

# PLAY IN PLACE OF THE ROD

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New Way of Making Good Boys and Girls in the Schools.

## GAMES SUBSTITUTED FOR WHIP

Class of Unruly Boys Subdued by Basket Ball—Folk Dances in Education—Physical Training of Pupils.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—The rod has given place to the ball and the dander has been put in the basket ball in the New York public schools. Compulsory play has replaced corporal punishment.

When in 1907 the Board of Education refused to sanction the reintroduction of corporal punishment the elementary teachers sighed as they turned to what was often an impossible task, the maintaining of discipline among the unruly when no tools of discipline were allowed. But "where there's a will there's a way."

Last spring when chaos threatened in an uptown east side school the authorities were struck with a sudden idea. A group of unruly boys were given over to the care of a basket ball enthusiast from the normal school. Miss Kirtland undertook the swift reformation of the recalcitrant half hundred.

"That morning there was noise in the classroom. The new teacher was being broken in. Then Miss Kirtland smiled and cheerfully the order rang, "Fall in line," and the class was marched to the gymnasium.

"Now play!" came the order. Basket ball was the game and Miss Kirtland led the game. There was a derisive yell from the boys, but the spirit of sport soon seized them and the team work which resulted was a new episode in the history of class A. This was only the beginning. Miss Kirtland did not punish the class with basket ball, but every day good behavior or bad they were marched to the gymnasium for a period of play. After a month had passed the members of the class were distributed to their proper places, for Miss Kirtland, who punished by play, had triumphed.

One of many incidents. This incident is one of many that are occurring in New York public schools under the stimulus of New York's school department of physical training. Dr. C. Ward Crampton is head of this department, and Dr. Crampton says these won't be a boy or a girl, young man or young woman in New York who will need reformation when the system is fully developed.

Dr. Crampton says: "Give me simply the perilous spare time of the young people, the afternoon and Saturdays of the children and the evenings and Sundays of our young men and young women, and I will answer for their morals."

To begin with, tag and puss in the corner and other young folks' games have won a regular place in the school curriculum. In all the primary grades two short periods a day are given over to running games. The result is seen when geography and arithmetic—some teachers have even said grammar—are attacked with zeal, and bright eyes and ruddy cheeks are now more the rule in elementary schools.

One year ago few of the school yards, or none, were systematically used for the mental and physical well being of the children. Today there are 130 school yards given over to organized play. Here the boyish energy which taunts the policeman and torments the fruit vender and seeks ways to break the law in the streets vents itself on the chinning bar, in the broad jump, in pitched battles of shinny and of prisoner's base.

The children just think they are playing, but the school authorities say that in these play times "Nature's own method supplants the artificial class room teaching."

They are inspired with a world-old idea which is eternally new.

## Value of the Games.

This idea is that organized play is more fundamentally educational than the three R's, and that co-operative games, kick the bucket and all prisoner's base, tick the wicket and all co-operative physical games have a pedagogical value in inculcating courage, tenacity, fair play, cheerfulness under failure and most of the rules that keep civilization running smoothly. Or, as Dr. Crampton puts it when summing up the principles underlying all the work of the department of physical training, "Play, not discipline, is the true natural discipline."

And to illustrate this principle, Dr. Crampton says: "For ages the child had no other means of education than play. By organized play the child learns the virtues and the social qualities long before the names of moral qualities are learned or those names can even be spelled."

But to leave the theory and return to the practice. Last year the public schools turned out 117 all round base ball teams and in basket ball there was even a better record of 115-teams. Such an athletic output meant daily practice for the boys in the school yards, in the gymnasiums and on the roof playgrounds. And these daily practices meant the voluntary attendance for supervising and coaching purposes of hundreds of teachers, who thus sacrificed their precious after school leisure for the well being of New York's school children.

## Saving the Girls.

One phase of the athletics for girls, according to enthusiastic teachers, bids fair to revolutionize the ill renowned dancing academies by a surer method than legislation. This is the folk dance, whose many and very beautiful forms are taught daily to New York school girls. The girls who have mastered the intricate measures of the Bohemian Stasak and the Hungarian Scardes and have learned to love dancing as a delightful form of physical exercise will, according to the folk dance teachers, scorn the present dance halls and demand in their stead airy, spacious halls such as the multiplicity of Chicago has provided for its girls.

Public school folk dancing is right now supplanting the children's dancing schools, which, the teachers say, with but few exceptions encourages artificiality, love of dress and inappropriate not to say injurious relations between boys and girls. And the school law forbidding the use of costumes in the folk dance exhibits was especially designed to discourage the display element in the dance and to lay stress on its real nature as a delightful form of physical exercise.

