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THE LANGUAGE LAW.

It is the right as well as the duty of every child in America to learn the English language. When this is done, it should be the privilege to study any other tongue that may be desired. This privilege, which has a practical as well as a cultural and religious bearing, has been denied in Nebraska since 1919. In fact, a teacher who endeavored to instruct his class in a foreign language during the noon hour has been found guilty of breaking the language law.

A proposal to remove this restriction has now been brought before the state legislature. Modification of the Reed-Norval law, which forbids the teaching of any foreign language in schools below the ninth grade, is sought in a measure proposed by Representative A. W. Elsasser and George B. Collins. There are good reasons for asking that the drastic provisions of the law be lightened. As things stand now in Nebraska, only one day in the week, that observed as the Sabbath, can be devoted to teaching a child a foreign language. This operates in several parts of the state to hamper the religious education of the rising generation whose parents were born abroad and still continue their worship in the old way. A wedge is thus driven between parents and children, and the influence of religion is weakened.

Under the pressure of war-time hysteria, some things were done that now are being undone. It can safely be recognized that no one's devotion to the principles of Americanism is weakened by the fact that he speaks a foreign language, whether Polish, German, French, Swedish or Greek. So long as we all understand English, any added linguistic knowledge is so much gained.

It is worth noting that one of the proponents of a modified language law in the legislature is a member of the American Legion. This fact may be taken as guaranteeing that the is nothing un-American in the proposal now made, and as evidence of a spirit of tolerance that is destined to spread year by year.

During the campaign of Governor Bryan many voters interested in the modification of the language restrictions came to believe that he would assist them if elected. If he now will break his silence on this question and give his support to the proposed measure, there will be good hope for its passage.

PROTECTING NEBRASKA'S WILD LIFE.

Some real food for thought was given by H. N. Wheeler of the forest service in his address before the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Commenting on the fact that in the Nebraska state forest in the sand hills there are twenty-five white-tailed deer under protection, Mr. Wheeler stated that these deer are a sorry remnant of large bands which formerly roamed in Nebraska.

Yet despite the fact that these deer are protected, last fall a hunter did his best to kill one. "He was thinking of the venison he wanted for his own use," said Mr. Wheeler; "he did not care about the rest of the state of Nebraska and its desires. He cared nothing about protecting our wild life and did not stop to realize that our game resources are low. But in that he was little different from some hunters I heard about last fall who had killed their limit of prairie chickens and buried 200 more in a sand hole. Violation of the game laws meant but little to them."

There was a time when buffalo and elk and antelope, grouse and other game birds existed in Nebraska in great numbers. Due to the ruthless destruction by hunters, there are now no buffalo or elk in the state and but few deer and antelope. Hunters with little regard for the sanctity of game laws have been responsible for this condition. Nebraska is not by any means alone as regards this condition. Every state where wild game has been abundant could recount similar experiences.

There are two ways of hunting—one with a camera and the other with a gun. The former method gives pleasure and happiness to scores of folks who visit our parks and our bird and game preserves. Laws have been established in the various states for the protection of our wild life. There are always a few who choose to laugh at these laws and show their contempt by shooting more than the legal limit and also shooting out of season. Disregard of game laws by a few hunters casts reproach on hunters in general.

Our game laws must be respected. A real test of citizenship is appreciation of natural beauty and an interest in the preservation of natural resources. We can not afford to countenance the ruthless destruction of Nebraska's game.

REFORM WITH A LAUGH.

There is perhaps as much reason for the formation of an "Anti-Gimme" league as for a number of other present day organizations. The founder of the new club, which has taken hold in Minneapolis, announced that its purpose is to eliminate all forms of petty grafting; to stop tipping in restaurant, hotels, trains, cabarets and elsewhere except for satisfactory service; to establish a basis of agreement with wives so as to do away with continual and unreasonable demands on the husband's income, and to prevent chronic borrowing of cigarettes, cigars, umbrellas, books, tools and household supplies. Some of the younger members propose also to discourage excessive demands of girls upon young men for unreasonable expenditures for theater tickets, taxis, candy, perfume and gifts of all kinds.

A small button labeled "Gimme" is the insignia of the order. There is about the whole performance a note of railraiy that may be counted upon to discourage the impositions of those who habitually seek something for nothing. One of the best ways to down an evil is to laugh it to death. Reformers as a class go too seriously about their business. The purposes of the "Anti-Gimme" club are perhaps trivial, but its spirit is one worthy of imitation by more important movements.

BRADY'S TRIBUTE TO CRITICS.

Mr. William A. Brady is but the latest of irascible managers to go before the curtain to denounce newspaper critics. Ever since writers for the press began to note seriously the doings of actor folks, the warfare has been continuous. At times this controversy has taken on much of acrimony, bitterness and even violence, yet no settlement has been approached. It is always a question of judgment. Mr. Brady, acting as manager for his wife, may select and present whatever play he in his wisdom may deem appropriate, and he is within his rights when he recommends it to the public as worthy of patronage. In this he is a salesman, offering his wares and inviting customers. However, he also invites the comment, more or less critical, of reviewers, who are at liberty to express opinions as to the merits of the play.

