

FACTS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE.

Professor J. T. Ridgeway Gets Out of the Beaton Track.

His Paper on "Some Dangerous Tendencies in Education," Read Before the Teachers' Institute, Is Something of a Revelation.

The Jackson County Teachers' institute met at the high school building yesterday morning at 9 o'clock. Over 400 teachers were present from Kansas City, Independence, Westport and other places. The session was one of the most interesting ever held, and many able papers were read. Superintendent Greenwood presided at the general meeting, and Miss Esther Crowe acted as secretary.

Dr. Punton delivered a lecture before the general section upon the "Neuropathic System," in which he discussed the matter of the health of pupils, heredity of physical traits, etc. His lecture was very interesting and highly scientific. He said that precocious children were almost universally weak physically, and that teachers should not allow them to advance as rapidly as parents usually desired; that much injury was done children of this description by giving them too much mental work. He also argued that the higher education of women tended to produce nervousness and the many diseases which follow in its wake. He said the sex did not possess the constitution necessary to undergo a long course of study.

Professor J. T. Ridgeway read an able paper entitled "Some Dangerous Tendencies in Education." He deplored the multiplicity of school books, producing confusion. "Poor books," he said, "should not be forced into the schools because some fellow citizen has written one and wants to be complimented. The consensus of opinion regarding books is generally obtained after a book has been adopted and then it is too late to help ourselves."

Continuing, Professor Ridgeway said: "Dr. Rice, in his masterly current educational reviews in recent numbers of the Forum, says that in New York no one is responsible for anything. The importance of the first year's work in the graded schools is not adequately realized. The principal should be able to recognize a competent primary teacher when he sees her, and the salary of primary teachers should be much increased." He deplored the existing unjust discrimination against married women, and said: "They are driven out of the work for which by nature they are fitted and drawn into more masculine vocations, which tend to rob them of their natural refinement. Any system which does not make a qualification the test is a sham." He also believed that the assistant superintendent should be a broad minded woman.

"Our schools," he continued, "are coming to be regarded as huge machines and run in the interest of a few individuals. Teachers should not be selected on account of their ability to attend mechanically to the different parts of the machine. Superintendents should not be paid high salaries simply to run the machine and to see that no teacher gets out of the traces.

"Another dangerous tendency is the feverish desire for display. The Columbian exposition will consist of scalps. Thought work will not count here. It will be formal and superficial.

"Another vicious tendency is the growing practice of getting immature children to answer questions for publication to bolster up questionable practices.

"Getting pupils to report on their health is much like the officer who, after a severe battle, called his scattered men together and vehemently demanded, 'How many of your fellows were killed in this battle?' The flat, 'No tardiness or absence from school'—should not be held as a premium."

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while the stage manager had stepped away for a moment and when he returned the manuscript was gone.

A careful search was made, in which two detectives assisted, but at the close of the performance not a trace of the missing article had been discovered. The loss has made the entire company uncomfortable, but as they are all thoroughly familiar with their lines no trouble is anticipated. A duplicate copy was left at Stetson's Globe theater, Boston, and that will be ordered to Denver. The translation made by Miss Guiny was literal and exceedingly clever, but the retouches of William S. H. Seymour have more distinctive merit, as they are responsible for the superiority of this version of the play over the several others so far tried in the English.

MUCH DISAPPOINTED.

City Treasurer Eveland Not Pleased at the Action of the Joint Finance Committee.

City Treasurer Eveland is very much disappointed at the failure of the upper house finance committee to act on his scheme for the facilitating of the collecting of the taxes during the month of May, when the greatest rush is to be expected, for the reason that during that month the 8 per cent rebate is in effect. The two members of the committee who are opposed to the scheme, which will save the city at least \$1,000, are Alderman Hunter and Butler, who say they do not care to divide the responsibility between the treasurer and the assessor. The city treasurer offered to have his men do all the work of making out the tax receipts and relieve the assessor from all responsibility in the matter, but the committeemen are obdurate and refuse to sanction the scheme.