But really to catch the spirit of these after school athletics one must spend an afternoon on one of the seven large athletic fields maintained by the Board of Education. Here on a single field from 500 to 1,000 boys will receive expert training and carry forward every form of athletics from team games to individual track work. Little fellows from the primary grades strive with spartan seriousness on the chinning bar or the broad jump.

The older boys, who have been getting their base ball and basket ball into trim in the school yards and roof playgrounds, are having their regular teams made up by the athletic supervisors. White clad figures are speeding over the running track, vaulters and leapers take their turn at the apparatus and everywhere happy faces and boyish good nature mark an evolution in boy nature since these same boys left their street gang fights for athletic sports.

System and Its Expenses. The New York system has been extensively copied abroad. The department of physical training has given help in the organization of similar systems in eleven of the cities in the United States, as well as in old world India, in Chile and in the Argentine Republic. And in each case it has been able to apply to local needs and conditions the principles gathered in the New York work.

And the feature of this playground and athletic field system most encouraging for its adoption throughout the great cities of the world is the comparatively slight cost

of its upkeep. The total maintenance of athletic fields is 4 cents a year per boy. Work in the school yards, the gymnasiums and roof playgrounds costs the city practically nothing. A chinning bar at \$7.50 and a broad jump mat at \$12.50 equip a school yard for an indefinite number of years.

The gymnasium and roof playground equipment comes under the cost of the regular physical training work. The instruction and supervision essential to the success of the system are supplied by the volunteer services of the regular school teachers. It is impossible to tell what the loyalty, enthusiasm and unselfishness of these school teachers mean to the children of New York. But in dollars and cents Dr. Crampton estimates that these teachers do the work of an athletic teaching force whose payroll would cost the city a million a year.

But as this system of play and exercise is now developed it can reach only 45 percent of New York's 900,000 school children. In the athletic work at least it is the more vigorous children that seize the opportunity and the weaker children are turned out on the streets, as are the vast army of children below the school age or already at work.

No Longer an Experiment. The work has passed the experimental stage, and has, in the opinion of its advocates, proved both in economy and in immediate good to those children who came under its influence the practicality and need of its further development. The department of physical training thinks that every child in New York has a right to at least one hour of real play a day.

At this very moment the work on the athletic fields is being crippled for lack of funds, for the supervisors, the "consulting biological engineers," as Dr. Crampton laughingly calls them, had to be dismissed, thus leaving the expert work of making up the teams and of coaching entirely to the inexperienced school teachers proficiency.

More than the loss in athletic proficiency, due to the withdrawal of these athletic teachers, there is actual danger in allowing 1,000 boys to exercise at will on an athletic field. At the beginning of each season, it is declared, every boy should be examined and tested and the amount and quality of the work for each be determined. Careful surveillance is then necessary to prevent strain and overwork.

Physical training teachers are greatly needed in the high schools, as well as a uniform gymnasium equipment. For now that applicants for the teachers, training schools are marked on physical training uniform teaching in the high schools is essential. The department of physical training hopes soon to make graduation from each grade as dependent on successful tests in physical training and hygiene as it is now dependent on good standing in geography and spelling.

Toward this end the department is asking for more teachers and adequate gymnasium and apparatus equipment in the elementary schools. At present the regular classroom teachers who teach the physical training are not visited often enough by the supervising physical training teachers to benefit by the advice, training and enthusiasm of these experts. Also in many of the elementary schools children are forced to take their exercises in their schoolrooms and the lessons are thus deprived of the free play space and apparatus that endears the gymnasium to every child.

## Play for the Cripples.

In only one of the seven schools for crippled children are the pupils allowed to romp and play. For with these children, for some of whom exercise means cure and for others sure death, only a teacher trained in orthopedic methods can be entrusted. And the regular teachers in these schools feel themselves hampered in their work by the lack of physical training in the schools.

The deaf mute schools are also entirely without physical training teachers. Doctors lay great stress on the need of breathing exercises and an abundance of all around health giving exercise for deaf-mutes.

## DEATH RUN OF THE SALMON

Fisherman's Busy Time on the Pacific Coast.

## INDUSTRY EXTERMINATES THEM

Some Thirty-Four Million Fish Canned This Season and Many More Marketed in Various Other Ways.

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 12.—The salmon season of 1909 is rapidly approaching its end. The run has been fairly profitable. Although fishing is carried on from the Nushagak river in Bering sea to Monterey, Cal., the headquarters of the various operating companies are found almost exclusively in San Francisco, Portland and Astoria, Ore.; Vancouver, British Columbia, and this city. Few persons outside of those directly interested in the industry realize its immense economic importance.

