The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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A SCHOOL DEFECT.

Complaints are being made of the character of the handwriting in the city schools of New Westminster. So pronounced and general are these defects, it is stated, that an investigation will be held to enquire into the matter, with the view presumably of remedying them. We are afraid that this is a condition of things which is not confined to the schools of the Royal City. In fact, the reasons alleged for the lack of proficiency in writing there are such as to be more or less general. The deficiency complained of is one of the results of our modern system of education. In the multiplicity of subjects prescribed in the curriculum children are prevented from giving that consideration to the fundamentals of reading, writing and spelling which they should receive. In olden times a great deal of attention was paid to writing, a fact attested to in the beautiful "copper plate" specimens of the past generation. In Great Britain considerable importance is still attached to the subject, but in America it is rare now to see graduates of the public schools who write with any degree of uniformity; and, of course, after they leave the public schools and enter the higher institutions it is neglected altogether. It is probable that in the olden times referred to unnecessary time was spent in cultivating ornate handwriting. We have gone to the other extreme. Since the general introduction of typewriting and copying processes the importance of the pen has been minimized; but in the very nature of things there never will come a time when it can be dispensed with altogether. The matter of discipline, however, and thoroughness in the art should be insisted upon. The present disregard of neatness and uniformity illustrates one of the tendencies to slovenliness and undue haste in doing things. We trust that the investigation talked of will be held, in order that public attention may be called to this feature of modern schooling. Writing is not the only subject, of primary importance, which is neglected. Reading is another. The number of school pupils who are unable to read the simplest prose and poetry with any degree of elocutionary intelligence is appalling. Children are not encouraged to read and recite as they formerly were. The subjects which lie at the very base of useful accomplishments are slurred through in order that a dozen other subjects may have attention, in none of which does the pupil acquire any real proficiency.

THE LATE CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON, K. C.

The death of Christopher Robinson, K. C., the great Canadian lawyer, removes another of the old-time figures from the public arena. He was a member of one of the oldest and best known families in Upper Canada, and one closely identified with the early political history of the country. We had occasion not long ago to refer to a book published by Moyang & Co., of Toronto, dealing with the founder of the family in Canada, in which the late Hon. Sir J. B. Robinson, C. B., father of the deceased, his brother, still living in England, Major-General Charles Walker Robinson, and another brother, the late Hon. J. B. Robinson, who was a lieutenant-governor of Ontario, are the best known representatives. The father was one of the first attorneys-general of Upper Canada, and was for years chief justice. As a member of the Family Compact he came in for a good deal of criticism that was directed towards it by the reformers of the day, but while his sympathies were with the governing faction he commanded the respect of all shades of politics. He was a man of rare ability, a striking figure, accomplished in manners and educational acquirements, learned in the law, and of unimpeachable integrity. Perhaps Mr. Christopher Robinson inherited more of his father's intellectual power and moral force and fewer of his physical graces than his brothers.

For nearly half a century he had been the leading lawyer in Canada. During that time he had been associated with nearly all the famous cases in law and argued many of them before the judicial committee of the Privy Council, where his standing as one of the legal lights of the Empire was recognized. He was called to the bar in 1850 and almost immediately took a prominent place in his profession. One of the first of his most notable cases was that of the trial of Whelan, the murderer of Hon. T. Darcy McGee, in which he acted for the Crown. He appeared for the defence in the famous political libel suit of the Queen versus Wilkinson, and made application to have the late Hon. Geo. Brown committed for contempt of court. (Wilkinson was known in Canadian politics as "Big Push" Wilkinson.) He argued the Manitoba boundary case before the judicial committee of the privy council for the Dominion government and conducted the prosecution of Louis Riel at Regina for high treason. He represented the Dominion government in the C. P. R. arbitration in connection with the Onderdonk section. He was retained along with Sir Charles Russell and Sir Richard Webster (now Lord Alverstone) by the British government in the Behring Sea arbitration, and he was specially complimented by the London Times for his brilliant argument in summing up the case. These are only a few of the causes with which he was associated.

Christopher Robinson was not eloquent in the general acceptation of the term, and had anything but a pleasant delivery; but his knowledge of the law was both minute and comprehensive, and he presented the most intricate and complex arguments with marvelous clearness. His appeal was entirely to the reason, and had he devoted himself to the academic side of law and written books he would have ranked with the great commentators.

