

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

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(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

## The Kindergarten in Chatham

Does it Pay?—Is its Work Beneficial to the Pupil in the First Years of the Public School Course?—The Views of Expert Educationists in Junior Work—Problem of Provincial Interest.

The Kindergarten—and its value to the pupil on entering the junior work of the public school course—is a subject of exceptional interest to parents, and of extensive discussion among educationists in all parts of the Province at the present time.

"Does it pay to send the children to the Kindergarten?" is a question which is agitating the minds of many interested in educational work. "Do the results to the child aid and assist him in the later work of the public school? Does it do lasting benefit?"

In Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto the discussion has been especially exhaustive, exacting—and lively.

Chatham is particularly interested because the Maple City is in the very van of the kindergarten movement. Our progressive school board have established three kindergartens in Chatham, all well attended and competently conducted—more than any other city of its size in Canada.

Will results warrant this progressive enterprise? Does it pay? The Planet believes that they will. This journal has profound faith in the kindergarten and its work. But there may be a Doubting Thomas here and there who is not prepared to accept and swear by The Planet's dictum—he may demand expert evidence.

To satisfy him this journal has interviewed all the local expert educationists in the junior work of the public school—and it may be said, in passing, that these teachers are unflinching, that they have a thorough and practical knowledge whereon to speak.

It will be very satisfactory to the School Board and pleasing to the people to learn that the unanimous verdict is strongly in favor of the kindergarten and its extension and development. The child who graduates from the kindergarten is better equipped for, and makes greater progress in, the public school work than his young colleague who neglected the advantages of this course.

Chatham is to be congratulated on taking the lead in kindergarten work.

### MISS BARASSIN.

Miss Susie A. Barassin, who so ably conducts a large portion of the junior work in the Central school, gave the following as her reasons why she considered the kindergarten an important part of the school system:—"The child from the kindergarten gets along more rapidly in arithmetic than others who have never attended the kindergarten. The gifts and occupations of the kindergarten give him ideas of number."

"He gets along quicker in reading also. This, I think, is due to the fact that he is so used to expressing himself in the kindergarten that he knows no hesitation in giving the sounds of the letters."

"For the same reason he makes better progress in language. In the case of reproduction stories he can express himself more freely and correctly than the child who comes into the primary room straight from home."

"Children from the kindergarten have been trained to keep time to the piano. For this reason they are easily trained to assemble and disassemble in order."

"Generally speaking, a child who has attended the kindergarten passes through the primary in about half the time it takes the other child to do it."

### MISS YOUNG.

Miss Nellie Young, who has charge of the juvenile work of the McKeough school—and has met with much success therein—speaks very strongly in favor of the kindergarten and its work. In an interview with The Planet she said:—"When the child, who has taken the prescribed course at the kindergarten, enters the primary room, there are three distinct respects in which he is superior to a child who has never had the opportunity of attending a kindergarten, or who has attended irregularly, or who has not taken the full course. The first point where the kindergarten-trained child has the advantage is in his ability to interpret the spoken language and its power of associating the spoken word with the object. As a result of this it is able to follow the directions of the teacher without any apparent effort on either the teacher's part or the child's. Then, in the second place, the training that the eye gets is a great saving of time to the primary teacher. This training enables the child to get a correct mental concept of a picture and then, when it has to be reproduced, the one in the child's mind, to which reference is made, is perfect. The third advantage gained from a kindergarten course is the training of the hand. Although the kindergarten child has not been required to hold a pencil and make figures, it can

usually hold a pencil correctly and make a very fair copy of a figure even on the first day.

"These points are so closely connected that one concrete example will illustrate the three. Draw on the blackboard four lines corresponding to the four lines on the child's slate, used for writing. Put a straight upright line in the middle space, touching the second and third lines, and ask the children to do the same on their slates. The kindergarten child understands immediately where the middle space is, where the second and third lines are, because it has had a training in finding definite places for itself under the direction of a teacher. Then the child gets a perfect mental picture, and its hand has been so trained as to reproduce this picture. The same child will fill the middle spaces of its slate with uniform lines with very little further direction. On the other hand, ask the child, who has not attended the kindergarten, to draw the same thing, and the teacher has to find the second and third lines, then the middle space and then spend at least a minute with the child. Return to this child's slate and it is the exception to find the work in the second set of lines on the slate. It not unfrequently happens that it takes the child three weeks to discover by itself the middle space in the second set of lines."

