

SCHOOLS FIGHT AGAINST MANY FORM OF PROPAGANDA TOLD

NOTE: This is one of a series of articles by the Superintendent of Birmingham Schools.

By CLARENCE WRIGHT

Our schools in recent years have become a prey to subtle propaganda on the part of private interests, and it has been an uphill task for superintendents and boards of education to put a check on this encroachment. School authorities are continually confronted with the job of freeing the schools of various propagandist projects by outside activities.

Our schools are regarded as one of the finest advertising mediums and the school child—for reasons that are clearly obvious—a most excellent salesman. A multiplicity of local enterprises have come to recognize this fact and it has resulted in a tendency to commercialize the schools where boards of education and school executives have failed or been unable to put up strong resistance. On the other hand, considerable criticism has been heaped on those school officials where they have refused special interests to promote their projects.

One reason for this situation is the growth of "Special Weeks," which in recent years have in varying degrees become a part of the school program. Some of these, such as "American Education Week," have been universally recognized by superintendents, but the tendency for these special weeks to increase has been so persistent that it has been necessary to set the limit.

Then, too, it may be chargeable in part to the World War. During that period the schools were anxious to contribute their bit and the bars were let down to a commendable degree. Since then some difficulty has been experienced in raising those bars again.

The schools are no different in this respect than are other organizations. "Tag Days" have become so frequent, in towns and cities that local authorities have been forced to limit the number of these special tag days per year. School authorities have adopted a similar policy.

It is imperative that our schools be impartial and be conducted solely in the interest of the child. Such a conclusion is sound. Dis-

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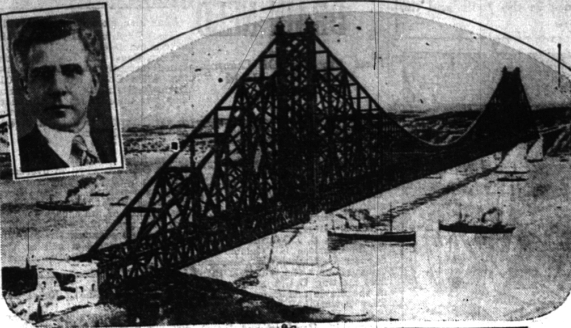
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\$30,000,000 BRIDGE TO SPAN FAMOUS GOLDEN GATE



This proposed \$30,000,000 bridge with a 4000-foot single span, the largest in the world, will cross San Francisco bay's famous Golden Gate in a few years. Joseph E. Strauss (inset), of Chicago, is the designer. Before permission was obtained for the building of the bridge, assurance was given the government that it could be demolished quickly in time of war to prevent bottling up of American ships. It will total 6176 feet in length. Construction work is expected to start soon.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

By GROVE PATTERSON

CHILD FITTING

Clarence Wright, West Virginia school man, talks sense when he says we must make the American educational system fit the child rather than try to make the child fit the system. One mold won't do for all pupils. The National Educational association recently adopted seven objectives for the guidance of teachers and pupils. They are worth knowing and thinking about: (1) good health, rest for all pupils; (2) vocational efficiency, or proper preparation for life outside the home; (3) mastery of fundamentals, such as spelling and arithmetic; (4) teaching of wise use of leisure time; (5) teaching of high standards; (6) preparation of effective citizenship.

THE BEST TALKIES

Premier De Rivera, chief in the Spanish government, stands on the terrace of his summer home and talks for the pictures. Millions of Americans will hear him. Millions have been hearing Lloyd George and other figures of world prominence. This is putting attracting influences should be barred; anything that recognizes the interests of one community group against another should be eliminated; in short, the superintendent and the board of education should shut out anything that bears the mark of commercialism or detracts from the regular school program and such desirable efforts should have the universal approval and backing of the public.

