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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1936.

417 YEARS OF TEACHING

THERE is an unusual "story behind the story" in the appointment of next year's teaching personnel for Indianapolis public schools.

It is the story of 12 veteran teachers who have given a total of 417 years of teaching service to the Indianapolis schools and who, having reached the age limit, are retiring. These veterans also gave many years of service outside of the school system. Their average tenure with the Indianapolis schools is about 35 years each.

Superintendent Paul C. Stetson read this "honor roll" of retiring veterans to the School Board the other night:

Miss Florence H. Fitch, director of art, 33 years in the public schools.

Miss Ella Tucker, School No. 34, fifth and sixth grades, 47 years.

J. L. Dunn, principal of School 52, 42 years. Miss Mary K. Brigham, School 72, eighth grade, 33 years.

Miss Flora Love, Shortridge High School, English teacher, 39 years.

Miss Genevieve Weems, home economics teacher, 33 years.

Miss Minnie Dodson, School 33, seventh and eighth grades, 35 years.

Miss Clara Fischer, School 2, seventh and eighth grades, 34 years.

Miss Mary MacArdle, principal of School 50, 30 years.

Miss Margaret Whitford, School 41, seventh and eighth grades, 33 years.

Miss Maude Moudy, principal of School 75, 32 years.

W. S. Hiser, Manual Training High School, drafting teacher, 26 years.

The retirement of these veterans will cause thousands of citizens, including many of the city's most prominent, to recall some school-day incident or to remember the early training these teachers gave them. We believe we express the sentiment of the entire community when we commend these teachers for their long and useful service in the schools.

A TIME FOR EXTRA CARE

TENOUS of automobiles will be streaming into Indianapolis during the next two days, ringing the Speedway crowds. Highways will be crowded and streets congested with traffic. While Indianapolis is preparing a welcome for these visitors, caution and safe driving should be a key-note of the plans. Motorists sometimes have found that driving here for the 500-mile race is more dangerous than the event they came to see.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

OLD line Democrats, who claim a monopoly on Jeffersonian principles, have long insisted that President Roosevelt is not a Democrat.

Although many Republican rank-and-filers voted for Mr. Roosevelt, Republican leaders have declared loudly that the Grand Old Party claims no kinship to New Deal politics. At times they have sympathized with the so-called orthodox Democrats by calling Mr. Roosevelt a Socialist.

But at the Socialist national convention in Cleveland, Norman Thomas, Socialist presidential candidate; Leo Krzywinski, Socialist national chairman, and Daniel W. Hoan, Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee, joined in vigorous denunciation of Mr. Roosevelt and all Mr. Roosevelt stands for.

"A vote for Roosevelt," said Mayor Hoan, "is . . . for him to go ahead with his various experiments trying to put the capitalists out of the way."

If Mr. Roosevelt is not a Democrat, not a Republican and not a Socialist, then he must be just plain uninterested American. And he'll probably end up next November with nobody except Americans voting for him.

HER MAJESTY

T is pleasant and fitting that the sea-going Britons should be thrilling with every pulse-beat of the engines of their great Queen. Mary as she plows the Atlantic toward New York.

She is a noble vessel, "as sweet as English air could make her." Of course, she's not quite the biggest thing afloat, but she almost is. France's *Normandie* is a bit longer and broader of beam, but the Queen Mary is taller and the Britons hope, sterner. And she boasts of three churches, a restaurant covering an acre and a half, swimming pools for tourist as well as cabin passengers, fire-boat cabins and no end of other innovations.

Strange that our own country, land of skyscrapers, trusts and other gargantuan creations, should not be competing with France and England in big high-speed floating hotels. It may be just as well, these huge liners flatter the national ego but flatten the taxpayers' purse. Bigness in these as in other things reaches a point of diminishing returns. We need more and better liners, not bigger ones.

Queen Mary's arrival, however, will be a maritime event of the first water. It will draw the mother country and her self-weaned offspring closer, and speed the process of shrinking the Atlantic.

