

# American Cities Are Failures

By Professor CHARLES E. MERRIAM, Alderman of Chicago



### Cost Most, but Give Least In Return

Alderman of Chicago

IN AMERICAN CITIES THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP PACE WITH THE CHANGES GOING ON AROUND US HAS LED TO DISASTROUS RESULTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR CITIES IN GENERAL IS NEITHER AS EFFICIENT, AS ECONOMICAL NOR AS POPULAR AS IS DESIRABLE AND POSSIBLE. IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR CITIES IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE AND LEAST EFFICIENT IN THE WORLD. WE PAY MORE AND RECEIVE LESS THAN THE CITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

Inefficient government might be tolerated if it represented the people. But most cities during the last generation have been governed by a combination of POLITICAL MACHINES AND SPECIAL INTERESTS.

The political boss and the public service corporation have been the chief factors in our municipal system. They have endeavored to dominate both political parties and to reduce all elections to a friendly contest BETWEEN TWO SETS OF THEIR OWN PUPPETS. These interests have been themselves entirely nonpartisan, though they have worked in and through political parties and have used party names, party symbols and party principles as a CLOAK FOR THEIR OWN PROJECTS.

They hide behind Lincoln and Roosevelt or Jefferson and Jackson as precedents indicate. They have relied upon the division of honest citizens into opposing political camps, while they themselves have organized and combined with entire disregard of party line or party distinction.

OUTRIGHT GRAFT AND THEFT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE LOSS THAT FALLS UPON THE TAXPAYER. THE EXISTENCE OF THE SPOILS SYSTEM IS ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE AND WASTEFUL.

The general atmosphere of politics surrounding the average city hall is not favorable to the adoption of systematic and orderly business methods. We cannot expect to secure a proper system of street cleaning if every laborer and team has to be selected because of Republican or Democratic affiliations. Repeated investigations of the expenditures of city governments have revealed FRAUD, FAVORITISM AND INEFFICIENCY ON A TREMENDOUS SCALE.

## NEWTOWN

The following are the names of those pupils who successfully passed the examination for sub-freshman class at High School, entering in September: Evelyn Andrews, Cortland Blackman, Millicent Cavanaugh, Christine Corbett, Raymond Dibble, Samuel Goldstein, Jacob Gomberg, Charles Griffin, Julius Hartwick, Edwin Hook, Alice Houlihan, Dorothy James, Sidney Kibridge, John E. Keane, Arnes Leibold, Francis Mulane, James Maroney, Leonard Mayer, Paul Morrow, William Murphy, Mary Rafferty, William Sarmata, Harry Sulman, Charles Strisk, Charibel Troy, Edwin Wells, Cecil Wentsch, Evelyn Wulfe, Lewis Walterbolts, Donald Wright.

Miss Eva Wallace of New Rochelle, has engaged to teach North Center School the ensuing year. Her brother, Crossley Wallace formerly of Newtown, a graduate of High School has entered the employ of L. C. Morfia. It is expected the Wallace family will move to Newtown in the near future.

Master Theodore Wulfe has taken a position with the Curtis and Son Co., of Berkshire.

Miss Edith Peck who has been ill at her parents' home under the care of Dr. Klemm, is convalescent.

Miss Floche, Cabell of New Haven is visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Arthur T. Peck's, and also with other relatives in town.

Miss Lescotte Northrop is spending her vacation with Miss Lilia Ruffels at Walnut beach.

A. W. Dayton, Jr., and John Hopkins are in receipt of a request from the champion pool-players of Sandy Hook Mecca, Carl Slater, G. Blinn and John O. Pitzschler to play an endurance test of games with cues and balls for weapons. The former state if this is a challenge they will play any two of these gentlemen a series of games for love, fun, or marbles the challengers to choose place. Both parties are experts and the public will see some fancy and high shots.

Cards have been received from Miss Anna Carlson, bookkeeper for R. H. Beers & Co., who is spending a two weeks vacation at the seashore resorts with friends.

## CANNONS

Mrs. Eugene Richards is entertaining her aunt, Mrs. Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudkin and Miss Esther Rudkin of Middletown, Stanley Porter of Worcester, Mass., and Ralph S. Richardson have been recent guests of Capt. W. R. Fourny and family.

