

PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORMS

Views of an Experienced Educator on Needed School Legislation.

DANGERS OF POLITICAL WIRE PULLING

Smaller Boards and Longer Terms—Nebraska's School Law Laid to Rest in School—Training of High Hands.

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, superintendent of the Chicago public schools, is an energetic advocate of many needed reforms in school management and school legislation. He has had several hard tussles with the Chicago school board by insisting on keeping politics out of the schools and by demanding that merit be the sole qualification of teachers.

There is not a matter of more vital importance before the American people today than that of providing legislation for the betterment of the public school system in general, and most particularly in the large cities. In this problem is involved the divinement of school management from politics and wire-pulling.

As the bill recently before the Illinois legislature was framed by an able commission, thoroughly competent to deal with involved educational questions, this measure is of interest to the entire country and I believe represents the most advanced position yet taken in practical legislation for the benefit of public schools.

The bill is popularly spoken of as the "Chicago School Law," and contains three fundamental propositions which are well worth the consideration of all earnest educators. These fundamentals are (1) A small school board. (2) A longer term of service for members of this board than now prevails. (3) Expert and responsible administration of the educational and business departments of the school system.

Effectiveness of Small Boards. Then, in a smaller board, there is less temptation for the members to indulge in oratory. The numerical contraction of a deliberative body always acts as a discouragement of the forensic spirit. Where only five or ten men gather about a table they do not naturally take to delivering political speeches. Instead, they spontaneously think of doing business in a direct, simple and business-like manner.

Not the least important consideration in favor of a small board is that each member feels inevitably a sense of personal responsibility which would not rest upon him were the total responsibility spread over a large organization. In short, what is everybody's business is nobody's business, and this attitude of thought always obtains, consciously or unconsciously, in any large body of men.

Where the executive organization is small and compact the quiet man who is seldom heard from figures prominently. His full worth, which is generally much greater than that of the ready talker. The proportion of absenteeism at meetings of a compact board is much less than in the case of a larger organization. Each member feels that a definite and personal responsibility compels his attendance, and that if he is not present to discharge his personal duties, no other person will look after them.

One of the greatest evils of a large school board is what may be termed the sectional or geographical spirit. The member of such a body comes to think of himself as the representative of a certain section, ward, club, nationality or element of the city, and feels that he is charged with this interest to the exclusion, perhaps, of all others. This brings a narrow and trafficking spirit, and he is willing to make concessions against his best judgment in order to gain support and votes for the one element to which he is devoted.

Long Terms Desirable. The "vulcher" for the argument favoring a longer term of service for members of school boards is that the work in a city of any considerable size is so complex that a year is of little practical use and must take time to learn. A new member is often unserviceable in proportion to the strength of his good intentions. His very conscientiousness prevents him from lunging boldly ahead without first gaining some knowledge of the besetting difficulties confronting him.

erations of such a system the board would be spared the now common spectacle of raw members perpetrating absurd mistakes, owing to their ignorance of the rules governing the body to which they belong.

With the administration of school affairs by expert and responsible heads goes out the personal politics which is the bane and curse of the system will operate in greater or lesser degree in nearly all the large cities of America. Such a change means the confinement of the deliberations of the board to purely legislative work.

Continuance means the planning for low class talent, and even when a good man finds himself in an executive position, these handicaps compel him to give low class service. On the other hand, the placing of power equal to the contingent responsibility in the hands of an expert opens wide the door for the exercise of the highest talents and therefore makes such positions attractive to those capable of administering such responsibilities in the most acceptable manner.

A Political Body. The other objection that is brought out whenever the argument for responsible management is advanced is that delegating so much power to the superintendent and the business manager of the school is undemocratic and contrary to the spirit of free institutions. In reply to this it need only be said that the power exercised by these two functionaries is in reality that of the people's power and is exercised for the benefit of the people.

Non-Nebraska's School Law Laid to Rest. Hon. J. W. Wolfe, commissioner of public lands and buildings, is distributing printed copies of the Reynolds act, passed by the last legislature, relating to educational lands in Nebraska. The purposes for which these lands were so generously donated by the general government to the school children of the state are believed to be more effectively safeguarded and promoted under this act.

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but physical punishment of some sort, he insists on punishing a child's misdeeds, owing to his ignorance of the rules governing the body to which they belong.

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JURORS ARE HARD TO GET

Difficulty in Securing Men to Sit in Kerr Murder Case.

JUDGE BAKER LAYS DOWN A RULE OF LAW

If a Man is Convinced that Reid Was Killed Such Man is Not Qualified to Sit in the Case.

According to the experience of Judge Baker and the lawyers who are engaged in securing a jury, nearly every male citizen of Douglas county has formed an opinion in regard to the murder of John Reid. One whole day and three nights of the examination of jurors and scarcely any apparent progress has been made toward the discovery of twelve men who are competent to impartially try Kerr. Almost without exception the jurors declare that they have formed positive opinions, and clearly thirty have already been excused for cause, although the peremptory challenges have not been reached.

