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Concrete Replaces Bitumen

One could travel now on a concrete road all the way from San Francisco to New York, a distance, he thought, of 3,500 miles. Passengers were carried over by a line of motor omnibuses called the Yellowav. They were painted yellow, served to about 20 passengers, and were most comfortable. Each passenger had a own lounge chair provided for him which could be easily changed into comfortable positions. The buses were furnished with a small kitchenette at the rear in case of meals being served. Bitumen was going out of use for roads, which were now being constructed of concrete. Every one seemed to own a motor; indeed, he had seen secondhand cars, in going order, offered for £2. Petrol, of course, was very cheap, and he was in Los Angeles when was selling at 5d. a gallon on the streets. The American gallon was about four-fifths of the British gallon.

Catering for the Tourist.

Dr. Love was greatly impressed with the thorough manner in which the hotels and travel agencies cater for the tourist. They had a wonderful system of advertising, and in this regard the Gray Line Motor Tours appeared to lead the way, having representatives in every city and agents in every hotel lobby. They met all trains, and the visitor was immediately furnished with beautifully printed and illustrated booklets, giving attractively written descriptions of all beauty spots, tours, time occupied on same, cost, and indeed every thing that one wanted to know. Tourists were encouraged in every way, and they got splendid value for their money.

Where Steak and Onions are Dear.

Dr. Love considered that the food was quite as cheap as it was in Australia. The kitchens in the hotels and big restaurants were kept scrupulously clean, and they were delighted to show you through them. Bread was always delivered in sealed packages, and milk in sealed bottles. He never saw milk delivered in a milk can. Fruit, vegetables, fish, and meat were always kept on ice. Vegetables, packed in ice, were sent from California to New York. Americans did not eat a quarter as much meat as Australians. Steak was a most expensive article of diet; chicken was much cheaper. Steak and onions with wine was rather a plebian dish, and not so in America. He had paid as much as 10/ for a dinner in which steak and onions was the principal dish. The old-fashioned strawberry shortcake was a favourite sweet in California. He was impressed with the hygienic conditions under which food was served.

The Foreign Jew Problem.

Dealing with the racial question, Dr. Love said he was in Chicago when the Mayor, quite recently, had an Bill Thompson, was instituting his anti-British campaign. Intelligent people there looked on him as a joke, and were not annoyed at his actions. It was purely a political job with him. Only about 10 per cent. of people of Chicago descend were from the balance being composed of Central and Southern Europeans, Jews and negroes. With the exception of Vannamburg, who were Quakers, all the big departmental stores were controlled by foreign Jews of a low order. There was a big feud between foreign Jew and the Central European, condemned, and it was hard to find a true-born Englishman. He thought that there were going to be a big problem in America. They, as well as the Italians and Slavs, would be found also in the cities, whereas the American, of British descent, rarely had more than one or two. Most of the amusements and picture shows were in the hands of Italian and Polish Jews. The picture business, both in Los Angeles and New York was largely controlled by Jews, and he had great reason to be getting a big hold on the country. All road and railway construction in the east were in the hands of Africans and Asiatics. Wheatfarming was mostly in the hands of the Germans, and it struck him as a peculiar combination. The Jew, the negro, and one billionaire, Henry Ford, who resided at Dearborn, a suburb of Detroit.

Only Interested in U.S.A.

Asked his opinion of American papers, Dr. Love said that, with a very few exceptions, they were not a "patch" on ours. They gave very little information about news, and in the main contained all local happenings in the shape of reports of murders, highway robberies, and so on. They knew nothing whatever of world politics, nor never saw any British news in them, and no European items except, perhaps, some sensational murder. The average American took no interest what in anything outside the United States, and the bulk of the people possessed no knowledge whatever of international affairs; they only troubled about themselves. They talked glibly of giving every one a free city education, but it seemed limited to a knowledge of American affairs. Every one he met appeared greatly impressed with our White Australia policy. They would not believe that Australia was larger than the United States, when remarking, "Oh, but Australia is only an island." Many of the negroes in the northern States were insufferable, and in the capital of the country, about one-fifth of the population consisted of negroes. In Chicago the city paymaster, who signed all the cheques, was a negro. Women people suggested that we should make an effort to free ourselves from Britain's yoke, and we told them that we were quite free, and if freedom than they did, they would not be slaves long. There was no love lost between them and the Canadians, and the Americans did not relish a statement in the Saturday Evening Post, one of their own publications, that there were fourteen times the number of Canadians in executive positions in the United States than there were Americans.