The city treasurer is compelled to hire extra men during the rush of collections, and he would be released from the necessity of doing this if the interim between the making of the books and the collection of the taxes could be utilized in making out the receipts. This would also obviate the necessity for the duplicate checking up of receipts, and the mistakes would be reduced to a minimum; for the reason that more time would be given to make out receipts, and the latter would be made out at the same time the books are made up, instead of in the rush and confusion of the crowds which throng the office of the treasurer. But the finance committee will not act, and the taxpayers will have to put up with the same old system of waiting and crowding, and at the same time pay \$1,000 for extra help, which would not be needed if the scheme could be put in operation as it is in other large cities.

ANXIOUS BIDDERS.

They Want to Know Who Got the Contract for Foundation Work on the Federal Building.

The contracts for the foundation on the new government building were to have been opened in Washington Thursday. The Kansas City bidders have not yet been able to learn whether or not the contract was awarded, and one or two of them left for Washington last evening to see what had been done in the matter.

EMMET'S BIRTHDAY.

It Was Appropriately Celebrated by Local Irish Societies.

The 115th anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet was celebrated last night at Music hall by the Irish Nationalists of the city, where songs were sung, speeches made and every honor paid to the memory of the patriot. City Attorney J. W. Fraher presided at the meeting and on calling it to order made a few remarks eulogizing the brave young Irish "Knight of the Nineteenth Century."

The orator of the evening was the Hon. G. J. Tansey, of St. Louis, who delivered an eloquent address, which captured his audience and made the minds of all who remembered the men of '09 and the events of 1803 feel something of the grandness of the heroism of Robert Emmet, and the greatness of the sacrifice he made. Mr. Tansey's reference to the Irish policy of Gladstone was received with cheers, and the brilliant

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In the principals' section, which is composed of the principals of the various schools and the high school teachers, Professor G. B. Morrison read a paper on the necessity of teaching elementary natural science in the primary schools.

The paper was an excellent one and at its conclusion was discussed by a number of the members of the section.

The first grade section, composed of teachers of primary schools, discussed the subject of drawing.

The second grade section held a very interesting meeting. The discussions covered the period of French history during the reigns of Louis XIII., XIV. and XV. Miss Wickhizer gave a brief sketch of the reign of Louis XIII. and of Richelieu. Miss Hayes, of the high school, presented a comprehensive study of the life and era of Louis XIV. Miss Matlock read an able paper on "Law's Financial Scheme," and Miss Attie Moorman discussed the "War of the Austrian Succession."

In the third grade section, Miss Smart, of the Franklin school, gave an interesting exercise on the geography of Kansas City with a class of bright boys and girls from that school. After this exercise, Principal Shelton gave a lesson on the psychology of memory.

In the fourth and fifth grade sections able papers were read covering a long period of English history. Mr. Bahlman talked entertainingly on the reign of James I. Miss Van Meter gave an idea of the character of James I. Miss Jenkins gave her views on the reign of Charles I., and the subject was discussed by Mrs. McKinney and others. Miss Bishop read an interesting paper on the life and character of Oliver Cromwell. Miss Updyke told the history of the origin and growth of Puritanism.

In the sixth and seventh grade sections a very interesting meeting was held. The general topic of discussion was Italian literature. Miss Behan read an excellent paper upon Dante. She said he lived in a time when it was not impossible to gather all knowledge that was to be known. Dante fought with distinction in the wars of the Guelphs and Ghibellines. He was a great student of classics and poetry. He was much influenced by the death of Beatrice, and some of his finest passages relate to her death. He represents in himself the best of the middle ages. Dante's fame has passed through many vicissitudes. Read, studied and commented on in the Italian universities in the centuries succeeding his death, his works became obscured and forgotten in the centuries following. At present his fame is fully vindicated. Dante resembles Milton. There is a similarity in their subjects and in their general treatment. The lives of both were failures.