In ruling on a motion of the defense to excuse a juror, the court decided that the fact that a juror has formed the positive opinion that Reid was killed, is sufficient to prevent him from being a competent juror. Judge Baker declared that the fact that the man was killed is one of the essential elements of proof on the part of the state and that if a juror enters into the case with a positive opinion on that point, part of the case of the state is already established. This ruling has resulted in the disqualification of a large number of jurors. Those who have not formed an opinion as to the guilt of the defendant seem to be thoroughly convinced that Reid was killed and under the laws as laid down by the court they have been excused. Judging by the experience of the first day of the case it may require the balance of the week to secure a satisfactory jury.

The only breeze that has so far stirred the monotony of the proceedings occurred when Egbert Peterson, a German gardener from North Omaha, was called. Peterson paid close attention while the county attorney went into an exhaustive statement of the case, but his subsequent answers indicated that he did not know whether it was a case of murder or horse stealing. "Didn't you understand what I have been telling you?" inquired the prosecutor. "Well, about a little, Judge; about a little," answered the juror and then he explained that he couldn't understand English much. "You are excused," said the court. "Do you understand that?" "Yah, I know dot," he responded, with sudden alacrity and he made way for another man, who had formed an opinion.

The entire panel was exhausted at 4 o'clock and Judge Baker adjourned court until this morning. Up to that time forty-eight jurors had been examined. Seventeen had been excused for cause at the request of the state and thirteen at the instance of the defense. Two were dismissed by mutual consent. The state had used one of its peremptory challenges and the defense three.

SUIT AGAINST WATER COMPANY. Minnie C. Samuelson, Victim of Patterson Block Fire, Asks Damages. The second case against the Omaha Water company for damages on account of injuries sustained in the Patterson block fire March 21 has been filed in the district court. Minnie C. Samuelson, who was the most severely injured of any of the women who recovered, is the plaintiff and she asks for damages in the sum of \$40,000. She alleges that the fire was caused by the action of Burton M. Karr, an inspector for the water company, in throwing lighted matches into the rubbish in the basement of the building.

In connection with the service of the papers in the Samuelson case it develops that the water company has made an important move, which is assumed to indicate that it expects to play a game of cards for a cigar as to play the money. He took occasion to severely criticize the witnesses who had failed to testify that they had seen a poker game in progress in Jenkins' place and plainly declared his belief that they were committing perjury. The bond was fixed at \$500 and was promptly given.

Hampers the Work of Court. The proceedings of the district court during the first week of the term are hampered to a considerable extent by the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of jurors to meet the demands in all branches. The jury was drawn from a list that was made up in 1897, and it appears that nearly a majority of the jurors who were drawn have moved since that time. The auditions were sent out as usual by registered letter

Between 5:30 and 8:30—We are serving the best supper ever served in Omaha—and the price is just half our former—how is this sample—Half dozen blue points, 20c. Broiled lake trout, 15c. Broiled Texas owl on toast, 35c. A nice steak, 30c. Corn meal mush with cream, 15c. Fried hominy, 10c. There are twenty-four different dishes included on our supper bill of fare.

BALDUFF'S, Lunch—11:30 to 2:30. Supper—5:30 to 8:30. 1520 Farnam St.

WILL FACE THE BODILY

The Farical Character of the Present System of Giving Cases in Appeal Cases from the Police Court was Plainly Apparent in Judge Sibaugh's Court Yesterday.

The farical character of the present system of giving cases in appeal cases from the police court was plainly apparent in Judge Sibaugh's court yesterday, when not one of the defendants whose cases were set for hearing appeared. Neither did any of the bondsmen appear to show cause why their principals neglected to obey the summons. After waiting until 3 o'clock, Judge Sibaugh declared the bond forfeited in each case, and after a conference between the court and City Prosecutor Miller the latter announced that he will at once begin suits on the bonds.

Minor Matters in Court. The Council Bluffs Savings bank has instituted replevin proceedings against the railway company to secure possession of a session of 125 head of steers which the bank asserts the defendant is wrongfully retaining in its possession. In United States court Judge Munger has denied the application of Ella R. Downs and others for the appointment of a receiver to take charge of the Paddock hotel at Beatrice, pending the disposition of the suit brought against Harriett A. Colman and others.

The Concordia Loan and Trust company of Concordia, Kan., has sued the city of Omaha to recover \$2,855.60, a sum alleged to have been paid for taxes on a piece of Omaha property that came into the possession of the plaintiff through a tax sale in 1892. The first sale was declared void and the company now claims that it has paid the amount to the city the second time on the consideration that the first payment should be returned. The city has refused to do this on the ground that the tax collector has collected for the city sufficient protection. It is understood that the action of the company is preliminary to an effort to hold the original purchaser of the property, but the city officials insist that the payment must be made under conditions that will insure the city from counter action.