One of the secrets of his success was the singleness of purpose with which he applied himself to his profession. He refused knighthood, judgeships and legislative honors. He did not permit himself to be distracted by anything that was not part of his work, and was not, therefore, in any sense a public man, except in so far as his legal attainments gave him prominence. There is only one other man in the legal profession in Canada who can be said to have been his peer, and that is the Hon. Edward Blake. In some respects the latter may be regarded as the abler man, though he was not the abler jurist. The way they may be compared is this: Blake was not probably an abler lawyer than Robinson; it is questionable if he was a lawyer in the same degree; but he had qualifications as a public man which the other had not. While presenting many essential and pronounced differences they will probably for all time be bracketed together in the estimation of the legal profession in this country.

A MESSAGE TO THE WEST.

The Rev. C. W. Gordon, more familiarly known as Ralph Connor, must now be prepared to accept the worst. He must look forward to have his books characterized as trash, and himself as a literary impostor and busybody. He has written a letter to a friend in which he severely criticizes Sir Wilfrid Laurier for his school policy in the Northwest, and as he has a national reputation and a wide influence in the Western country, his views will be extensively quoted in the present campaign in the new provinces. This is part of what he wrote:

"I am the more surprised at Sir Wilfrid because he has shown himself the champion of provincial rights, and because especially he has shown himself superior to the influence of the clerical party in his province. No one will doubt for a moment that this legislation is proposed simply because a certain section of our people fear that the interests of their church will be adversely affected in the creation of the new provinces. It does seem a strange thing that the Territories, which have during all their past history dealt in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the Roman Catholics with the school question, should not be trusted to deal with equal fairness with that church in the future; and while none of us would for a moment approve of interfering with the secular and religious rights of our fellow-citizens, I feel sure that it is in keeping with the genius of Western Canada and with its intensely democratic spirit, that the provinces should be allowed to work out their own destiny, and should have the fullest control of their internal affairs. The parallels cited by Sir Wilfrid failed to apply simply because they are not parallels.

"I cannot tell you how deeply I am disappointed in our premier, a man who has been to me, throughout his whole career, my ideal of a Canadian statesman, but I cannot help feeling that in this instance he has allowed his judgment to be clouded and his mind disturbed from its wonted equitable poise by the undue influence of a bigoted and sectarian group of his followers."

THE RAISING OF HOGS.

The raising of hogs is an industry for which the province is especially adapted, and we look forward to the time when the curing of bacon will be extensively carried on. For this reason the publication of a bulletin by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, entitled "Bacon Pigs in Canada," with notes on breeding, feeding and managing swine, with reports of some experiments, by J. H. Grisdale, bachelor of agriculture, will be read with considerable interest in British Columbia. The bulletin is divided into two parts, one dealing in a general and detailed way with the breeding, management and housing of bacon pigs, and the other being a compilation of the results f a number of experiments in pig feeding conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, including a few carried on at Nappan, N. S., Brandon, Man., and at Indian Head, Sask. Of course, we are aware that the raising of pigs for bacon in this province might not be as profitable at first as it will be later on, and as the supply is not adequate for the industry on a considerable scale. Like everything else in the agricultural line, the production of hogs must be on a commercial scale, before it will pay. For some time yet it may be more profitable to grow hogs for the butcher. Nevertheless, when the output has reached the stage where packing houses can depend upon the farmers for a supply, it will be found to far outweigh in importance the fresh meat market. Those who are interested in the question will no doubt be able to secure copies by writing to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

RUSSIA IN REVOLUTION.

The task set before M. Witte, as prime minister of Russia, for the political reconstruction of Russia, is proving, as was anticipated, a very serious one. In the first place, the wrongs of centuries cannot be righted in a single day. In the second place, Russia is composed of too many national and racial elements to co-operate or coalesce readily. Each section of the vast empire has its own grievances and its peculiar problems.

There is only one particular in which it might be said that all Russia was united, and that was in protest against the existing order of things, and in a demand for redress. Otherwise the people are as far apart as the poles. Now that promise of reform has come, and there is an earnest of sincerity in the Czar's manifesto and in the changes that are taking place, there is no feeling of gratitude in the hearts of the Czar's subjects towards him. The concessions are regarded as the evidence of weakness on his part, and as something which has too long been delayed. So far from giving satisfaction, they have simply increased the desire for greater change. The extreme elements simply seize upon the liberty offered as a lever whereby to extract further concessions, and as an excuse for exceeding the limitations of legitimate freedom.

