

COUNTRY SCHOOLS' DAY PAST

A Notable Institution Gradually Going Out of Extinction. CENTRALIZED SCHOOLS TAKE ITS PLACE

Better Instruction and Better Accommodations for the Pupils -Marked Advantages of the New Plan.

Before long the dodo itself will not be more extinct than the old-time country school. As a people we have had a mania for multiplying school houses. We dotted on a landscape well supplied with them.

Times have changed. Country schools are being shut up by the score. But don't get excited. The young idea is not being deprived of its right to exist. On the contrary, it is at last receiving just as good a chance along that line as used to be the exclusive privilege of town children.

This is the way it is done. Take any year from two to a dozen spinning, tottering, half done country schools. There are thousands of them. Throughout the east the rural school population has dwindled to half what it used to be.

One reason is the movement toward the cities. Another is that the degree and kind of learning handed out in these familiar little old buildings wasn't able to bring a child within less than long distance communication with an education.

It was nobody's fault, of course. You can't expect Mamie Smith, aged 18, at \$30 a month and her board, to be of the proper caliber to teach an assortment of pupils from 8 to 21 years of age. At the same time Mamie must be forgiven if the higher branches are rather slighted. Such a school is apt to degenerate into a mere set-to-between teacher and pupils, in which all the rules and most of the furniture get sadly out of repair.

The New System. Under the new system all of these scratch-scrabble schools in a township are closed. If there already exists a graded school within the township, the country pupils are taken back and forth between their homes and the school, the cost of their transportation being paid out of the school fund of the township.

The result is that the country children have the same advantages as those in town. And the cost to the township is less. The reports on the working of the new system are interesting. The change began in New England, but now is in use in about thirty states.

The south, where the school funds are lamentably small and the country districts are lucky to get three months poor teaching in the course of the year, is behind the procession. But in Florida, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia the system is gradually gaining ground.

In the north it is fairly revolutionizing farm life. Take one instance—that of Green township, Trumbull county, Ohio. This is the real country. Not a city, not a town, not even a sizable village in the New England, but now is in use in about thirty states.

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TOOTH TALK, No. 10

PAINLESSNESS. The indifference of dentists generally to the pain that inflicts is hard to explain. It is many times due to lack of sympathy, or, perhaps, comes from ignorance; colleges, strangely enough, teach little on this subject and it is seldom discussed in dental societies.

A Reliable Dentist at a Reasonable Fee. DR. FICKER, DENTIST, 317 S. 16th St., 233 Bee Bldg.

Centralization Growing. In Massachusetts, with its network of trolleys, centralization has been growing every year. Country children living within a reasonable distance of a trolley line—and it is comparatively small portion which does not live near one now—receive trolley tickets from the school authorities and go back and forth on the ubiquitous electric car.

The Old and the New. In an Ohio county, close to the Green township paradise of centralized schools, some inspecting visitors stopped at a district school house in a township which still clings to old methods. They found a small building, no shade trees, antiquated furniture, primitive ventilation and sanitary arrangements, in fact, the typical country school of sentimental poetry.

In Maine, where a total of one-third of all the school funds is paid for transporting children, it is the law that schools with an enrollment of less than eight pupils shall consolidate with a neighboring school. As a result, even with the cost of conveyance, some districts report as high a saving as \$4 a pupil. This is good.

The increase has been even more pronounced in some states of the middle west. In New York the method has not made much progress, but legislation is helping it somewhat. Experience will do the rest.

The country school house as it has been in the past will soon be a curiosity.—New York Sun.

Little other business was transacted because the absence of committee chairmen made it impossible to get committee reports and those delegates present had nothing to report.

A debate will occur at the meeting to be held December 13, at which the industrial form of organization will be pitted against the plan of trade autonomy, with the champions of either side as the debaters. This will be a public meeting and all labor unions affiliated with the central Labor union will be requested to send large delegations.

Rev. A. S. C. Clarke, pastor of the Iowa Avenue Presbyterian church, and Rev. Hubert C. Herring of the First Congregational church were present from the Minnesota union and made short talks in which they expressed themselves as being in sympathy with the unions and with the Union Label league.

That is what Kelly says Union Pacific's Attack on Kansas Commission is. Relative to the action of the Union Pacific Railroad company, it is reported that it has brought suit to test the constitutionality of the Kansas railroad commission law, General Solicitor W. R. Kelly said:

"Under the Kansas law the state board is authorized to hear complaints of shippers and to pass upon them. A complaint was made to the board and it was heard and the decision rendered the latter part of October. The Kansas law provides that any one dissatisfied with a decision of the board has a right to appeal to the courts within thirty days, and if such appeal is not taken the decision of the board becomes operative. The company has appealed to the courts from the decision of the board. I am not familiar with the petition and consequently do not know whether the constitutionality of the act is to be tested."