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Professor T. G. B. Osborn, who has retired from the Chair of Botany at the Adelaide University to accept a similar position in Sydney, left Adelaide for Melbourne by train on Sunday. After spending several days in Melbourne he will at the conclusion of which he will go to Sydney.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

The official report of the Rhodes scholarships for the academic year 1926-27 shows that 63 scholars had taken up their scholarships for the first time during that period, and that 187 are now in residence from the British Empire and 94 from the United States of America. Reference is made in the report to Mr. F. B. Riley of Perth, who had been missing in China. It states:—It is to be feared that the death must be reported of F. B. Riley (Western Australia, 1912). Mr. Riley came up to New College in 1912. He was commissioned in the Wiltshire Regiment at the beginning of the war, and was wounded sooner in October, 1914. He was finally released, as medically unfit, just before the armistice. He returned to Oxford for two terms in January, 1919. From 1919 till 1924 he was in Iraq in the Education Department. At the end of 1924 he went to New York, and was working partly at the Teachers' College, Columbia. Until recently he was writing in "The Times" edition. In the spring of 1927 he went to China as special correspondent of "The Times." In July he disappeared. It is to be feared that he was murdered.

MAIL 31·12·27

VALUE OF EXAMINATIONS

Unsuitable Conditions Alleged

"SUMMER BLIGHT"

The interesting synopsis of opinions of leading teachers of the State on the value of examinations in "The Mail" should lead to,an investigation of this summer blight of our educational system, writes A. Emlyn Robinson, of 16 Anglo avenue, Parkside.

Mr. Robinson continues:—While not being an "educationist" as far as school curriculum is concerned, I may be able to express, on behalf of a far larger section of the community than those immediately concerned in our schools, the value of the tests applied by the seats of learning to prove the work of the teacher and the capacity of the scholar.

1. No greater travesty of knowledge could be devised. The examination is a brain organisation and endowment. The endowment of the brain is for the purpose of brain organisation and development. It is not and must not be divided from without but from that wonderful innate spiritual (now grudgingly called mental) force that is "Life" that is on the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth." The second object of consumption is young brain from its pedestal of consummate stolid egotism in present "systems". "We will teach you, my lad, how to live" "We will teach you what we will set you or you cannot go forth as a scholar."

2. Around these examinations have grown almost as a fungus the walk in life could carry. Long ere this our so-called schools, colleges, and universities will be found referred to have a bankruptcy court of their own to deal with their failures, if they had to carry on with the unfortunate products of their life, and not have a fresh crop of scholars every year to pass out on to a world they are so ill-fitted to adorn.

In the new surroundings the value of "passes" is made apparent. The brain has been fed, drugged, and atrophied instead of being vitalised and made reliant and applicative. Thousands of "passes" are made, to be forgotten they cannot do anything "off their own bat." It is no inducement now for a scholar "fresh from school" as it was 50 years ago.

Summer Tests

2. The atmosphere of the examinations. Under this head the practical work of so-called learned men (up to now) must be controlled in the study by examination in a climate like ours to have the examinations in the summer. Think of men who will, year after year, perpetuate laws monstrous ignorant on our young life. The sporting world does not play football in the months of November to March. Though in England they play the winter game during winter. Even nature does not follow the months of the year, but changes and gives out summer here when it is winter "over there."

The authorities say, "No; examination in the hot weather is testing-time in choking, body-destroying, and brain-fagging summer." What a stupid arrangement by men who would not think of such weather has on the intellectual faculties and the prostration of youthful bodies—the annual Christmas King Sol puts on his shining crown and fills every corner with torpor.

The season of the year is bad enough, but what does any thinking man say of the system of bringing all candidates to the common hall, a crowded room, with its thousand noises inseparable from a crowd, the brain-wracking of jostling, hiding and fear, and those innumerable distractions, that a sensitive nature is slain under before the all-important test takes place. Would any professor dare to write a thesis in a crowd and give it to the world as his best, I think not.

Uncongenial Surroundings

Reputations are not made that way. The children being more sensitive than a professor, respond to the genial influence, and many a failure is made, not from lack of brain or of culture, but from uncongenial surroundings, perpetuated in by pedantic ignoramuses "who fear not God nor regard man" when it comes to the stupid continuance of past customs.