It can be well understood how disappointing even to the average intelligent Russia any constitution which is applicable to the present condition of his country must be. Liberty and constitutional rights of whatever character are more or less illusory. That is to say, they cannot be grasped in a material, tangible way. Hence, the man who finds that he must still earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, pay his honest debts, contribute to the coffers of the state, that wages or salary has not increased, that he has a family to provide for as formerly, and that everything real about him is quite as realistic as before, finds his ardor for reform damped. Like freedom to the slaves of the South, while it was a glorious ideal to work and to fight for, it left the poor slaves worse off than they were before. The slavery of the nation, like the slavery of the individual, leaves material effects which take a long time to overcome, and Russia with the most perfect constitution in the world has to climb back to a condition of happiness and prosperity by a process almost as painful as that by which she has descended from it.

Constitutional freedom will not, therefore, appear to the nation as that for which they hoped and which seemed so bright in prospect. The feeling of disappointment added to the other troubles of Russia, and to the discontent over the real defects of the new constitution will make the task of the prime minister a difficult, if not impossible, one. The present bloodshed is simply an acute symptom of the disorganized condition of the country consequent upon a crisis having been reached. Like a fever in the human system it must burn itself out. It depends upon the remedies applied, the treatment, and the general condition of the patient as to whether it shall prove fatal or not. Should the government not be strong enough to control the insurrectionary elements it would mean that the country would be thrown into chaos, and that the empire would break up into its original elements. Time alone is the salver. When the people have tired of the excitement of change they may fall back into an acceptance of the proposed constitution, and the political evolution of the country be permitted to go on slowly towards the ideals formed for its reconstruction. Russia has to be educated, regenerated and fitted for the full measure of self-government to which she aspires.

THE CHINESE MENACE.

President Roosevelt thinks that the United States has been short in its duty to the people of China and that Americans "should show some encouragement and consideration to all Chinese who are not of the laboring classes who come to this country." Congress will be asked to pass legislation modifying the exclusion law. This has special interest for the people of British Columbia, because if the United States can be brought to acknowledge the rights of Chinese to consideration on a par with those of white men, we may expect that pressure will be brought to bear on Canada through Great Britain to revise its legislative treatment of Chinese, which now amounts to actual exclusion. China is already showing signs, as was predicted, of an awakening spirit, of a dim realization of her possibilities as a world power if she chose to shake off the traditions of two thousand years or more and assert her rights to recognition. She has seen Japan emerge from a position of insignificance to one of great prominence and prestige, to be a nation capable of whipping the giant empire of Russia, of developing a navy and an army to a degree almost unexcelled in perfection and fighting force, and of adapting every art and science known to the world—all within the space of half a century. She sees Japanese, a people like her own subjects, allied in race, temperament and language, persistent in industry, strong in endurance, not keener in intellect nor more subtle than they. She cannot but comprehend that a nation made up of twelve times the number of similar units must at least be equally as powerful. She is aware that she has the physical backing and moral support of Japan in any effort to advance the interests and status of the Mongolian race.

In view of such facts, it is conceivable that the present relations will be permitted to exist for any long period without being made the occasion of war? Place China in a similar position to Japan, but relative as to numbers of population, and combined they could hold defiance to the world. But apart from the national aspect of the question as one affecting the dignity of a world power, comes the consideration of trade and commerce. We find that all the great nations—the United States, Germany, France and our own Empire—are magnifying the importance of the Orient as a market for their products, and are professedly anxious for the maintenance of an "open door." Mr. J. J. Hill, a respectable authority in such matters, predicts that the trade of the Orient will in the near future be many times greater than it is at present. Can the United States and Canada from a commercial point of view afford to place barriers in the way of obtaining their share of that trade by a policy of exclusion? It will not take John Chinaman long to demand an "open door" in return for an "open door," and to learn that retaliation is the most effective weapon in securing it. China has the trade which the other nations want and she has it in her power if she understands her own strength to dictate the terms upon which they shall have it.

There are other considerations which will favor the modification in Canada, as well as in the United States, of the provisions of the Chinese restriction law. Locally the effect of the increase of the capitation tax in keeping out Chinese has been to diminish the supply of cheap labor for domestic and farm purposes, and the farmer and the householder are beginning to complain. Not only is the available supply of labor for these purposes, in which they are undoubtedly useful, diminishing, but the price of their labor, as a natural consequence, is going up. As the area of fruit-growing increases in British Columbia, and we depend upon it more and more as an industry, and as the population in the cities increases, making greater the demand for domestic labor, the reaction which is now setting in in favor of the despised "heathen" will be strengthened. The orchardist and farmer declare that the land cannot be cleared and made ready for crops, and the ground tilled and the crops harvested and marketed without a plentiful supply of workers not otherwise available.