Texas Bank Robbed. DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 1.—The Bank of Carrollton, a small institution located in the town of Carrollton, was robbed last night of several thousand dollars. The burglar escaped.

NAVAL ACADEMY TRAGEDIES

Recollections of Times When Pistols Settled Affairs of Honor. "CODE" RESPONSIBLE THEN AS NOW Melancholy Fate of the Midshipman Who Did the Shooting—A Type of the Branch-Method Case.

There rests in a New York cemetery close to the haunts of trade the dust of a young man one of whose acts made his name immortal in the navy, but who died an object of charity, though not of charity grudgingly bestowed.

The young man cast off by his country was Midshipman Charles G. Hunter of the United States navy, who won the sobriquet of "Alvarado" Hunter because he dared capture an enemy's town and fortress without orders.

But the dishonor the government had placed upon an officer whose brave act official dignity could not acknowledge was not the Nemesis that followed the young midshipman through an eventful but unhappy life.

That Nemesis consisted of the recollection of a fateful Sunday many years before—March 21, 1830—when Passed Midshipman Charles G. Hunter shot and killed William Miller, Jr., in a duel on the bank of Naam's creek, Delaware. He went through sorrowful days, the victim of an unreasonable false code of honor that prevailed then in the United States and was apparently survived in part to this day.

The pistol shots that rang out that Sunday threw the two principal cities of the country—New York and Philadelphia—into a ferment of excitement, stirred naval circles, became a national incident and resulted in executive action. Yet, strangely enough, the two young men who faced each other on the bank of the little stream just south of Philadelphia were not the original parties to the quarrel which resulted so tragically, but were drawn into it in an endeavor to effect a settlement of the difficulty.

Miller was a young lawyer of much promise in the Quaker City and Hunter, then only 23 years of age, had won special commendation from his superior officers in the navy and seemed destined for a notable career.

The duel grew out of a trivial incident. Henry Wharton Griffith and R. Dillon Drake, two society men of Philadelphia, in company with some friends, sauntered into a billiard parlor at Third and Chestnut streets on the afternoon of Friday, February 17, 1830, and Drake, angered by an implied imputation upon his skill with the cue, struck Griffith in the face. Before the friends could interfere Drake had severely whipped his companion. That evening a message was sent to New York to Passed Midshipman Charles H. Duryee of the United States navy, asking him to come immediately to Philadelphia. Duryee arrived on the following Tuesday and the next day carried a challenge from Griffith to Drake, who refused to entertain any message.

"I will have no affair or intercourse with a person of his reputation," was Drake's contemptuous reply. "Tell him he is beneath the notice of a gentleman."

"Is that your answer?" demanded Duryee. "If it," replied Drake. "Take your letter back to him."

Burning with indignation, Duryee strode out and at once sought Commander Philip F. Voorhees of the navy, who sent him back to Drake with insistence that satisfaction be given to Griffith for the insult.

"I refuse to accord a meeting to a man who has placed himself beyond the pale of recognition," retorted Drake haughtily. "But you were the assailant," asserted the officer with some warmth.

"Very true, but I hit him not because of the billiard game, but because he wrote a letter to my brother, Dr. Drake, that was derogatory to his fiancée, and that on the very day of his marriage."

Duryee left Dr. Drake as a coward, and that brought the young lawyer, Miller, into the quarrel. The following day the hands of Duryee, but Lieutenant Hampton Westcott, of Duryee's vessel, refused to permit the midshipman to accept until Drake had given satisfaction to Griffith.

News of the controversy had spread among the naval officers at New York and Philadelphia, and there was sharp criticism of Duryee because he had not accepted Drake's challenge, despite the half-sceptical ruling of Lieutenant Hampton Westcott. So, to clear Duryee of the imputation of cowardice, some friends in New Brunswick, N. J., wrote to Miller, the attorney, asking that the whole matter be referred to a committee, whose decision should be final.

To this Miller responded that, as Duryee had not accepted the challenge, he and Drake looked upon the incident as closed. The affair would doubtless have ended there had it not been for the entrance of Midshipman Hunter into the dispute. On March 19 he visited Miller, demanded the letter written from New Brunswick and went away in hot anger because of the refusal of the lawyer to hand it over.