Miss Gibbs read a paper entitled "The Sonnet." She said that the sonnet was a peculiar product of the Italian language. Some believed that it originated in the provincial language; others consider it to be a relic of the Moors. At least the Arabian influence has been very great. The sonnet is very rigid and intricate in its construction. It consists of fourteen lines, which have rigid rules for their rhyming, their contents and their measures. The Italian sonnet derives its chief reputation from Petrarch, whose sonnets are the best known, and Dante, who is the master of the sonnet. Other sonnet writers were Michael Angelo and Vittorio Colonna.

Miss Weber read a paper upon the renaissance. She said the renaissance began in Italy with the study of the Greek and Roman manuscripts, which were being destroyed gradually by those who held them. The first period was a period of collecting manuscripts which were principally moldering in monasteries. The second period was one of translating and copying. From this time the study of Greek and Latin assumed an important place in classical education. The humanists wrote voluminously but ignored the Italian literature. Hence the Italian literature was barren and the writings of humanists have perished as they deserved. Out of the renaissance sprang the ideas that resulted in the doings of Aristotle, Galileo and Columbus.

Miss Anna B. Elledge read an interesting paper entitled "Old Rome and New Italy."

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The rest of the programme was as follows, every number being received with hearty applause and most of them being encored. To particularize would be invidious, and every number was so good of its kind that the audience expressed its pleasure most emphatically at the close of each and every number:

Flute duet, C. J. Gallagher and W. P. Hayde; vocal solo, Miss E. McCarran; Irish jig, Miss Jessie Halpin; recitation, Miss M. Casey; "Emmet's Vindication From the Dock," Anthony Doherty, with M. A. Pursley as Lord Norbury; vocal solo, "Wearing of the Green," Thomas Brownrig; Irish jig, William Meenaghan; recitation, "The Pillared Towers of Ireland," Thomas Sheehy; solo, James Burke; recitation, "The Bridge" and "The Dream," James Morrison; solo, "The Minstrel Boy," Thomas Brownrig; flute solos, C. J. Gallagher and W. P. Hayde; song, "Memory of the Dead," Thomas Brownrig.

A CONDUCTOR INJURED.

Thrown From a Car While Handling a Trolley Arm.

About 10 o'clock last evening Conductor D. B. Jeffers, living at No. 3509 St. John avenue, was thrown from a Northeast electric car on Phelps avenue between Woodland and Highland avenues, and rendered unconscious. He was taken into the residence of Theodore Gowdy, at 1734 Phelps avenue, where he received excellent care. The car was climbing the hill on Phelps avenue between Woodland and Highland avenues, where there is a splice in the wire, at which the conductor is supposed to pull the rope which controls the trolley arm while the car is passing under it.

Last evening when the car was approaching it the conductor forgot to pull the rope, and when the trolley wheel struck the splice a report like a cannon was heard, the whole trolley arm was completely demolished and the conductor was injured.

BARTON COUNTY OFFICERS.

They Have Come to Take Murderer Avery to the Scene of His Crime.

W. A. Carl, sheriff, and W. A. Mack, deputy sheriff, of Barton county, arrived in the city last night and registered at the Centropolis. They came for the purpose of taking Thomas Avery, who is now under sentence of death in the Jackson county jail, back to Barton county. The time fixed for Avery's execution is March 15, and the law requires that a death watch be set over a condemned prisoner for ten days previous to his execution. They will leave with Avery for Lamar this morning.

A Trip to the Gulf Country.

North Galveston, Tex., has of late been creating a lively curiosity among Northern investors, who have heard of the wonderful industrial and agricultural fertility of this Southern spot. An excursion provided by the North Galveston Association will leave Kansas City for North Galveston March 6, 1893.

This affords a splendid opportunity to behold the marvelous resources of the coming industrial center of the Gulf, and at the same time enjoy a brief sojourn in this mild and healthful climate, forgetting Northern blizzards amid budding fruit and ripening strawberries.

Special inducements are offered. Apply for particulars to John McLevy, agent North Galveston Association, 507 Massachusetts building, Kansas City, Mo.

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