Opinions as to the merits or demerits of a play or anything else may reasonably differ, and in the present instance it appears the critics for the Chicago newspapers were not in line with Mr. Brady's views. What is more important, the public seems to have accepted the judgment of the newspaper writers, rather than that of the producer. Naturally, this has irritated Mr. Brady, who vents his displeasure on the critics, saying among other things: "The theater as an institution in Chicago is being wrecked by the critics." Miss Grace George (who is Mrs. William A. Brady), says: "The critics have made this play look like a piece of cheese."

On the other hand, Mrs. Fiske, William Hodge, Elsie Ferguson, Wallie Edinger and Mary Nash, and several others who offer something beside "bare legs and bum jokes," are getting along quite nicely with the Chicago public and presumably with the Chicago critics. In times past the newspapers have said many nice things about Miss George, and probably will again. We are, therefore, justified in concluding that Mr. Brady was in a testy mood when he spoke. It will comfort those who write about plays for the papers, however, to know that Mr. Brady ascribes to them some power to influence public opinion.

A NATION OF SPENDERS?

This, we are told, is a thrifless age, filled with waste and extravagance. You have all heard that charge made by serious minded men who are convinced that the American people are living beyond their income. Dollars are said simply to burn holes in the pockets of their possessors. Instead of saving money for a rainy day it is all spent for sunshine, moonshine and unnecessary indulgences of various kinds.

Something, that accusation hasn't created a great deal of excitement. Perhaps it's just as well, for it isn't true. In fact, the figures show that at no time in history has there been such a volume of savings in America as right now.

The monthly review of the Federal Reserve bank for the district including Omaha shows savings deposits of \$94,311,245 in 58 banks, a gain of about \$3,000,000 in a year. Five Omaha banks reporting showed 30,083 savings depositors, with a total of \$5,154,406 to their credit. Four thousand new accounts were opened last year. This is quite aside from the immense savings invested in building and loan companies, stocks, bonds and property of various kinds.

The same situation exists the nation over. The facts are utterly confusing to those prophets of ruin who declare that people are living too well and spending money too freely. A man of moderate income buys a motor car, a musical instrument or some new furniture and immediately some critic arises to warn him that this is the sort of thing that is eating the heart out of national prosperity. The plain fact may be that by economizing on something else, perhaps by curbing expenditures for useless trifles that often mount to gaudy figures, such purchases are made without adding any great burden.

There is much to think about in this situation, wherein the standard of living has advanced and at the same time savings have increased. The simplest way to explain it is that the increased demand for the comforts of life have given more employment to those engaged in the production of them. These working people have thus increased their own income and purchasing power. Increased consumption has stimulated production, given more employment, and not only has kept more money in circulation but has enabled savings to be increased.

It is true that money spent for needless trinkets, unwholesome diversion and for folly is wasted, for these not only bring no lasting satisfaction to the buyer but also cause the withdrawal from useful employment of the labor necessary to supply them. There is a gain for civilization, however, when people expand their demands for useful commodities. That is what a rise in the standard of life means—that and the nest egg of savings.

If France is no more successful in dealing alone with Turkey than in carrying out her German policy, she will not get very far.

If the Nebraska state government is not reorganized, it will not be for lack of plans.

Joy rides and bad booze make dangerous mixtures.

What Is Middle Class?

From the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, a New York radical clergyman, said, in an address in St. Paul before the Women's City Club, that civilization is headed for oblivion through the disappearance of the middle classes. He added that England and Soviet Russia are best prepared to resist such destruction. Such confusion of thought is bewildering to anyone informed on the confiscation of property, wholesale murder, prostration of industry, decay of agriculture, starvation and plagues of red Russia.

Classes of people are pretty well defined in Europe, where the middle class generally includes professional people, with some, but not much, property. They have suffered severely, either by direct proscription, as in Russia, or by the annihilation of property values and fixed incomes, as a result of currency inflation. There is reason to hope, however, that modern civilization eventually will be restored in all parts of Europe and that there will be need for the services of the educated professions and for the small capitalist.

It is not so easy to define the middle class in the United States. Class distinctions in this country are not clear nor permanent, which is a good thing. Who are going to be wiped out, as Rev. Holmes fears? The criterion cannot be education, as some of the rich have had little scholastic education, while many of the comparatively poor have been through college. Occupation is not a test, as many manual workers own their own homes and other property, from which they derive rents and profits. Middle class position does not depend on salaries, paid by the month, as opposed to wages, earned by the day or hour, for wages often are greater than salaries. If, however, the middle class includes all those workers who have something saved for a rainy day and have property in the form of skill in a trade or profession, it includes the bulk of the people of this country. That class cannot disappear unless the whole country is destroyed.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers

WHAT IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM?

From the Minneapolis Journal.

Radical members of the legislature have raised the ghost of academic freedom at the university. The practical desirability of asking professors and assistant professors to add to their curriculum that of acting as jurors upon undesirable colleagues need not now be discussed. The dangers of such a plan are manifest.

The main question is, "In what does academic freedom really consist?" Academic freedom assuredly means the right of an instructor to teach his proper subject, according to the best of his scientific knowledge, without discipline by his trustees or regents.