A few days later the New Brunswick letter was printed, and Hunter demanded immediate satisfaction. Miller disclaimed any responsibility for the publication of the letter, but the explanation was not accepted, and on March 17 Lieutenant Westcott bore a cartel to Miller. The attorney again insisted that he had no connection with the publication of private correspondence and declined to accept the challenge.

Three days later Hunter posted Miller as a coward, concluding his declaration with the gratuitous assertion that the Philadelphia lawyer was a liar as well as a poltroon. This rapid fire oratorical bombardment stirred Duryee to action, and he sent an acceptance of Drake's challenge, but that action of society retorted that an adversary who had waited to screw his courage to the sticking point would not be accorded the honor of meeting with a gentleman.

Miller quickly took up Hunter's challenge and sent his acceptance by Lieutenant Edmund Byrne, an intimate friend, and Westcott was deputized to arrange with Byrne the time and place of the meeting. It was agreed that the duel should take place in Delaware, a short distance below the boom dory on the morning of the next day, and that, besides the seconds, each duellist should be represented by one friend. For some reason the combatants did not leave Philadelphia until nearly noon on Sunday.

A carriage containing Miller, Byrne, Craig and a surgeon left a dwelling in Chestnut street that stood on the present site of the German Democratic office, while another carriage, in which were seated Hunter, Westcott, Duryee and a friend, drove from a hotel that stood opposite the customs house. A rapid drive was made to Chester, fourteen miles south of Philadelphia, where the suspicions of the townspeople were excited by the number of men in the party and their mysterious silence as to their destination and reasons for traveling.

Fearing arrest, the party hastily left Chester and drove at a rapid gait down the post road, through Marcus Hook and halted at the bridge over Naam's creek. The meeting place, a short distance from the creek, was screened by a glen and clump of trees, was soon selected. The paces were marked off and the positions of the duellists marked with stones, then the instructions as to the method of firing were given. Not a word had passed between the principals.

"Gentlemen, are you ready?" came the question. Each duellist assented. "Fire—one—two—" The last word of the count was lost in the report of the pistols, which were fired so nearly together that the separate reports could scarcely be distinguished.

Miller turned toward his seconds; his face was deadly pale, his pistol dropped from his hand; he placed one hand over his breast, then fell heavily to the ground. Hunter advanced toward the fallen man, and in a loud voice that was filled with emotion, cried: "Gentlemen, I assure you that I had no enmity toward that man. His blood must rest upon the hands of others who have dragged him into their quarrels. Is he badly wounded, doctor?" he asked with evident trepidation.

"He will not live five minutes," was the reply. "You put the bullet squarely into his breast." Kneeling about the dying man the little group, filled with varying emotions, watched the life of the young lawyer quickly flow out.

"I would give my life if I could restore that man to life," cried Hunter, as he saw the dying gasp of his victim. Fleeing from the Law. A consultation was held, and it was decided that Hunter, Westcott and Duryee should leave the state before the result of the duel was known, and a few minutes later a carriage carrying the naval officers rolled rapidly down the road toward Wilmington, then his seconds boarded a vessel bound for New York.

The duel sent a thrill of excitement throughout the country, and so great was the indignation that on Saturday, March 21, Mr. Moore of Beaver county, offered a resolution in the house of representatives of the Pennsylvania legislature requesting President Andrew Jackson to strike the name of Passed Midshipman Charles G. Hunter from the roll of the navy. This was forwarded by the governor of the state, and on the day after its reception John Branch, secretary of the navy, wrote to the president recommending that not only Hunter, but Byrne, Westcott and Duryee be court-martialed. John Branch of Virginia, was the ancestor of Midshipman Branch, whose death in a fistic duel is now the subject of inquiry.

The father of Miller personally wrote to President Jackson in the interest of Hunter, saying that he did not regard him as guilty of his son's death, but that his life had been sacrificed to the absurd code of honor which was then maintained in the naval service. Hunter remained in the service, but the death of the young lawyer always haunted him, and it was alleged that some of his reckless acts of bravery were for the purpose of atoning death.

The Mexican war Hunter was placed in command of some shore forces from the squadron, and, without instructions, stormed the town of Alvarado and the Mexican forts, capturing all of the positions of the enemy. For this act, brilliant as it was, on the grounds that it disregarded the plan of the commander, he was subsequently court-martialed and, in 1855, he was dismissed from the service.

Shorn of his laurels, stripped of his naval insignia, he found his way to New York and finally was taken to St. Joseph's hospital, where, poor and broken in health through disipation, he died. He is reported to have said to one of the attendants: "My life has been embittered, all my happiness has been wrecked by the sight of that man lying dead on the bank of this little creek in Delaware—killed by my pistol shot—and a man I had met only twice before we stood facing each other that Sunday morning. Had I missed him, or had he killed me, much sorrow would have been saved."

