

Report of the R. C. School Delegation to the St. Louis Exposition.

(Translated from the French by J. M. Reynolds.)

(Continued from Page 6.)

ATTENDANCE.

Instruction is not compulsory in the State of Missouri, attendance in school is voluntary.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The city is divided into school districts, and the pupils of one district are not permitted to frequent the schools of another.

SALARIES.

In each school there is a Principal and a certain number of male and female assistant teachers.

In every large school there are usually three first assistants; all the others are called second assistants.

DISCIPLINE.

The School Commission authorizes the employment of corporal punishment, but does not encourage it.

SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS IN OTHER CITIES.

We have also visited the Exhibitions of other cities in the United States, especially those of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston.

Everywhere we found drawings in abundance and very much manual work. The four simple rules of arithmetic, as well as geography and history, were illustrated by the pupils.

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Little less than one tenth of the whole. Total expense for the common schools of the United States, according to the latest information, was \$235,208,465.

THE UNITED STATES.

Expense Per Capita for the Common Schools According to the Latest Statistics.

Table with columns: State, Population, Enrollment, Attendance, Expense Per Capita. Lists states from New York to Wyoming.

In Chicago, where school attendance is compulsory, there are Reformatory schools, or detention schools, and schools which are in operation during the summer vacation.

The Drake school has all modern improvements and is luxuriously equipped. It possesses statues and oil paintings of considerable value.

The "Mosley" is an old school with twenty-two class-rooms and 950 pupils. We visited the school on account of the manual work which is executed there.

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BELGIUM.

Belgium had a very beautiful school exhibit in every degree of teaching: from the kindergarten, which they call "garden schools" up to the Universities.

The Belgium motto, "School as a Preparation for Life," was everywhere apparent, and concentration as a means of arriving at a given end is everywhere in evidence.

The exhibit of primary teaching, taken in its entirety, in its arrangement, and in the nature of its diverse elements, is the syncretical expression of the pedagogical thought, "School as a Preparation for Life."

The principal object of this exhibition is: 1. To put in evidence the new aspects of the system of education in use in the Froebelian schools, children from 3 to 5 years, in the primary schools (children from 6 to 14 years), and in adult schools

(Young people of both sexes of more than 14 years); 2. To show how the normal schools prepare male and female aspirant teachers to give the pupils of these three classes of schools an instruction bearing upon the necessities of actual life.

The new aspects of the Belgium system of popular education are as follows: 1. The centralization of the details of a general plan of education.

Concentration consists of a series of symmetrical exercises of a nature to cultivate the physical, intellectual and moral faculties of small children, and to give them certain fixed notions which will develop in proportion as they advance in their studies.

The professional tendency stands confessed from the kindergarten school by exercises in modelling, folding, braiding and weaving; it is emphasized in the primary schools, and assumes its full development in the adult schools where the pupils have special courses of instruction suited to their local or regional necessities.

GERMANY.

In every section of the Palace of Education we found photographs on glass and lantern slides, but the instrument which interested us the most was the one found in the auditorium, or lecture hall, in the German section.

France had naturally a very fine and a very beautiful exhibit, one that bore evident signs of great seriousness. The copy-books and different other objects exposed were not got up for the purpose of being put on exhibition; they were the result of the work done in class, day by day, and the daily diaries bore the traces of the red ink used by the teacher in correcting them.

The system of teaching in every grade, from the maternal schools up to the University, was represented. We were particularly struck with the specimens of mural decoration whose object was to instruct and to convey lessons of morality.

Sweden had a remarkable and practical exhibit from a material point of view. Its class-libraries were exactly of the kind required for our schools. It had also on exhibition large desks for drawing, wooden desks of three different sizes, and a wooden desk for the teacher's use.

Its exhibition of manual work filled an entire apartment, and was certainly a great success. The work executed in wood and in metal showed great talent and ability of a high order.

Friedrich Froebel, a German pedagogue, and disciple of Pestalozzi, was the founder of the Kindergarten (Infant schools) system, and one of the principal organizers of manual labor in primary schools for children of both sexes.

On her return to America in 1863, she devoted the rest of her life to the diffusion and establishment of the principles held by Froebel. Her efforts were crowned with success, and, a short time after, "Kindergarten Schools" were seen to increase and multiply in the United States.