UNITED STATES GRAND JURY Investigation of the Case of John McNamara, Charged with Counterfeiting Coins. The United States grand jury has commenced its labors and the members of the body propose to put in full time. The greater portion of the morning session was devoted to considering the testimony against John McNamara of Indianapolis, this state, who is charged with coinage and circulating counterfeit dollars and other coins. McNamara is a farmer and last winter it is alleged that he engaged in the counterfeiting business on a small scale. He put up a little mint in his house and made a few coins, which he circulated in the neighborhood. Within a few days after the first coin was put out he was arrested and taken before a United States commissioner, who held him to await the action of the grand jury.

When officers searched McNamara's house at Indianapolis material for making the spurious coins was found, but his wife insisted that she used it in making picture frames. An order has gone out to the witnesses who are called to appear before the United States grand jury and unless it is obeyed there are several people who are likely to get into trouble. The witnesses have been in the habit of registering in the office of Clerk Hills and then going out and spending their time upon the street. Under the provisions of the new order the witnesses are required to remain in the corridor on the fourth floor of the government building until they have given their testimony and have been excused. If witnesses do not obey they will not only lose their pay, but will be fined for contempt of court.

The members of the United States grand jury spent a portion of their time yesterday afternoon listening to testimony of witnesses in the case wherein Dan Domash, a tailor of Nelson, this state, is charged with having dealt in intoxicating liquors without first having paid the government tax.

SCHOOL YEAR IS SHORTENED Cass Street School Children Will Attend School on Saturdays, Their Term Ending June 10. Children who attend the Cass school will have to go six instead of five days a week during the rest of the school year, although their term will be shortened by two weeks, their school closing on June 10 instead of June 23. The Board of Education decided upon this at Monday night's meeting. This is to shorten the school year at the Cass school that the building may be torn down as speedily as possible and the new school erected in time for occupancy at the opening of the school year next fall. The children will lose but a day or two of the present school term under this plan.



A child fresh from its bath in clean dainty clothes is a suggestion of Ivory Soap. All dainty washable things may be restored to their original freshness without injury, by use of Ivory Soap.

A WORD OF WARNING.—There are many white soaps, each represented to be "just as good as the Ivory." They ARE NOT, but like all counterfeits, lack the peculiar and remarkable qualities of the genuine. Ask for "Ivory" Soap and insist upon getting it.

PLANS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

Interesting Session of the Board of Education is Promised.

MEMBERS ARE AT LOGGERSHEADS OVER THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE STRUCTURE, SHORN OF EQUIPMENT, SHOULD COST.

The special meeting of the Board of Education this evening, which is to be held for the purpose of enabling the members to consider the plans of the High school submitted by Architect McDonald, promises to be an interesting session. It will bring two elements in the board, which have been at loggerheads since the school building matter came up, into direct conflict.

The high school will come up over the cost of the building. Architect McDonald, in accordance with suggestions that he has received from a number of board members, has drawn plans of a structure which he estimates will cost \$150,000 or in that neighborhood. While \$150,000 was voted by the people for high school purposes, there is an element in the board which insists that the actual cost of the building shall be much below this amount.

This element desires, among other things, that \$25,000 of the \$150,000 shall be used for equipping the manual training department and the chemical laboratories. The board members who are working for this insist that this money must come out of the proposition provided that the money should be used for "high school facilities" and not a High school building solely.

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CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Altieri.

Those at Our Opening—Will remember the fine line of pianos we had on exhibition that evening on our main floor—while these were ordered more particularly for the opening they are the same grades and makes as our regular stock and we now offer them for sale at the remarkably low prices that have been asked in the past for these same instruments—the great advantage you have now in choosing is that all the new woods are represented in the cases—and probably in a better assortment than will be again—very easy terms on these.

A. HOSPE, We celebrate our 25th business anniversary Oct. 23rd, 1899. Music and Art. 1513 Douglas. Looking After Tenderfeet—The way the Sioux looks after them and the way we do is vastly different—although we both accomplish the same result—relieve their suffering—our way is to fit the feet to a pair of Grover's kid congress shoes at \$2.50—they are made in all sizes—for women of all ages—the Romeos are \$2.00—these are with heavy turn soles. Then we have a shoe at \$3.00 with a welt and heavier sole—wide plain toes—in fact, none of these shoes for tender feet have tips. We also have a medium sole shoe at \$2.00 and \$2.50—a special shoe for special feet.

BEER ARGUMENT—THE DRINKING. In strength, purity and flavor. VAL. BLATZ BREWING CO., MILWAUKEE, U.S.A. OMAHA BRANCH: 1412 DOUGLAS STREET. Telephone 1081.

HUTESON, Manufacturing Optician, We Make the Glasses we sell. 1520 DOUGLAS STREET. 8 Doors from 10th.

THE ALOE & PENFOLD CO., Largest Retail Drug House. 1408 FARNAM. OMAHA. OPPOSITE PAXTON HOTEL.