But the fatal error of this young officer could not altogether eclipse the fact that he was brave and honorable, and a man who had watched his career, and whose heart prompted him to do so, placed a tombstone over his grave to attest this truth.—New York Herald.

NEW FEE FOR FILING SUITS

Five Dollars Will Be Charged in District Court Instead of Two, Fifty. Clerk of the District Court—Broadwell has put in force a new rule which is not at all popular with attorneys who have suits to file. Heretofore the advance fee for filing a suit has been \$2.50. Hereafter it will be \$5, with a charge of \$2.50 for filing an answer.

Mr. Broadwell explains that the rule is necessary to protect the interests of the county. The files are loaded with suits which have never been carried on to a conclusion. The clerk's office force has been compelled to do all the clerical work necessary to comply with the law, carrying all the suits through a large number of books, and finally the county has been unable to collect the costs. The new rule, it is contended, will produce advance costs to an amount sufficient to rectify this, the fact that has been found to exist.

Palmer Goes to Washington. Will Attend Meeting of Managers of National Homes for Disabled Volunteers. Captain Henry E. Palmer will leave Sunday for Washington, D. C., to attend the quarterly meeting of the board of managers of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteers, of which he is a member, and which meets at the Arlington hotel, December 6. The president of the United States, Chief Justice Fuller and Secretary of War Taft also are members of the board and will participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

The general purpose of the meeting is to arrange for the necessary appropriations for the maintenance of the homes for the coming year and the submission of the reports of the work of the last year to congress. Captain Palmer expects to secure an appropriation for the maintenance of the Barracks Mountain Sanatorium at Hot Springs, S. D., amounting to \$15,000 for the coming year and \$40,000 for new walks.

Gossip on Commission Row. Array of Green Vegetables on Market Suggests Good Old Summer Time. Green vegetables are here from the sunny south, and to make a visit to the produce houses along Tenth and Howard streets one might imagine it were midsummer instead of the season of ice and snow. Wax and string beans, egg plant and green peppers have arrived from Florida, and Louisiana has contributed young turnips, chalcots and head lettuce. Radishes, shallots, leaf and head lettuce, hot house tomatoes, are also on the market. These are the first new things of the winter season, and of course they are high priced. Later they will be reasonable, though high prices will not allow them to be as plentiful as in the summer months.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 2.—A persistent rumor that Chancey M. Depew had resigned the United States senatorship was denied by Governor Higgins today. Depew was asked today if he had resigned as senator. He said: "I have never given the matter a thought. It is absurd. That is as good as a denial. I am tired of making denials of unpleasant questions."

Religious Notes. Rev. Edward Melville Parker of Concord, N. H., has been elected coadjutor bishop of New Hampshire Episcopal diocese. John D. Root, a well-known farmer, has a large share of the funds to build in Cleveland, a new church modeled after the Broadway tabernacle in New York.

The Universal missionaries in Japan deprecate statements as to the great success of their work. It is not a great success, they say, but a great success until they are able to flood the land with the Christian religion.

The Methodist church of Canada is prosecuting its missionary work with great success. The missionary number of the Christian Guardian shows a most encouraging condition of that work in all parts of the church's great field.

The organ of the Presbyterian church in Japan, controlled and edited by Japanese, gives the information that the creed of the Japanese Presbyterian church is unquestionably that of the American church, but is not Calvinistic nor Arminian, but apostolic.

It is sixty years since Rev. Henry Hymns, who was called the beautiful hymn, "Abide with Me," died at Nice, and this year a final effort is being made in the farthest little village of his birthplace, where he lived and ministered for twenty-five years, to complete the rebuilding of the church which he has taken the fishermen thirty years to build.

The scroll of the law that was used during the recent holy day's services at Honolulu, S. I., is the property of Prince David, who inherited it from Kalaikau, the last king of the Hawaiian Islands. Kalaikau was something of a Hebrew scholar and took pride in reading part of the service in a language which he had learned from a Welsh bard, and gave it to his nephew, King Mele.

He began life as a carpenter and spent some of his time in the trade of an angler. He had a passion for poetry and in a few years himself became one of the foremost poets of the principality.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Advertisements for these columns will be taken until 12 m. for the evening edition and until 8 p. m. for the morning and Sunday editions. Rates 1-2c a word first insertion, 1c a word thereafter. Nothing taken for less than 20c for the first insertion. These advertisements must be run consecutively.

