

## IMPORTANCE OF A KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Of the importance of the questions with which political economy deals it is hardly necessary to speak. The science which investigates the laws of production and distribution of wealth concerns itself with matters which among us occupy more than nine-tenths of human effort, and perhaps nine-tenths of human thoughts. In its province are included all that relates to the wages of labour and the earnings of capital; all regulations of trade; all questions of currency and finance; all taxes and public disbursements—in short, everything that can in any way effect the amount of wealth which a community can secure, or the proportion in which that wealth will be distributed between individuals. Though not the science of government, it is essential to the science of government. Though it takes direct cognizance only of what are termed the selfish instincts, yet in doing so it includes the basis of all higher qualities. The laws which it aims to discover are the laws by virtue of which states wax rich and populous, or grow weak and decay; the laws upon which depend the comfort, happiness, and opportunities of our individual lives. And as the development of the nobler part of human nature is powerfully modified by material conditions, if it does not absolutely depend upon them, the laws sought for by political economy are the laws which at last control the mental and moral as well as the physical states of humanity.

Clearly, this is the science which of all sciences is of the first importance to us. Useful and sublime as are the sciences which open to us the vistas of Nature—which read for us the story of the deep past, or search out the laws of our physical or mental organization—what is their practical importance as compared with the science which deals with the conditions that alone make the cultivation of the others possible? Compare on this ground of practical utility the science of political economy with all others, and its preëminence almost suggests the reply of the Greek: "No I cannot play the fiddle; but I can tell you how to make of a little village a great and glorious city!"—MR. HENRY GEORGE, in *Popular Science Monthly* for March.

## THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS.

I may here record the hours of a school for girls, which appear to me to exceed what is wholesome, and to be well calculated to lessen their mental elasticity and interfere with their healthy development. These girls rise at 6.25; prayers are at seven, and breakfast at a quarter to eight. Their studies commence at a quarter-past eight and last till twelve, with a break of a quarter of an hour; then dinner, during which silence is enjoined and a book read aloud; then an hour's recreation is allowed. Needle-work and school-work follow for two hours; half an hour's recreation succeeds, and then come two hours and a half of study and instruction of various kinds. The next meal after the twelve-o'clock dinner is at half-past six, and this is the last. It is succeeded by half an hour's recreation, and this by half an hour's study. Prayers end the day at half past eight. Here we have nine and a half hours (including religious exercises) of sedentary occupation, and only two hours and a quarter for recreation and one hour and a half for meals. I think we shall be agreed that a little less school and a little more play would be desirable, and that there need be no cause for surprise to find that many of the scholars suffer from head-aches, anæmia, arrested development, and various manifestations of exhausted nerve-force.—DR. HACK TUCKER, in *Popular Science Monthly* for March.

## Examination Questions.

### EXAMINATION PAPERS.

FOR TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES, CALIFORNIA.

#### First Grade A.—Arithmetic.

1. What is involution? evolution? cube root? Why in square root, do you point off into periods of 2 figures each?
2. A road is 60 ft. wide: on its left side stands a tower 300 ft. high—how long would a line require to be to reach from a window 20 ft. below the top of the tower to the middle of the road?

3. What is a fraction? The value of a fraction? What is the value of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ? Why do you reduce fractions to a common denominator before adding? Upon what principle do you reduce fractions to the Least Common Denominator?

4. A man is offered \$5.00 a barrel cash for 100 barrels of flour, and is at same time offered \$5.50 on 9 months' credit, which is the better offer, and how much, money being worth 1% per month?

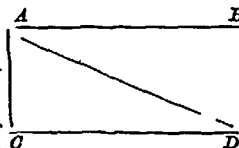
5. 3 men, A, B, and C, enter into a partnership. A puts in \$5000 and 5 months after takes out \$1000. B puts in \$6000. C puts in only \$1000. At the end of the year their gain is \$9000; of this C is to receive  $\frac{1}{3}$  for managing the business, the balance being divided amongst them all according to their respective stock and time. How much does each receive?

6. Needing \$600 for three months, I borrow at the bank at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per month. What must be the face of the note? (No days of grace.)

7. Extract the square root of  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

8. If 6 men can dig a trench 216 ft. long, 4 ft. deep, 2 ft. wide in 10 days, working 8 hrs. a day, how many men will dig a trench 5 times as long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as wide,  $\frac{2}{3}$  as deep, working 10 hrs. a day?

9. A piece of land is rectangular, 400 rds. by 300 rds. A road runs all round it, and another goes straight from D to A through C the centre? A man is going from D to A, how much will he gain by going the "centre road" instead of first to C and then to A?



10. Sent my agent \$4,200 which, after deducting commission at 5%, he invested in silk at \$2.00 per yard. I paid for freight, etc., \$25; and so ld at \$2.60 per yard. How much did I gain on the whole?

#### First Grade A.—Geography.

Values.

- 6 1. Of what service is the ocean? (Answer fully in a few words.)
- 9 2. What formed the slopes, plains, and valleys? Where are the seas, gulfs, bays, and lakes most numerous? In what respect do Africa, South America, and Australia resemble each other?
- 10 3. How do you account for shells being found on the tops of high mountains? In what direction do mountain chains generally run? Where are the highest plateaus on the globe?
- 10 4. What part of the earth's surface is the hottest? why? How is it that Quito has such a temperate climate?
5. What keeps the water of the ocean pure? How do you account for icebergs being found in the ocean as far south as Newfoundland? What is the difference between a glacier and an iceberg?
- 10 6. Name the different zones, and give the limit of each. In which zone does most of the land surface lie?
- 10 7. Name and locate 4 noted volcanoes. What is a lake? In the mines in Nevada it is so hot that men cannot easily remain long at the bottom of the mines. How do you explain this heat?
- 10 8. Explain what causes the trade winds. Where do they prevail and in what direction do they blow?
- 10 9. Explain clearly the cause of day and night.
- 15 10. Tell all you can about the ocean currents, stating what causes them and where found.

Values

#### First Grade A.—Longfellow.

- 10 1. What countryman is Longfellow? Where does he live? Name 2 other poems beside Evangeline that he has written.
- 10 2. What are the historical facts on which Evangeline is based? (Answer fully but briefly.)
- 15 3. Describe Evangeline's person and character as you have gathered it from the poem. (While examiner will allow for difference of opinion, this question must be marked closely; vague statements will not do.)
- 35 4. Part second of poem. Where was Grand Pre? "freighted vessels" with what? Explain clearly following:—"household gods" "Acadians" why? "Wrecks of Newfoundland" what are they? "Southern savannas" "Father of