Mrs. M. E. Hill is visiting at the home of Mrs. Leroy Meeker in Cross Highway this week.

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## Kidnapping a Widow

Korea is old. The land abounds in a certain variety of relics of the past. Continually we come across handsome Buddhist monuments of past dynasties and centuries. The characteristic features of each is, that they are all without exception, therefore, having nothing to do with their history, there hangs round them like a shroud the veil of mystery. Hence, the pagoda, the asymmetrical Pagoda with its eight stories, such a little smaller than the one below it. There are other and other ones. There are also images, both small and colossal, of which hangs some forgotten story of past deeds; but it was not always that Korea was rich in monuments, having tablets with inscriptions telling the history or significance of each, but these were ruthlessly destroyed by the Japanese during the invasion under Hideyoshi in 1592.

In many parts of Korea we find plain Pagodas eighteen to twenty feet high, built of granite. The age of these is doubtful, but everything points to the fact that they were erected many centuries ago. Clinging to one of these is a legend, which slightly lifts the veil of mystery.

KIM MAN-GIL,

though still a young man, had attained some notoriety, and already held an official position. His prospects were those of a rosette future; yet there was a skeleton in his cupboard, a deep sorrow which only tended to increase with years. Married, as a customary when ten years old, to a daughter of his parents' choice, he had passed through many of the vicissitudes of wedlock, and to him they had not proved to be unmingled joy. In his wife he found an utter lack of congeniality for she had grown to be a woman of small mental calibre; even her charms were not such as Kim appreciated. Finding no congeniality at home he gathered about him a number of young bloods and with their assistance did that which was, and still is, of common occurrence. In his wife he found an utter lack of congeniality for she had grown to be a woman of small mental calibre; even her charms were not such as Kim appreciated. Finding no congeniality at home he gathered about him a number of young bloods and with their assistance did that which was, and still is, of common occurrence.

One night with his young friends fully armed and leading a saddled horse, they sped their way to a country village where lived with her parents the young widow, Kim's wife. When they reached the house they threw a sack over the widow and carried her away on the horse. This was all done with dispatch and with the greatest secrecy so as to avoid an affray with the villagers.

We must digress for a brief moment to describe some of her charms, or rather what the Koreans call "charm". She was an expert in embroidery; whether it was the simplest kind or the most intricate work, her deft fingers gave it that quickness and grace which the lady of the Orient is the mistress. She was able to play one or two instruments, which produced music without harmony and always in a minor key. She was able to dance so well and so much to the detestation of those who beheld her that she was called "a leaf of sunlight." Her dancing was nothing like the animated whirl and rapid pacing of our modern dances; it was rather a matter of graceful posture; or almost effortless, motionless sonambule gliding with all that grace and rhythm which gives to natural dancing so perfect a setting.

Kim's troubles, however, were far from ended, for some years later it was found that after all she was not his wife. Her husband had been trading for a number of years in the far south of the Peninsula he was a poor man. Being without money he could invoke no influence hence though he claimed his wife he was not able to get her back from so influential a man as Kim.

According to native law a man's wife in his destiny, and so he appealed to the magistrate; but greater influences are brought to bear upon the case through the agency of Kim, who gets him into the hands of the ajuna (native police). These native police placed him in the ok, which is the prison of the unconquered, where people are kept under restraint until their debts are brought or trumped up against them. Custom requires that people when in the ok shall cause their friends to feast the ajuna. If this is not done the prisoners are put in the stocks over night, or receive other minor tortures.

Being, as we have stated, a poor man, he was unable to provide the necessary feast. He had no intention of leaving him, therefore it was very easy matter for Kim, by judicious use of his money, to have done what he liked with the unfortunate husband. One night he was placed in solitary confinement and in the morning was found to be strangled. No inquiry was held to account for his death; he was just wrapped up in some old coverlet and carried out of the city upon a crude stretcher.

Just beyond the fields on the slope of some low hill the carriers deposited their burden, dug a shallow grave and without ceremony interred the corpse. No ceremony, no ritual having been observed upon the interment of this poor man, his spirit or soul, joined those malignant spirits which haunt the atmosphere, and invoked their aid to bring vengeance upon the one who had bereft him, first of his wife, then of his life.