"While the child, not trained in the kindergarten, may have similar mental and physical powers, it has not the ability to direct them."

### MISS MCKELLAR.

Miss Annie E. McKellar, who has met with so much success in the junior work at the Central school, and whose study of the subject enables her to speak as one having authority, gave The Planet the following as her views:—"The kindergarten leads the child gradually, from a life of play with no abrupt jump or strain, and brings it to the lower rungs of the ladder of learning ready and confident to climb."

"When a child of five years misses the kindergarten and enters the primary room without any preparation, the strain is too severe and when the first blush of novelty is over he is benumbed with the exertion and in nearly every case makes a slow disheartened effort to ascend."

"The constant handling of material and the various occupations of building, folding, weaving, etc., while they naturally give delicacy of touch, quietness of movement and dexterity of hand, we observe that in addition to this the kindergarten pupils possess a much higher degree of general intelligence and have a greater power of concentration as well as a much better command of language. They do better in arithmetic, getting the first ideas more readily and they learn more easily the forms of letters and words and hence reading comes easier. The exercises make children very fond of school and the little ones being delighted with the work the interest of the parent is awakened and consequently the attendance is much better."

### MISS LONGWELL.

Miss Ella Longwell, who presides over the second year junior work at McKeough school, and of whom Inspector Park paid the memorable eulogy, "Her work is perfection!"—gives The Planet the following interesting and instructive interview on the value of the kindergarten course:—"The child from the kindergarten is characterized by his receptive and responsive attitude of mind. He more readily fixes his attention upon a matter and more willingly accepts an allotted task than does the child who has been denied the advantages of the kindergarten."

"More than this, he claims and enjoys a freedom of friendly intercourse with his teachers, which springs from the homelike atmosphere of the kindergarten."

"This is particularly helpful to the pupil where he does not exactly understand what is required of him in the work of the school, as he promptly and cheerfully confides his difficulties to his teacher, where another would be withheld from doing so by the feeling of reserve which he has not yet overcome."

"Among the many fruits of attendance in the kindergarten this one of making the child regard the school as his home and the teacher as his friend, seems to be most lasting."

### MISS TACKABERRY.

Miss Edith M. Tackaberry, who has evidenced marked ability in her conduct of junior work in the Central school, says regarding the benefits of the kindergarten:—"A child who enters the primary room after a full course in the kindergarten invariably passes from that room at the end of one-half year. On the other hand, a child who enters at the age of five without any kindergarten training remains in the primary room from a year and a half to two years."

"When we get our new classes at the beginning of each term we always find that the kindergarten pupils are much quieter and quicker in their movements; their manner is more natural and they are more observant than other pupils."

"They are able to begin writing at once as the muscles of their hands have been developed by the work in the kindergarten and all that they do is neater and more systematic as a result of this."

### THE PRINCIPALS.

The principals of both city schools are unanimous in their approval of the kindergarten course as a preparation for school life. They are in a position to view the progress of every child from the kindergarten to the fifth school, and consequently the results of their experience and investigation will be followed with interest by parents of pupils of all ages.

It is certain that if the kindergarten enables the child to graduate earlier than he otherwise would, it is of advantage from an economic standpoint alone, because an extra year at school means an extra teacher's salary and the expenses of an extra class room.

Miss Esther Abram, principal of McKeough school, says:—"At the present time, one of the chief disadvantages which a teacher of the first grade in public school work has to contend against is the result of attendance at kindergarten being optional. Parents may or may not, as they see fit—and there always have been differences of opinion on every subject and I suppose there will continue to be—give their children the benefit of a course in the kindergarten."

Thus there enters the primary room of the public school two distinct classes of children, those from the kindergarten well-equipped to set forth on the steep, rough road to learning and those direct from the home without any preparation whatever for undertaking this important journey unless the parents have themselves consciously or unconsciously given them the training."

"This is directly opposed to classification, on which the present public school system largely rests, and the teacher finds herself in a day or two forced to make a sub-division in what she would have much preferred to keep as one undivided class, not because one set of these children knows any more about the work of her room than the other set, but simply because one set being able to follow her directions more readily than the other can make much more rapid progress. Very rarely do kindergartners require more than one term in this room while many of the other children require what is to them a long, weary year and sometimes two, to advance to the same point in school work."