Thus we see that what was a popular cry of yesterday is likely to be reversed tomorrow. In the past the labor element has been strong enough to secure the passing of restrictive legislation, while the interests of the other classes were not materially affected. Conditions are now changing rapidly, both within and without the province, and we shall witness an agitation for the repeal or modification of the anti-Chinese legislation as strong as that which gave it effect. It may not be very soon, but everything points in that direction. It is a danger which is clearly in sight. The two things which will bring it about are the interests of trade and commerce, and the demands of the farmer and housekeeper. The solution of the Chinese question appears to lie in local legislation restricting the employment of Chinese to certain classes of employment, in which they will not come seriously into competition with white labor.

Attention is called to the letter of Mr. Huggett in another column, dealing with some suggestions that have been made regarding university education in this province. There is much force in his contention that there should be an optional science course in the high schools, as an entrance to an institute of technology in British Columbia that later on might, and probably would, develop into a degree-conferring institution, or, in other words, a full-fledged university. The optional feature of the school curriculum should without any doubt be enlarged. No two pupils have the same capabilities or inclinations, and it is quite contrary to a sense of the fitness of things that we should strive to bring all children up to the same dead level of educational acquirements. To do this it is necessary to repress some pupils in one direction, and prod them up severely in another; to unnecessarily keep back the bright pupils and to unduly stimulate the dullards. If a child have a liking for literature, he should be encouraged in it; if he hates mathematics there is no use in trying to make him keep up with others, who are adept in figures. You cannot make scientists out of poets, or make literary doctors out of natural-born surgeons.

ALBERNI PERSONATION CASE.

Nanaimo Free Press.

We publish a letter today from Mr. R. L. Drury, M. P. P., which, in view of the result of the personation charge he laid against the man Nilson, must be regarded as an extraordinary production at this late day. Having failed utterly in his charge, and then by withdrawing the notice of appeal, admitting that the decision of the magistrate, to which he first took exception, was correct, Mr. Drury now makes assertions that it was never attempted to raise at the trial, reiterates that Nilson, who was discharged by the magistrate, is guilty of the crime charged, and offers to make a bet on the subject. He is not very complimentary to the conduct of the prosecution, for if he considers his position is correct, his letter must be regarded as saying that the case was badly bungled, and he offers a reward to some one to show better detective ability than the prosecution for the purpose of bearing this out. There was no evidence at the trial to bear out this construction now advanced at this late date by Mr. Drury, whereas the Free Press in its comments, was governed entirely by the actual sworn evidence as produced in court. While it was admitted Nilson's first name was Edward, it was also proved by the evidence that he was known as Nels or Nelson. It was also stated to the court by the counsel for the defence that the man's name was on the voters' list improperly as Nels Nilson.

Furthermore, Mr. Drury, when giving evidence, being asked by Mr. Russell, counsel for the defence, if there was the name Nels Nilson on the list, replied, while he had the official list, before him, "Yes," and further said in reply to another question, that there was no vote recorded for Nels Nilson; thus showing that the only vote recorded was that in the name of Nels Christian Nelson. The obvious inference therefore drawn from the evidence is that Nilson had voted by mistake in the name of Nels Nelson instead of Nels Nilson, and having a vote, there was nobody wronged by his action. On reference to the list furnished by Mr. Drury we find the name Nels Nielson, Cape Scott. The exact spelling is not the same as Nilson, but that may be disregarded, as no doubt the returning officer did not spell the name over to the voter and it might very well sound the same as Nilson or Nelson for that matter. The extraordinary thing is that Mr. Drury wishes to place the onus of proof on the accused. It was for the prosecution to prove that Nilson was not entitled to vote, and they failed utterly to do so in court. Now Mr. Drury asks the Free Press to play Sherlock Holmes for him, a most extraordinary course. If he had a case, we may be sure that he would have brought his evidence to court. If he did not do so, and the prosecution was made ridiculous through his own blunder, that is the fault of Mr. Drury and his friends. In so far as the sworn testimony goes, the comments of the Free Press were perfectly warranted and surely a mere statement to the contrary is not sufficient to overweigh this. We have not the slightest desire to injure Mr. Drury, but it is a maxim of British law that a man is to be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty. Mr. Drury and the rest of the prosecution have failed to prove Nilson guilty, and until it is otherwise shown, Nilson is entitled to sympathy as an ill-used man.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by correspondents.]