During the season now closing at least 35,000 persons were employed directly in it in some capacity, either on shore or afloat, and they received over \$3,000,000 in wages. Materials (tin plate, solder, boxes, etc.) to the value of \$6,000,000 were used in making the pack. Several million dollars worth of fishery apparatus was used in making the catch, while a fleet of 4,500 or 5,000 vessels, steamers, launches and fishing boats were used in handling the catch.

The catch is prepared in various ways, the most important being fresh, frozen, salted, smoked, mild cured and canned. The last is by far the leading method. This year the pack of canned salmon was as follows: Alaska, 2,300,000 cases of forty-eight one pound cans; Puget sound, 90,000 cases; Columbia river, 30,000 cases; other rivers on the coast of Washington and Oregon, 150,000 cases; Fraser river, British Columbia, 400,000 cases; and other rivers of British Columbia, 300,000 cases; a grand total of 4,225,000 cases, or 322,700,000 single pound cans.

If these were placed end to end in single file they would extend 4,225 miles, more than half the circumference of the globe. To fill these cans over 23,000,000 salmon were required, while nearly as many more were prepared and marketed in other ways. This product has become one of the staples and can be found in all quarters of the globe and among all classes.

Salmon Are Disappearing. The tremendous demand has had its natural effect, and in places where twenty years ago salmon ran in countless numbers few are seen today. This is especially true of the Sacramento river in California and the Columbia river, while in the waters of Washington and southern British Columbia, especially the Fraser river, a good run is had only every fourth year. This is one of the remarkable features of the salmon run of this coast, and is probably due to the fact that years ago a big epidemic occurred among the salmon and lasted three seasons and caused the death of the greater part of the runs of those years before they had an opportunity to spawn.

If a complete history of the industry could be written it would record adventures of a nature seldom equalled in commercial enterprises. Fortunes have been made and lost in a single season. At present peace prevails among the salmon fishers along the greater part of the coast, but such has not always been the case, many having at various times been victims of the over possession of choice fishing grounds, some of which terminated fatally. The salmon season is short, and in order to complete the pack the canners and fishermen practically work night and day. This is especially true in Bering sea, where the season rarely lasts longer than six weeks. During this time over 1,000,000 cases are packed, and many of the canneries at the height of the run work at least twenty hours a day.

## Fish That Are Canned

Five species of salmon enter the rivers along the coast each year for the purpose of spawning. The king, spruce, silver, sockeye, the sockeye, red or blueback, which is the principal species canned; the coho or silver; the humpback or pink, and the dog or chum. Some steelhead trout, which are larger than many of the salmon, are in the market, and three species of frequent rivers which have their rise in lakes, while the last two are commonly found in small creeks and streams, ascending these only a comparatively short distance.

The king salmon enter the stream for the purpose of spawning in May and June; the reds in June, July and August; the pinks in July and August; the cohos in August and September, and the dogs in July, August and September.

To one who has never witnessed the sight it is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the conditions which prevail when the annual run of salmon is on and the fish are striving to get up to the headwaters of the various rivers and creeks. Streams which can almost be jumped across by an active person will be an almost solid mass of struggling salmon, this though the water may be so shallow that their backs show above the surface.

## Harvest For Bears and Dogs.

All are so intent upon their mad rush up the stream that they pay slight attention to things on the bank, and it is at this time that the bears and dogs reap their harvest. The former are exceedingly expert at reaching down from the bank and flipping fish out with their paws, while a native dog will rush in, and grasping a fish in its mouth give it a shake and then deposit its dead prize on the bank, only to return for more.

After reaching brackish water the salmon cease to eat, depending upon their accumulated tissue to carry them through to the end. They struggle gamely on up the stream, the male salmon fighting fiercely one with another, their terrible hooked jaws inflicting severe wounds, while many are cut and torn by being knocked against rocks in ascending rapids and falls. Those which run up the large river—salmon have been known to ascend the Yukon for over twenty-five hundred miles—are in bad shape at the end, their snouts, fins and tails in many instances being entirely worn off, while all are covered with the peculiar white blotches which seem to be incident to the spawning fish.

On arriving at the spawning beds the male salmon battle most fiercely than ever. After the law of the survival of the fittest has given one of them undisputed possession of a female salmon the two proceed to dig a hole in the sand and gravel, and here the eggs are deposited and then they die. Of the million which fight their way up the stream each season hardly one egg returns to

its deep sea home. The reason for this is one of the mysteries of natural history.

## Devices For Catching

Many and varied are the methods used in catching the salmon, wheels, traps, and gill nets being the more important forms. The wheel is used almost exclusively on the Columbia river. It is generally from five to fifteen feet in width and from ten to thirty feet in diameter and is usually located on abutments in a narrow runway which has been constructed in the upper reaches of the river. To its blades are attached dip nets made of galvanized iron netting, and as the wheel is placed in the force of the current it revolves continually night and day according to the force of the water.