"This advantage which kindergartners obtain over those who have had no training in that work is felt distinctly in public school work as far as the second book, in other words as long as children study from the concrete more than from the abstract; and so far as we can judge from our present educational light, the younger a child can advance to a position where he is enabled to do more abstract reasoning, the better for him."

J. W. Flewes, Principal of the Central School, says:—"In our senior classes the ages of the pupils who have attended kindergarten average one year less than those who have not. This goes to show that children who take a course in the kindergarten will graduate earlier than others."

"The manual training given in the kindergarten develops the muscles of the hands and arms, consequently the pencil and pen-holding of the primary grades is accomplished without cramped fingers. This, of course, will lead to much better writing and drawing—a consummation devoutly to be wished."

"Pupils who commenced in the kindergarten, attend much more regularly as a rule, than others. All that is needed to have every parent convinced of the superiority of kindergarten children over others in the primary grades is a short visit to a junior class-room."



Cool effects prevail in millinery as elsewhere, and the Lord & Taylor model pictured represents these to perfection. The hair bound with to my maine folds. The plume hangs gracefully over the brow, the hair, which is dressed low and drawn into one of the smart new hairnets.

## Chronicles of Chathamites

Wherein Certain Citizens Hold Conference and Cause Commotion Throughout Community—An Epistle From the Scribe.

I. And it was known of men that John, the son of White, had said that he yearned to race on foot with George, son of Musson, who came from the city called the Queen.

II. And men laughed, saying, "Lo, ye must show us, for we are even of Chatham, yea of Kent."

III. So these men came each day to eat, unto the house of Merrill, the publican, on the William street, that crosses the King's road, and men trembled.

IV. For they said, "There shall be blood and grievous wounds, for that these men be wrath, the one at the other." Hath John not said that he will demolish George?

V. But wise men nodded, saying, "To the pines with that, even to the cedars of Lebanon; for there is naught toward, save only words."

VI. And their stomachs were filled with words.

VII. Lo, when John met George there was naught doing. And they buffeted not one the other, save in words only.

VIII. Nor slew they.

IX. But John, son of White, spoke more words of counsel in his ear.

XI. But John, the son of White, spoke not, being foxy withal and having the records to speak for him.

XII. And the Colonel gave advice unto John that he should gird his loins with green tights on the day appointed.

XIII. And further that he should live on a diet of raw eggs as became a man of swift foot.

XIV. Then doctor, son of Corneli, came unto the place appointed covered with fine raiment and wearing a jewel on his right hand.

XV. And George, son of Musson, spoke of Detroit, which is close by the borders of the land of Nod, commonly called Windsor, saying, "Lo, they will give two score pieces of silver. Let us hearken to them and race in their sight. For it is good."

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## The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

News items copied from The Planet files from Oct. 10, 1856, to Oct. 17, 1856.

Louis Curtillet opens up a confectionery store.

Thomas P. Guest starts up a grocery store.

J. and W. McKeough advertise their store warehouse.

William E. Scofield purchases Chatham's hat store from G. Winters.

The advertisement of Henry Richards, baker and confectioner, appears in the "ad" columns.

Israel Evans keeps a livery stable opposite the Farmers' exchanges. Horses both for saddle and harness.

D. Macdonald, secretary of the Union Fire Company, No. 2, calls the annual meeting at the engine house, Chatham South.

John McDowell advertises horse-power threshing machines which took prizes at the World's Fair held in New York. They were manufactured in Brantford.

In the list of professional men appears the name of R. S. Woods, barrister and attorney-at-law, office in Rankin building, over J. Curtin's store, King street.

The library of the Mechanics' Institute and Library Association is moved to a room in the Eberts block opposite the Royal Exchange. A. S. Holmes is the secretary.

The elections for the Legislative Council are on and Arthur Rankin and Colonel John Prince, of Chatham, and James McDougall, of Windsor, the candidates, address the electors of "The Western Electoral Division" through The Planet.

A clipping from a letter of the Paris correspondent to The Times tells of a frustrated conspiracy to assassinate Emperor Napoleon, of France. Thirty persons belonging to a secret society who instigated the plot were arrested by the prefecture of police and placed in the prisons at Mises. The prisoners were mostly artisans, young and educated.