HIGHER EDUCATION.

Sir,—Your interesting editorial of recent date is full of practical suggestion and commends itself very strongly to the mind of your correspondent, who also appreciates the step taken by the Nelson University club in bringing to the attention of the superintendent of education the necessity of a move being made toward the establishment of a university for British Columbia. The statement of the superintendent to the effect that less than one-fifth of the provincial revenue is spent on education is much less than many have supposed, and with such an expenditure the education department is to be congratulated upon the creditable progress that has been made during recent years in both city and country schools. I think that Mr. Robinson's suggestion to aid British Columbia students at older universities is a good one, quite practical and worthy serious consideration, but, if the provincial treasury could supply the necessary cash to such students (and there would be not a few), why not take the first step toward establishing a provincial university. Mr. R. J. Clark in moving his resolution at Nelson, urged upon the attention of those present, that the work now being done by high schools towards university education was not a proper function of high schools and was done at a sacrifice. I think that this may be a true statement of the actual fact, but under present conditions it is the best that can be done. In order to have beter results educationally and for the money now being spent, it appears to me, at least, that such a school as suggested by Dr. Arthur is a necessity and a crying demand. He advocated the immediate establishment of an efficient schol of mining engineering. I wohld go a little further, making the institution more comprehensive, and calling it a schol of technology. I verily believe that the time is ripe and that many of our citizens in Victoria, Vancouver and other provincial points would soon subscribe an amount that would represent a very substantial endowment. I claim, Sir, that a school of technology is what is wanted immediately; that it should be an entirely separate institution from our high schools, and that it should provide courses of studies for those students who would matriculate from the "science course" of our present institution. In this connection let me urge your support of an "Optional Science Course" for our high schools, so that such a course may lead up to the work as would be provided by such an institution as suggested, or at least make matriculation possible to a school of good standing elsewhere.

I have tried in a very inefficient way, perhaps, to point out on previous occasions the need of making our educational work more practical, and we can never hope to see the best results until there shall be courses of study provided, as shall meet the requirements "mentally" of our students. What is the use of "cramming a child with literature" when it is evidently distasteful, and fail at the same time to provide the natural food for a mind "that is instinctively mechanical." What is required for the proper education of a child is to know its capacity to receive instruction, and not to burden it beyond that point. Education is moral and physical, as well as intellectual; and it is as necessary to develop the one as the other; if, therefore, the physical is effected by mental strain, it is evident that mentally the pupil will grow weaker under the strain. The ultimate object of education "is enlightened and worthy citizenship," so that the moral development of the student must not be lost sight of. "How to produce manhood and womanhood that shall honor the nation, is the question that demands the best thought of every loyal citizen of Canada."

ALFRED HUGGETT.

THE BUTE INLET ROUTE.

Sir—I make this communication as short as possible. Your board of trade is discussing the route to Victoria via Seymour Narrows.

Apart from transcontinental railway projects, the greatest want of all upper British Columbia is a short entrance to the Chilcotin country. This was a recognized fact at the time that the Wadington road was projected, but is much more necessary now. The building of a continuous railway line to connect the Island with the Mainland is unnecessary, because the water can be used. The natural waterway is a better approach than one that can be constructed by art. It is wide enough to permit of the best curvature, and the grade is level throughout; the channel is ready made.

The mountain running time of the C. P. R., Calgary to Vancouver, is almost 17 miles per hour, or say 15 knots. This same speed can be accomplished by a well designed ferry boat, with accommodation on deck for 32 box cars or from forty to one hundred thousand pounds weight capacity each, arranged in three lines. Such a boat would require to be about 400 feet in length for freight purposes. For a 12-car passenger train about 300 feet long would be enough. These dimensions would be suitable for transcontinental business. By running such boats between the head of Bute Inlet and some point upon Vancouver Island, all the traffic advantages to be got out of a continuous railway line will be secured with a very superior class of grades, curvature, and comfort.