BOYS' CLUB WORK STARTS IN COUNTY

Organization Meeting Called For 4-H Organizations; Kimball Tells Aims

An organization meeting for Four H club of Bloomfield, Troy and Royal Oak townships will be held at 8 p. m. Oct. 2 in the Oak Ridge High School under the direction of A. H. Upton, according to announcement by George H. Kimball, Jr., Y. M. C. A. secretary. The meeting will be for all persons of the district interested in boy and girl work.

Mr. Kimball explained the 4-H club work as follows: "With the opening of school this fall comes the beginning of Oakland County 4-H club work for winter.

"It is the purpose of the county club department to have a club either for boys or girls wherever there are five or more in a locality who wish to take up the work.

"To this end a series of district meetings are being held in the county where interested teachers, school directors, former or present club leaders and supervisors will meet to discuss the program for this winter.

"There has been a great deal of interest aroused in winter club work in the county. The groups last winter, though not large, did some very creditable work and were keenly interested in it.

"The work is a thing that can be done outside of school work and is creative work that many times brings out a part of a boy's or girl's natural ability that would not be reached otherwise, and which many do not get in the regular schools."

DATES TO REMEMBER

It is useless to carry around the remembrance of too many historical dates. Many dates which teachers try to pound into boys and girls are not really important. To have a workable knowledge of history some dates ought to have a permanent place in the mind—to be taken out and used and put back. For example, remember the year 1641. Two vital things happened. The Mississippi river was discovered by the Spanish explorer DeSoto. Also, it was in 1641 that the name America was first applied to the western world. The name was originally applied to a part of what is now Brazil, which was explored by the Italian Amerigo Vesputi. Mercator, in 1641, employed the term "America" for the territory in which we live.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Let's look over Henry Ford's "rules of the road." Ford used to drive a car himself. In fact he was a race driver. It is said he is still interested in motoring and there is rumor he knows much about it.

Courtesy comes first. Consider the rights and privileges of others. Keep your mind on your driving, and anticipate sudden emergencies.

Learn the "feel" of having your car under control. Obey all traffic and parking regulations.

Keep to the right and comply with road markings and signs. Signal for stops and turns. Watch the car ahead.

Slow down at crossings, schools and dangerous places.

Never pass cars on hills, curves or crossings.

Adapt your driving to road conditions—rain, ice, soft spots and ruts.

It doesn't pay to take the "right of way" too seriously.

When you drive, remember the times when you're a pedestrian.

Know the law. It was passed for your protection.

VALUE OF BRAINS

Analyze a business through and through; give credit to capital and everything else that enters. You discover that, after all, management is the main factor. Men are what you most need. James J. Hill, master railroad builder of the northwest, said: "It is ten times easier to assemble a million dollars of capital than to find the right man to manage the capital assembled."

Schwab, of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, when asked what he would do if a fire should destroy his steel properties, said: "I would not even figure these as a loss, because they could all be replaced in time; but if some catastrophe should destroy the entire personnel of our organization, I would then consider myself a ruined man."

The wealth of any corporation is brain power. The "Wall Street News" points out notable successes that have been built from little capital. They are triumphs of management—triumphs of brain power.

STRANGE

Strange how much time we are willing to give to the development of body power—and how little we are willing to give to the development of brain power!

Little King Michael of Rumania is aged 7, recently reviewed 100,000 of his troops for the first time, four hours being required for their marching before the youthful monarch.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

By GROVE PATTERSON

More important than the rank and file of us have some understanding of international problems, some growth of friendly appreciation of the other nations of the world, than that we be merely entertained by blood and thunder and love stories on the audible screen.

PEAKING OF MERGERS

Much talk and must action these days about mergers. Companies and plants already enormous are made more enormous by a pooling of interests and central management. Now comes Professor Reeves, University of Michigan, who proposes that the United States enter into an arrangement with all the countries of the Caribbean sea, except Mexico, whereby we would guarantee to each a republican form of government and maintain close enough control to insure stability of that government. This sounds almost like another merger, with headquarters in the United States.

SALLY'S SALLIES



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