George Jamieson, principal, announces the reopening of the Chatham Grammar School. He says:—"The attention of gentlemen residing in the County is particularly invited to the boarding department of the institution. In the handsome new building which has been erected by the liberality of the County for the use of the Grammar School, accommodation has been provided for a limited number of boarders."

"The young gentlemen who may be placed under the charges of the masters in this capacity will receive from them a kind and paternal treatment and the strictest attention will be paid to their moral and religious training."

"Terms—For tuition, board and washing, 36 pounds per annum."

N. B.—This new building referred to has, until this year, been used by Principal Paterson as a residence, but it is now being fitted up for commercial classes."

A despatch from London bears the heading in large type, "By electric telegraph per Montreal line. Great Disaster—Railway Accident."

The article says:—"A frightful accident which might have resulted in appalling consequences occurred one mile west of London. A train of 17 cars heavily laden with cattle was coming east when it met the night express going west. The result was a collision entirely destroying five cattle cars, while one passenger car, the baggage car and the post office were burnt."

"The mail train consisted of four baggage cars and the post office. An incident showing the force of the collision on the front part of the cattle train may be mentioned:—Four bullocks were precipitated through the roof of the truck on which they were confined and deposited in a confused mass on the tender. Fortunately no lives were lost."

lost and little personal damage was done, but taking into account the severity of the accident it is a little short of miraculous how any escaped. The railway company lost between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars."

## HAVE YOU MET THEM?

Snap Shots of Citizens Secured By Passing Enquiry.

Something About People You Ought to Know.

Herbert S. Clements—Politician and young business man. Before he became the eminent politician we view him to-day, he was popularly known as Herb; now it is Mr. Clements, president of the Kent County Liberal-Conservative Association.

Born down the river, he learned to swim and do lots of things that city boys never dream about. He also acquired a good, healthy physique, and laid the foundation for vigor and energy that has always characterized him. Then he came to the city and learned city ways. Also mixed in politics and is an active worker in the Liberal-Conservative ranks, and has a political reputation as a clever and industrious worker. Ran for school trustee and was elected. His election was a reminder of the first international yacht race, when the American yacht beat the others so badly that there was "no second." There was no second in Mr. Clements' election. It might have been called no race, as there only appeared to be one running, and he was running so fast that there was no heading him. Mr. Clements has travelled some, too. He has been all along the C. P. R., from Ottawa west, selling woollens. Mr. Clements thought he would like the west. In fact, he was going there to live and left for the "Land of the Setting Sun" last spring. He came back. He couldn't turn his back on the old town and its associations. Everybody knew he couldn't. Chatham, without the present president of the Conservative Association, would be like a Turkish domain without its Sultan. Sharp, shrewd, smart and clever, he is one of the foremost among Chatham's young business men and politicians.

S. B. Arnold—Lawyer, politician, bicyclist and yachtsman. There are few things that Doc doesn't know something about, and many things he knows a whole lot about, too. For instance, his law. S. B. belongs to the oldest family in Kent County. His ancestors came here in pre-historic ages. After burying all the mastadons and other mammoths, so that they could be dug up by succeeding generations, the original Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, whose real names are believed to have been Adam and Eve, started a mill near Kent Bridge. They gave the mill to their three sons who would do the most for the Conservative party. Doc's great-grandfather, on his paternal side, was one of these. It was at this mill that Tecumseh fed his followers before the battle of the Thames. This, of course, is all in the records and is well known. So is the subject of this sketch.

Doc's great hobby is bicycling. Strange to say, he likes to ride in wet as well as dry weather, and he can do this in Chatham mud—nit. He is at the bottom of an agitation for the use of the sidewalks by cyclists, and may he succeed. Doc is also something of a yachtsman and, as a skipper, drives his yacht, Winona, across the raging main of Lake Erie as fearless and as skilful as Captain Barr.

Doc is one of the bees among Maple City Conservatives and is one of those workers who get into harness at the start and put their heart and soul into the work. S. B. was chosen Secretary of the Kent Conservative party, and he is a good one. There is no doubt but that the duties of the office will be attended to. A good man in the right place.

### SETTLERS LOW RATES WEST.

Via the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, every day from September 15th to November 30th, settlers one-way second class tickets at very low rates from Chicago to points in Utah, Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, also to Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nelson, Rossland, and other points in Kootenay district. Correspondingly low rates from all points in Canada. Full particulars from nearest ticket agent or R. H. Bennett, general agent, 2 East King street, Toronto, Ont.