3.—The secret non-educative effect of examinations—If in our schools the same principle is used as is adopted in examinations no child would be educated. Think of all the sums a child does wrongly, not only corrected, but told the child not only exactly where it was wrong, or the writing passed in and all the child hears is "failed." The same system must be applied to the examinations. Every candidate should be able to get back his work to be able to study and mark where he failed. That would have the following advantages:—

(a) Everyone would know the examination of the paper was carefully done, and it would remove that sense of rank injustice does there find so many feel to-day.

(b) The scholar and his teacher would be able to see whether it was want of knowledge, confusion, or a misreading of the questions; or

(c) Health, crowded room, want of courage, timidity, confusion. The teacher would know from the aspect of the paper what was really the matter.

(d) Side by side of will justly between candidate and examiner. The pupil regards the examiner as a monster to kill him—the examiner as a monster to kill that will not be examined by anyone, regards the pupil as a pebble only on the beach whose only native worth is that which he has to go with the heat 99 degrees in the shade.

As citizens we know the results of education better than anyone else. The products of the schools show such a percentage of failure that they prompt us to say there is something wrong. Mr. Teacher! Your examination results are very low. Your pupils do not seem to have to alter the personnel. Your sense of season and methods of conducting which the examinations. No Government inspector would allow in industrial life nor any man wish to be judged by.

Obsolete Methods

Your star-chamber method of marking papers is as obsolete as your presumed knowledge that you have. There are no judgment reviewed is infra dig. is as ridiculous as it is pernicioustly injurious. We have a House of Review, a number of the senate along these lines. The examinations should be in September, and the matter would be ready by October. There is no need to curtail the summer vacation, and for once 18 months instead of 12 of a teaching poor unfortunate juvenility will do good.

Divide the country into areas and have the examinations held at the final (or the degrees) under supervisors similar to the qualifying examinations now in given districts. Let the child's conversation with rather than a few days at centre who seem to rejoice at the sweltering mass of bored and tired.

The final examiners should be the teachers of the subject themselves, and in that only about 20 per cent. pass there must be some cause for the failure. The lecturer should be consulted as to the better method to place the following year the same rule should be applied to him and to all the public teachers as to a head teacher whose schools showed poor results.

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DR. S. W. PENNYCUICK.

Dr. S. W. Pennycuick (lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Adelaide) has received a cablegram from the International Education Board of New York, intimating that he had been granted a fellowship in chemistry. The fellowships were financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, of 20 million dollars. They are open to scientists throughout the world who have demonstrated outstanding ability in original research of importance to science, and who give promise of future scientific leadership. Every year a certain limited number of awards are made in different branches of science, is made in different branches of science, any university in the world, at the expense of the foundation. Dr. Pennycuick is a native of Queensland, and graduated in science at the Brisbane University. He won a research scholarship and a gold medal open to students of all faculties, for outstanding merit. He gained his M.Sc. degree while he was senior science master at the Brisbane Grammar School. He came to Adelaide in 1922 to fill his present position, and last year was in charge of the chemistry department. He has carried out numerous researches, the results of which have been published in Australian, English, and American science journals. In 1923 he secured his D.Sc. degree for a thesis on "the kinetics of sucrose inversion." Latterly he has given special attention to structural reactions of colloidal metals, which work he intends to continue in America. He will leave in March, and accept a scholarship invitation from Professor S. N. Lewis to work with him at the laboratories in California. It is understood that Dr. Pennycuick is the only fellowship granted in Australia for chemistry.

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Dr. S. W. Pennycuick, lecturer in chemistry at the University of Adelaide, has been awarded a Fellowship by the International Board of Education, New York. These fellowships, which are financed by the Rockefeller, jnr., Foundation, are limited to scientists throughout the world who have, in the words of the constitution, "demonstrated outstanding ability through original research of importance to science, and who show promise of future scientific leadership." Separate fellowships are awarded for all branches of science each year, entitling the holders to proceed, at the expense of the foundation, to any university in the world to acquire broader experience in the science in which they may be interested. Most of the fellowships are awarded to Americans. Dr. Pennycuick proposes to leave in March for the University of California, to which he has a long-standing invitation from Professor G. N. Lewis, to carry on researches into the structure of colloidal metals.

NEWS 3·1·28

Mr. Leonard N. Allen, B.A., returned to Adelaide last week, having spent a year in Britain and on the Continent. Mr. Allen, who is closely identified with the Student Christian Movement and the League of Nations Union, attended a conference of the former in Switzerland, at which 31 countries were represented. At Geneva he was escorted over the League of Nations buildings. Mr. Allen has returned to South Australia to engage in education on the teaching staff of Scotch College.