DELAYING RECOVERY

THE headaches that followed the morning after their predepression spending jag will have to be endured for a while by cities, counties and other taxing districts. For a majority of the Supreme Court has knocked out the 1934 Summers-Wilcox Municipal Adjustment Act, a sensible recovery device for voluntary debt adjustments between such debtor communities and their bond-holding creditors. It violates state sovereignty and contractual relations, say the justices.

This 5-to-4 decision will come as a blow to nearly 100 local taxing districts now in default for about \$100,000,000 on their bonds. The court's minority Justices Cardozo, Stone, Brandeis and Hughes pointed to the depth and breadth of the "mischief" which the statute was designed to remedy.

The plight of the debtors was bad enough, that the creditors was even worse," the minority said. The only remedy was a mandamus whereby the

debtor was commanded to tax and tax again. The tax was mere futility when tax values were exhausted."

This act came as a godsend to debt-ridden localities. Under it, with approval of 51 per cent of their security holders, they could submit debt-adjustment plans to Federal District Courts; upon approval of the court after hearings, the adjustment plan would become effective when approved by 75 per cent of the security holders.

Far from being an invasion of states' rights, the states wanted this act, and no plan could have been approved without the state's consent. To hold that this act's "purpose must be thwarted by the courts because of a supposed affront to the dignity of a state, though the state disclaims the affront and is doing all it can to keep the law alive, is to make dignity a doubtful blessing," said the minority.

The new act's benefits were more indirect than direct. Pending before the Federal Courts were petitions from only 84 taxing districts, of which 23 were incorporated cities and towns, a small proportion of the debt-afflicted units. But because of the act's very presence on the books many other localities were reaching settlements satisfactory to both taxpayers and debtors.

The high court's decision will delay the return of solvency to many localities that over-borrowed and over-burdet in the carefree Harding-Coolidge era. And it will pile more burdens on the Federal government's back because of the fiscal weakness of these communities.

Possibly some less adequate legislation can be substituted by Congress, looking toward Federal regulation of bondholders' committees. Legalism again has delayed recovery.

WHO'S POLITICKING NOW?

YESTERDAY we observed that Republican National Committeeman Curtis, having come forward with specific charges of politics in relief with names and dates and places, was entitled to specific answers from the WPA administrator.

Now that Harry Hopkins has replied, with names and dates and places, labeling each specific charge as a specific lie, giving his own version of exactly what happened in each instance, it would seem that Mr. Curtis and the Republican National Committee should produce proof—if any.

NEEDED—A BUILDING BOOM

CONSTRUCTION and real estate activities in Indianapolis are reported running 50 per cent ahead of 1935.

Eighty-three building permits for residences totaling \$507,150 were issued during the last four months. Realtors, observing Real Estate Week, foresee a marked upswing in home construction in Indiana.

Federal Housing Administration officials in Washington, scanning similar signs elsewhere, see danger of a shortage of skilled building mechanics. This would be news if true. We fear it comes under the head of wishful thinking.

Normally, 1,500,000 men depend directly on the building industry; 5,000,000 indirectly. Fully 50 per cent of these are unemployed, in spite of a 15 per cent general improvement in recent months. A continued increase of building activity here and in other localities would help absorb these jobless skilled workmen.

But far from discouraging action by Congress this new housing activity should spur passage of the Wagner-Ellenbogen slum-abatement bill this session.

A real home building boom is needed, not only for housing the middle-bracket and well-to-do families, but even more for the low-income groups. Private capital and FHA can finance the families with incomes of \$2500 a year and upward. It is the 71 per cent of our families who get less than \$2500 that the government must help to get decent homes.

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The Wagner-Ellenbogen program does not compete with private capital. It supplements it. Together private capital and government anti-slum subsidies can rehouse the home-hungry in dwellings worthy and fit for ambitious and self-respecting Americans. The cities, with government credit and grants, should quit subsidizing crime, disease, delinquency and other evils that grow in slums and begin subsidizing decent living conditions.