KIM'S DREAMS.

Kim dreamt dreams and had visions; he saw apparitions; this so worked upon him mentally and physically that he became thin and haggard; the charm of his poor "little wife" no longer held him, he always heard the voice of her rightful husband. Finally he resolved to go to the Buddhist monastery high up on the yonder mountain. There he arranged that no cost should be spared in special services to be rendered to Buddha on the fifth day of the following moon.

The priests, their attendants and slaves prepared the sacrifice. Huge quantities of sweetsmeats, dates, etc. are piled two or three feet high upon platters. The day having arrived a score or two of monks, clad in gorgeous robes with great ceremony through the usual liturgy before their great god, the gilded image of Buddha, had he not followed the suggestion of a slave who was always dissatisfied and grumbling; so when his son called to see him, he said that he believed the

woman was at the bottom of all the trouble. The following evening, pretending to leave the house, she hid himself behind the slaves' quarters, and, applying his ear to a crack in the mud wall, heard the slave boasting to an accomplice of the clever way she had got her master into a trap. Whereupon the son suddenly sprang into the room and forced the confession from her that she had planned the whole affair, and had hired men to accuse her master of the deed of which she was the actual perpetrator. The truth being thus brought to light, the master was liberated and the slave executed.

Ere the high ceremony is over the aged abbot sits himself down on a little elevated platform in the center of all to all sense of his surroundings, becoming enthralled by ecstatic devotion and meditation. The hours pass slowly in blissful oblivion. In due course, he returned home and following the holy man's instructions to the letter, the desired end was attained, and Kim Man-gil was once more at rest and happy in the company of his beloved "little wife."

This is but one of the legends attached to the origin of Korea's ancient pagodas.

Admission 25c. The school district containing 324 square miles.

Seven hundred home gardens were started in Port Ewen, N. Y., this year under the direction of the school authorities.

Every high school graduate in Nebraska receives a letter from the University of Nebraska, congratulating him on his graduation and urging him to consider the advantages offered by the State University.

A vocational summer school, with practical men and women in charge of it, is in operation in Baltimore, Md., this year. Printing and woodwork are among the subjects taught; the girls have cooking, sewing, and other household branches.

The National Kindergarten College, in Chicago, is devoting a large part of its summer program to the methods of Dr. Montessori. Two of Dr. Montessori's graduate students, who have spent a year with her in Rome, have charge of the practice work with the children.

School children and teachers of Pointe Coupee Parish, in the good district of Louisiana, planted 15,000 fruit and pecan trees last year. Supt. Trudeau has also a plan whereby road work in the parish will be done by school boys.

Students at the Georgia State Normal School at Athens, Ga., study rural sociology as applied to their own districts, and the teachers who go out to teach, they know the opportunities and needs of the locally better than those who have lived in it all their lives. Now this work makes for community betterment in a way that E. C. Branson in a Bulletin just issued by the United States Bureau of Education.

The co-operation of the Bureau of Education and the Phelps-Stokes Fund is the result of the close relationship of the representatives of the Slater Board, the Conference for Education in France, and the trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, with each other and with Commissioner Claxton. Through this co-operation unnecessary duplication is avoided and time, effort, and money are saved.

The work is done under the immediate direction of Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, a native of Wales and a naturalized citizen of the United States, who was educated both in Southern and Northern institutions, and has devoted a number of years to the educational and economic conditions of the Negroes in the United States. His studies and observations, extending over several years in the Census Bureau and in the United States Bureau of Education, will be especially useful in this study of schools. An exhaustive schedule of questions in regard to the schools has been prepared with much care and is being filled by Dr. Jones and those associated with him. His careful investigation of the schools made by them. These questions relate to the history of the schools, their present condition, their management, their religious and social activities, and the work of graduates and former students. Attention will also be given to the relation of the schools to their communities.

A sufficient data have been collected a report will be printed and published giving a brief but accurate survey of each school, of its equipment and the financial, social, and educational system of the city, county or State in which it is located.

The U. S. Bureau of Education in co-operation with the Phelps-Stokes Fund, is making a comprehensive study of the private and higher schools for colored people. This study is undertaken in response to numerous and insistent demands for knowledge of these schools; the number of which is constantly increasing.