Founded and maintained at first by the philanthropy of benevolent associations, they constitute an integral part of the American system of education.

Drawing is taught in an efficacious manner in all the classes of the American schools, and this is put to advantage by requiring that the pupils shall illustrate all their compositions.

Vertical writing is everywhere in use, there are only a few cities where a return has been made to the slanting system.

Wall decorations, in the form of pictures, helpful both for the instruction and education of the children, are everywhere found.

Gymnastic exercises are considered indispensable to the health and complete development of the child.

Elementary vocal music is taught in all the classes of the common schools.

School attendance is compulsory in thirty States, one Territory, and in the District of Columbia.

Corporal punishment is not forbidden by law, except in the State of New Jersey. The other States permit the School Commissioners to make their own rules on this subject.

There are as many cities where corporal punishment is permitted as there are where it is forbidden.

Absolutely free education is everywhere much in favor.

The system of heating and ventilating combined is, in the highest degree satisfactory.

Manual training is more in favor than ever in all parts of the Union, in European countries, even in the island of Ceylon, in China and in Japan.

The United States and every other country are eagerly rivaling, one with another, in the race for commercial and industrial supremacy by means of appropriate technical instruction.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS. Drawing.—The importance attached to the teaching of drawing in every country, makes it incumbent upon us to suggest that much more prominence and attention be given to this branch in our course of study.

To realize this desirable object in a practical way, we recommend the appointment of a special teacher of drawing for each one of our schools.

That these special drawing teachers should meet from time to time, in order to obtain a uniform, practical system; that they may thus the better prepare their pupils to learn successfully the trade for which they are intended.

That the Principals and teachers mutually assist in the accomplishment of this important work, by requiring the pupils to illustrate the different compositions which they have to make.

Manual Training.—Manual training has already been recommended by a previous delegation.

We believe that this reform is most urgently needed, and that any delay in bringing it about, will be detrimental to the well-understood interests of the pupils of our schools.

We could procure immediately an English-speaking teacher of drawing for the Sarsfield, Belmont and Edward Murphy schools where a mixed population speaks both languages; and, later on, we could obtain a French-speaking teacher for the other schools.

Wall Decorations.—With the money already voted for this purpose, we believe that our schools ought to be furnished, as soon as possible, with wall decorations, under the form of historic pictures, scenes from the history of Canada, portraits of our Governors, and other distinguished men, with photographic views of the principal cities of Canada.

Lantern Views.—Finally, we recommend that a Lantern be placed in every large school, with photographic lantern slides, screen, and other accompanying accessories, in order that lectures may be given to the pupils once a month.

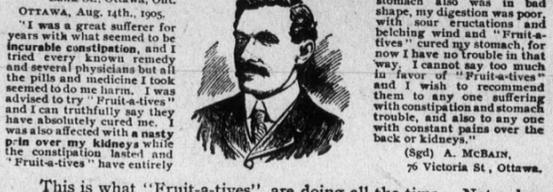
The whole respectfully submitted, (Signed) P. G. MARTINEAU, J. H. SEMPLE, A. D. LACROIX, P. AHERN.

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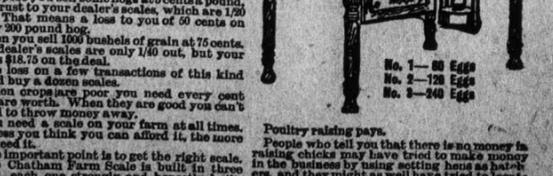


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in bringing it about, will be detrimental to the well-understood interests of the pupils of our schools.

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People who tell you that there is no money in raising chickens may have tried to make money in the business by using soiling hens as layers.



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Advertisement for 'The True Witness' newspaper, including contact information and subscription details.

Table titled 'STATE OF NEW YORK' showing 'Total Expense for Common Schools 1850 to 1904' with columns for Year and Amount.

Main body of the article containing detailed reports on school conditions, teacher salaries, and educational methods in various states.

Continuation of the main article text, discussing educational trends and the impact of the St. Louis Exposition.

Large advertisement for 'Fruit-a-tives' and 'Chatham Farm' equipment, featuring testimonials and product illustrations.