Advertisers, by requesting a numbered check, can have answers addressed to a numbered letter in care of The Bee. Answers an addressed will be delivered on presentation of check.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nebraska Business College (Incorporated.) BOYD THEATRE BUILDING, OMAHA, has new management, new methods, new terms and organizes new classes each Monday; guarantees its instructions and secures positions for graduates.

WE WILL TAKE YOU ON TRIAL. SPECIAL RATES. DAY AND NIGHT SESSION. A SQUARE DEAL TO EVERY PUPIL.

P. L. SMITHERS, President. Established 1898.

PLATING! Gold, Silver and Nickel

Gas and electric light fixtures, stoves, sad irons and tableware. Brass beds and tables polished and made to look new. All work receives prompt attention at reasonable prices.

Omaha Plating Company 1508 Harney Street. Telephone 2538.

Gas & Electric Reading Lamps Make Acceptable CHRISTMAS PRESENT. BURGESS - GRANDEN CO., Formerly F. M. RUSSELL FIXTURE CO., Telephone 981, 313 South 16th St. R-462-J1

GAS & ELECTRIC FIXTURES Wholesale and Retail. BURGESS - GRANDEN CO., Formerly F. M. RUSSELL FIXTURE CO., Telephone 981, 313 South 16th Street. R-462-D1

DEPEW HAS NOT RESIGNED. New York Senator Says He Has Not Given Thought to Matter. ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 2.—A persistent rumor that Chancey M. Depew had resigned the United States senatorship was denied by Governor Higgins today.

LAUNDRY CITY STEAM Telephone 313, 313 S. 16th St. R-451

WANTED—For U. S. ARMY, ABLE-bodied unmarried men, between ages of 21 and 35, citizens of United States, of good character and temperate habits, who can read, write and speak English. For information apply to recruiting offices at Omaha, Lincoln, Neb., or Sioux City, Ia. R-378-D1

WANTED—Men, everywhere, good pay, to distribute circulars, adv. matter, tack signs, etc. Write to Commercial International Distributing Bureau, 100 Oakland Bank Bldg., Chicago, Ill. R-348-D1

WANTED—Men to learn barber trade; school includes complete outfit of tools, provided if desired; few weeks complete education. Write to Moler Barber College, 1131 Farnam St. R-348-D1

MISCELLANEOUS

COME AND BE CONVINCED. That we have an exhibition at 1131 Farnam St. the only automatic railway in the world, which will show the direction in which the train is moving and will prevent the train from ever coming back on the main line at all times. You are all welcome to visit and inspect the working model of the STUTTS-LOSSIDAL at any time. R-381-D1

FURS Redyed, repaired and remodeled. Thomson, 1417 Farnam. R-364-D1

CONCRETE Block machines for holding up walls, etc. Peterson Bros., 1315 Durt. R-348-D1

CHAPMAN & MAHAN, Repairs promptly done. Prices reasonable. 513 N. 16th. Tel. Red-3864. R-328-D1

CHICAGO LAUNDRY, 214 N. 16th. Tel. 366. R-324-D1

SOMETHING new in health and accident insurance. For card and prospect managers wanted. Address Great Western Accident Association, Des Moines, Iowa. Tel. 101. R-381-D1

GO TO MORAN'S for private or class lessons; children or adults. Tel. 366. R-381-D1

ANY old body can earn a dollar, but every body can't save it. How's this for a money saver? Shirts, 5c; collars, 1c; cuffs, 4c. CAP. AVE. LAUNDRY, 1201 RICHARD. R-348-D1

IOWA SANITARY CLEANING CO. Suction system. 1513 Farnam. Tel. B-353. R-353-D1

WANTED—Male Help. WANTED—Young men to prepare for positions as brakemen and firemen in the railway service; high wages; promotions guaranteed; experience unnecessary; unequalled opportunity; instructions by mail to your home; only a short time required; positions received as soon as competent; firemen get \$175 to \$200; brakemen \$75; become conductors and get \$125 to \$150 per month; write for full particulars to one, National Railway Training School, Inc., 224 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn., U. S. A. Beware! We have no branch schools. R-353-D1

WANTED—Young men to earn from \$30 to \$125 a month as firemen and brakemen in the railway service. Experience unnecessary; quick promotion; unequalled opportunity. Instructions can be taken by mail. Write or call for particulars, National Railway Training Association, 224 Boston Block, Omaha, Neb. R-353-D1

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OMAHA MEN AND THEIR HOBBIES



G. H. PAYNE—Raising Alfalfa.