Thoughtful people of the South and of the North, white and colored, are more and more puzzled as to the merits and demerits of the many appeals for money and sympathy in behalf of all sorts and conditions of institutions for the improvement of Negroes. Letters from State Superintendents of education in the South emphasize the need of a complete survey of the whole field. At a recent conference of the representatives of some of these schools held in New York, it was the consensus of opinion that there is much duplication of educational effort in some sections but much more of neglect in many other sections. The educational board interested in the colored people and almost every individual who contributes to this cause is calling for information. After considerable discussion of this need by Dr. Dillard of the Jeanees Fund and the Slater Board, and by other representatives of the Conference for Education in the South, it was decided to appeal to the U. S. Commissioner of Education for a thorough study of the private and higher schools for Negroes. Commissioner Claxton's intimate knowledge of every phase of education in the South enabled him to understand the importance of this request and he immediately began to make plans for the study now under way.

A remarkable evidence of the importance of this survey is the fact that about the same time two other important organizations interested in the schools decided to assemble information on this subject. Dr. J. H. Dillard, Secretary of the Slater Board, obtained permission of that body to begin the study. It was at this time also that the trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, confronted by appeals from all sorts and conditions of schools, decided to make a thorough survey of the situation. The Slater Board is of recent origin; a word of explanation may be necessary at this point. This Phelps-Stokes Fund is the residuary estate, amounting to about a million dollars, bequeathed by Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes, of New York City, for various philanthropic purposes, among which is the education of Negroes. Most of the appropriations made up to date have contributed directly or indirectly to a clearer knowledge of colored schools. Gifts to the Universities of Virginia and Georgia and to the Peabody College in Nashville for the maintenance of fellowships and research work in the field of Negro education. A number of smaller sums have also been given for related purposes.

## EDUCATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Education in foreign countries is given special attention in a survey just issued for free distribution by the United States Bureau of Education, in the belief that foreign experience is particularly valuable at this time for studying right on school problems under discussion in the United States.

In vocational training especially, the report points out, foreign experience needs to be considered. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, and other European nations have for many years been making provision for industrial and technical instruction in public schools, and their systems are probably not adaptable as a whole to American conditions, should aid materially in solving the vocational problem in the United States.

English-speaking countries have been later in adapting education to industrial needs. Canada, like the United States, is now wrestling with the problem; a commission on industrial training has been appointed to investigate the subject for the past three years. Scotland has been unusually successful in providing continuation schools that avoid the danger of too early disengagement from the primary school. It is estimated that six out of seven English children never appear in school after reaching the age of 15.

Practically every civilized nation is considered to some extent in the Bureau's report. Among special topics considered are: Health work in the schools of Great Britain; rural schools in Denmark; the teachers' organization in France; education for emigrants in Italy; Robert College in Constantinople—an American foundation; Russia's effort for rural uplift; and the parallel adoption in New South Wales of the educational program of the labor party.

"TALES OF HONEY AND TAR" FROM WEST AND EAST. Wm. Lee, Paek-chita, Calif., says, "It gives universal satisfaction and I use only Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for my children." E. C. Rhodes, Middletown, Ga., writes, "I had a racking lagrippe cough and finally got relief taking Foley's Honey and Tar Compound." Use no other in your family and refuse substitutes.—Adv.

FOREST NOTES. Pencil manufacturers are buying up old reced rail fence rails, in Tennessee and southward, to be made into lead pencils.

The Buffalo herd on the Wichita national forest, Oklahoma, now numbers 48, ten calves having been born this year. When the buffalo were introduced on the Wichita in 1907 there were 15 head.

A conservation movement has been started in China, said to be richer in natural resources than any other nation. The Chinese use the word "conservancy" instead of conservation. One of their plans for the Hwal River contemplates dredging and tillage together to control floods.

The steel towers that support electric power transmission lines are being increasingly used by forest rangers as fire lookout stations on national forests. With the harnessing of the mountain streams a network of these lines is gradually being woven over the forests and in the absence of other convenient lookouts, the rangers find the steel towers helpful in their fire patrol work.

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