Congress should pass the Wagner-Ellenbogen bill this session.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

THERE is little heard of the work of Community Fund agencies from one fund-raising campaign to the next. The following report on what your Community Fund dollars have been doing during the last six months in some of these agencies therefore is interesting. Your money—

Gave 8933 days' care to babies and 4383 days' care to their mothers.

Gave 13,137 days' care to children in nurseries; took care of 1117 neglected and homeless children.

Made possible 33,527 visits for nursing and medical care to the sick.

Gave 22,882 days' care to aged men and women.

Took care of 2442 families in need of help.

Gave 93,516 meals to the homeless; provided 32,216 lodgings.

Day by day, these and other services are made possible by the fund contributions.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

OF ALL things! John Erskine, the author, goes out to Oklahoma and finds a housewife who doesn't belong to a woman's club. It is said he intends to write her up in his next book as an oddity. To Mr. Erskine, women are divided into two groups—those who join clubs and remain stupid, and those who are intelligent and stay out of them altogether.

No one will deny that it takes a high grade mental resistance to withstand organization salesmanship. One must have some special occupation outside office or household routine to give a fillip to life.

The housewife who lacks such a hobby needs the whiplash of club interest to take her out of familiar ruts, since it is generally acknowledged that the woman who only looks after her family does very badly indeed. Four walls can restrict our mental as well as our physical adventurings, and the husband and children of our dear little homebodies generally lead sad lives. Mamma so often takes care of them the way the jailer takes care of his charges—with an inflexible severity.

Women who belong to clubs are in the main pleasanter to live with than the devotees who forever are burning incense to their laces and penates. We must hasten, however, to qualify this statement with a big IF. That is, if they possess sufficient restraint to regard their organizations as leisure-time occupations instead of sacred causes.

Most of us, alas, do not do this.

So long as organizations take up so much of women's interest it seems to me a great mistake never to have participated in them at all. It's rather as if, living in the 1930's, one had never seen a ball game or picture show. This much is obvious. Unless you know clubwomen you can not understand the modern feminine mind which in this country is overwhelmingly club-conscious.

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Our Town
By ANTON SCHERER

IT'S high time I was saying something nice about the improvements in the Block store because if I don't everybody else will find it out first.

There is a lot to tell, especially if you have the luck to have Vernon Knipfash take you around the way he did me. Mr. Knipfash is the superintendent representing the architects, Vonnegut, Bohn & Mueller, and what he doesn't know about his job isn't worth knowing. At any rate, he made everything plausible—even the sub-basement which runs 40 feet under ground.

The fact of the matter is that you can't be with Mr. Knipfash five minutes without suspecting that the Block people have been up to something. And that's probably what made my adventure so exciting because nothing tweaks my attention quite so much as the recurrent discovery that our department stores are always up to something.

Well, it turns out that the Block people have not only been up to something but a lot besides which, for want of a better name, is euphemistically known as "modern architecture." And it's all very impressive once you sense its significance.

THE significance of modern architecture is something I've always wanted to discuss but never quite got to because of the many architects around. My only reason for tackling the subject today is the probability that architects don't read this column and because the subject needs clarifying without any interference on the part of architects.

To sense the significance of modern architecture, or indeed that of the Block people, is to realize what the Machine Age has done to architecture as a whole. Up to the coming of the machine, architecture was definitely a sculptural art. It is so no longer. At least, not like it used to be.

Which doesn't mean that architecture has suffered. Quite the contrary, for if signs count for anything it already appears that the machine has compensations of its own, even if it is responsible for the loss of the craftsman's touch.

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normal recovery and threatens an even worse condition.

The vital question is: "Can we, by prudence and economy, so manage the Federal finances as to relieve destitution, on the one hand, and on the other, at least point toward a balance between income and outgo with sufficient assurance to provide confident reinvestment?"

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