To build a railway from the head of Bute Inlet to the upper plateau, where it would be accessible to settlement, is quite within the resources of the province; and if such road should not immediately become a link of a transcontinental chain, it would yet greatly stimulate and develop the upper country of British Columbia and do a good business. The province would by degrees buy less and less from the United States and more from their own farmers. To ascend the Homathco river with a railway line is a very expensive piece of work, and very imperfect even when completed. The best ruling grade to be got is 2 per cent., which does not permit of long well loaded trains. The measure of the power of a locomotive is confined by what is known as adhesion—a certain percentage of the total weight upon the driving wheels, generally estimated as about one-fifth—depending upon track conditions, weather, etc., to annul slipping.

Everyone has noticed the driving wheels of a locomotive revolving rapidly upon the rail without forward motion taking place. The locomotive in this case lacks adhesion.

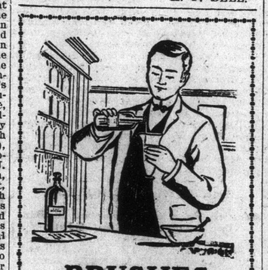
By converting, however, such a locomotive into what is called a rack engine, it would receive at once adhesion sufficient to up grades with loads far in excess of that which it was unable to control before.

The Transandine railway of South America has upon its upper section an eight per cent. grade, which is worked by rack engines. The modern Abt rack is composed of three steel bars also with teeth on edge, from which alternate rectangular pieces are cut out, leaving rectangular teeth projecting upwards.

By this means the jerking motion of the first single bar rack system was got rid of and made practically continuous. The ordinary locomotive being without any adhesion is unable to make effective the whole of its power. The rack engine not being dependent upon the weight for adhesion, is able to utilize the whole of its strength, and so far as heavy grades are concerned, it is the most perfect contrivance known. The common locomotive for heavy grades is, upon the contrary, both wasteful and mechanically imperfect.

To ascend to Tatlaco lake, near the head waters of the Homathco river, would require (from memory) some 32 miles of line, which would cost a large sum of money and involve some difficult problems. It would not likely be undertaken for less than $100,000 per mile. There is, however, at the head of Bute Inlet a prominent chunk of mountains which is by no means regular, except near the river banks. It has the Southgate river upon the eastern and the Homathco on the western side. There is room here and opportunity to build seven miles of rack railway line, which would probably cost more than $60,000 per mile, or say $420,000 altogether. To this add the cost of such a ferry boat as described, and call it $225,000, and you will have covered the principal items, opened up the whole flank of the Coast range, the Chilcotin country, and made probable the building of two irrigation canals from the Chilco river that would fertilize an immense extent of country lacking water. Add now ten per cent. to the sum of these two items for contingencies, and you will have $709,500, the annual interest upon which is $35,475, at 5 per cent. interest. Suppose now the province was to go ahead boldly, like the Australians and New Zealanders, and build this work, how long time would elapse before the province got an offer for it as part of a transcontinental chain? It would probably be bought before it was completed, and the buyers would be glad to provide the boats. There are some other necessary considerations that do not much affect general principles that I need not now go into.

H. P. BELL.



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(Written for The Colonist by Allen West.)

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Literature That Should Cheer Them.

Every young man and woman who is fighting the battle of success ought to be cheered and stimulated as well as instructed by all the good and valuable literature the newspapers and magazines can find, if for no other reason than that commercial advertising furnishes the profits of about all literary undertakings and the great army of newspaper and magazine readers are directly interested in the business army are themselves members of that army, are the heroes and heroines who are battling for their homes and families.

Study of Business Problems.

It is the province of publicity in this connection to give the public a clear understanding of business problems and reveal to young men and women the secrets of success.

Every store has made its success by attracting public interest, by securing the co-operation of brains and capital, and an army of employees in organizing and conducting an undertaking of the utmost and most personal public importance. These establishments, as a whole, affect the purchasing power of every dollar in the community, the vast army of salespeople and clerks having much influence in fixing the standard of public ideas as to conduct and moral principles.

Conduct and Morals a Part of Store System.

Conduct and moral principles in the stores are not matters of personal opinion, but are reduced to concrete facts, and embodied in the store system.

These matters are deeply interesting aside from their importance, and anyone studying the subject will find as much to stir the blood in the exploits of modern business heroes as in any of the achievements of romance of the days of chivalry and more real heroic qualities to admire in modern heroes and heroines than in all the armies of crusaders and knights errant and braggarts and brigands who decorate the pages of medieval history and fiction.

Real Heroes and Heroines.

In the modern drama the real hero holds the centre of the stage, even if he does dress in every-day clothes and is a modest, refined, intelligent, every-day fellow, instead of one of the stilted, flowery, vainglorious duel-fighters of long ago.

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