. 1: Clem N. Meyers, carrier; Charles Meyers, substitute.

Crete, route No. 4: John W. Grewell, carrier; Nell Grewell, substitute.

Overton, route No. 1: Miles E. Boardman, carrier; E. O. Boardman, substitute; route No. 2: John A. Schlep, carrier; William H. Stuart, substitute.

Carroll, route No. 1: Joseph A. Jones, carrier; William Jenkins, substitute.

The following postmasters have been appointed for Nebraska: Harlan, Cherry county; Walter C. Lyon, vice Homer S. Myers, resigned. Weston, Saunders county: John Walla, vice J. C. Stevens, resigned.

Students Judge Live Stock

The students of the agricultural colleges at Manhattan, Kan., will hold a stock judging contest. A large amount of money will be spent in prizes. The contests are given for the purpose of creating a deeper interest in the work of stockjudging among the students and to give them a training which will materially aid them to win high honors in future intercollegiate stock judging contests. The Agricultural association of the college, assisted by the animal husbandry department, will conduct the contest.

The contest will be between the students of the several classes including the classes in the regular four years' agricultural course, the first and second year's farmers' short course, dairy short course and special students.

Minstrel Band Frolics

A trolley car at Kokuk, Ia., ran through a minstrel parade, fatally injuring James Barand, hurting five other persons and destroying nearly all the musical instruments and costumes of the band.

Asking for a Raise

The representatives of telegraphers employed by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad formally presented a demand for increased pay and a reduction in duty hours to Vice President Potter of that company.

Three Feet of Coal at Emporia

A three-foot vein of coal was struck at a depth of 700 feet in the city park, near the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe tracks at Emporia, Kan. Great enthusiasm prevails, as in addition to the coal strike, a seven-foot bed of building sand was discovered only fourteen feet from the surface. This well is being sunk by private parties. The city has voted \$20,000, more than \$15,000 of which has been untouched, in sinking a shaft for the coal. Work will begin at once.