Every time it revolves it scoops up from one to a dozen of the salmon that are trying to get up the river and are forced into the runway by the dam-run out to the side. As the wheel turns it dumps its load automatically into chutes on either side arranged so that the fish will slide by their own weight into flat boats waiting for them. Some of these boats have paid enormously in the value of salmon taken.

## Trap Nets Take Thousands.

The trap nets catch more than any other fixed form of apparatus. They are formed by means of stakes driven into the bottom and hung with netting. A lead of a single row of stakes is run out into the water, usually at right angles to the shore, a V-shaped line of stakes hung with netting with the open end toward the shore and beginning at a short distance inshore of the outer end of the lead and with an open space of about twelve feet between the outer heart. The far end of this leads into what is known as the inner heart, which is shaped and arranged the same as the outer heart, but is smaller. The pointed end of the inner heart leads through a narrow tunnel into the pot, which is a square compartment placed at right angles to the lead.

The spiller is located alongside the pot, from which the salmon pass into it by means of another tunnel. The fish are taken from the spiller, the front wall of which is lowered to the water's edge, and the fish dipped out and into the scows by means of a hauler or large dip net. As many as 50,000 salmon have been taken out of a single trap in one lift.

## Not Touched By Hand.

In canning so far as possible the handling of fish by hand is prevented. The scows are run alongside the wharf and the fish pitched on an endless conveyor which carries them rapidly to the floor of the floor of the butchering shed. Here they are fed one by one into an "iron chink," a wonderful machine which cuts off the head, tail and fins and splits the fish down the belly and removes the viscera, all in one revolution of the machine.

The fish are then placed in pockets on a revolving drum and carried around to a series of rapidly moving circular knives which divide them into cuts of just the size required to fill the cans. The cuts roll down a chute and are fed into the filling machine. In this the cuts go down one opening, the empty can come down another, and when they are opposite each other a plunger forcing circular knives into the can. The filled can is then dropped out on a table.

From here it is taken by means of an endless belt through the steam box, which cleans the outside of the can, past a series of rollers which place little disks of tin on top of the meat—this is done so that later when the tops of the cans are punctured after the first cooking to allow the steam and gas to escape the fish will not clog up the hole—and on to the topper.

## Soldering by Machinery.

Here the open cans are seized and carried around horizontally, and at the same time the tops, which have been carried into the machine from the opposite side, are accurately placed on them. From the topping machine the cans are discharged onto a moving belt which carries them through an iron device which tips them over on their sides, and as they roll in between two steel disks the top is slightly crimped to the body of each can.

Next a chain conveyor rolls them through a pan where just the edge of the can top is melted with muriatic acid and then through a soldering machine, kept hot by gas jets below, where the top is securely soldered down.

A rubber belt conveys the cans under a jet of cold water which gives the solder a set, past the counting machine and then the cans, when their lids are off onto iron crates. Here the small vent holes in the top of the can is soldered up by hand and the crate lowered into a vat of hot water to test for leaks.

The crates are then loaded upon low iron cars and run into steam boxes, where they are steamed for thirty minutes at a pressure of 1½ pounds. The cans are then taken out and punctured to let vapor and excess air escape after which they are immediately soldered up again.

The crates are now run into iron retorts and exposed for one hour to a steam heat of 80 degrees. Fish gravies, which thoroughly cooks the salmon and softens the bone. After being taken from the retorts the crates of cans are run through two vats of hot water, in which they are thoroughly scrubbed, after which they are placed upon the floor of the warehouse to season for some days.

## Character of Labor Employed.

Nearly all the canning work is performed by orientals, the Japanese predominating. For many years the bulk of this work was most efficiently done by Chinese, but the rigid exclusion laws have prevented the bringing in of any new hands, while the old ones are gradually dying off. Owing to their quarrelsomeness the Japanese are not very popular in cannery work.

Many Filipinos and a few Porto Ricans are employed. White men, many of them Italian, Swedes and Norwegians, do most of the fishing, although in some sections Japanese are engaged in this branch also. In Alaska many Indians are employed both on the canneries and in the fishing, and they make most efficient help when the desire to work is upon them.

Fishing, especially in Alaska, is hazardous at times, owing to the fact that much of the fishing is carried on in open bays in which storms are frequent. Eight fishermen lost their lives in the Nushagak bay during this season alone. Each year the Indians of this coast, and especially of Alaska, dry and smoke immense quantities of salmon, and this forms the principal food for themselves and their dogs during the winter months. The racks upon which the fish are dried are familiar objects all along the coast. So dependent are they upon this fish that when a bad season occurs many die of starvation.

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