If a professor chooses to say or publish what to modern science appears to be folly, without presenting valid reasons for upsetting established theories, he cannot escape the open and scathing criticism of colleagues in his own and other universities. If there is too much of this criticism, his whole status as a teacher and scientist is threatened, and the executive authorities are bound to investigate his scientific responsibility as an educator. This scientific responsibility can never be avoided.

Of course these possibilities are more or less speculative. Yet the tendency toward increase of the big cities, and the dream of what may follow, as shown in Chicago's aspirations, affords a curious study, with many possibilities arising from the drift into city groups.

The Educational Future.

From the Detroit Free Press.

In a recent article on the future of education President Burton of the University of Michigan likened the present system to a cafeteria service in which the students come in and help themselves to whatever they want. The future educator, he believes, will classify students according to their special qualifications and educate each man for what he is best adapted to.

Many educators have been thinking along that line and the psychologists are about ready to declare that they can undertake the work of classification. If the ideal should ever be realized a boy would be tagged in early youth for the exact field of interest that offered him the greatest measure of success and pleasure, and when he came out of school he would be fully prepared for a career already mapped out.

Originally the universities offered one course for everybody and prescribed that course. The rigidity of this plan was unintelligent and having recognized its failure the colleges adopted the elective system. A professor taught for no choice at all and it has proved far from ideal. The step which President Burton describes would go a long way toward the old system of strict limits, but would adapt them to the capacity of each individual. Some day the world may know whether that idea solves the problem or only leads up to another blind alley.

ly, but in art, literature, in industry and transportation. What if it contains 50,000,000 people, and was controlled by foreign born people as it is today?

The tendency of the age is toward greater and greater control of the country by this city. We come to a restoration of the city estate, which dominated everything for something like 4,000 years of human history. We may even come to leagues of cities which will be dominant of all, as was the case when the dark ages began.

Of course these possibilities are more or less speculative. Yet the tendency toward increase of the big cities, and the dream of what may follow, as shown in Chicago's aspirations, affords a curious study, with many possibilities arising from the drift into city groups.

The European Crisis.

From the Editor of The Omaha Bee.

Readers of The Omaha Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your editorial of the 23th, "Jumping Off Place for Politics," draws a conclusion which I am sure is not justified. With all due respect for the sentiment of certain ones of Nebraska's country editors, I cannot admit that the influence of this nation should not be used—and used right now—to protest against the "wrong methods" which you admit are being pursued. To wait "until" their failure is completely demonstrated," or "until Europe is ready and willing to accept" our principles, simply means waiting to quench the fire until the house is burned down.

It is true that the man interfering in a family quarrel is often unfortunate, but the quarrel between France and Germany is much more than a family quarrel, the outcome of which will affect not only the whole of Europe, but the entire world. So if France is permitted to proceed in her present tactics the effect will be most disastrous. What it means to have the purchasing power of 60,000,000 Germans completely destroyed the American farmer has found out to his sorrow. Besides, when a husky big bully is battering the life out of a crippled and helpless opponent, I would like to see a true sportsman stand by and withdraw himself sympathetically for the weaker dog.

When Germany fought the allies she was bucking against odds, three to one. The odds against her now are about a dozen to one.

Senator Borah's efforts to find a way out of the desperate situation should meet with the widest possible support, so as to bring pressure to bear upon our administration to act upon it now. The administration of the University of Michigan is not yet for "international or partisan ambition," nor yet for "this or that theory of nationalism or internationalism," but for making an end of chaos which threatens to destroy the world. If the administration fails us, it will be glad to add to the charges made by William Hard in this week's Nation.

As a husband, are you afraid to tell your wife of your financial condition, because you fear she might make additional demands on you?

As a wife, are you doing little things to earn money to gratify the extravagant habits you have?

In too many homes there is not enough straightforward honesty.

Husbands make expenditures which they would like to have, rather than have them found out by the wife.

Wives are scrimping and scheming to keep down household expenses to indulge in foolish extravagance to satisfy a whim.

Men often spend more each week for personal comfort and pleasure, than they would be willing to have their wives spend.

Many a man is kept in debt continually by an extravagant wife.

Where does this hit you?

(Copyright, 1922.)

My Pard

He's my pal, so he is, and he's loyal. He's kind and sincere and he's true; And when the sky has a beamin' hue.

And when the troubles that vex seem to vanish.

And when I'm shakin' the hand of my pard.

We live o'er the old days together.

While trampin' the trails we love best.

And the hillsides are glowin' with the west.

We tell of our winnin's and losses,

Of the times when we failed or we started.

And we'd sing like a rhyme when I'm passin' the time.

With the feller I prize—my pard.

Perhaps there's no "weak" in our diggin's.

As we lay off, life's sand for the gold,

And the prospects may vanish like shadows.

While the friends that we trusted grow.

Perhaps that's no one on the bleachers.

To cast if we've lost or we started;

But the ones we made along with a cheerier song.

When yer hittin' life's trails with a pard.

In the prince of good fellers—my pard.

—H. Howard Biggar.

HELP CARRY A BUDDY'S PACK

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=6%
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