

A Letter About Something of Interest to Boys and Girls of Richmond Schools

A LETTER ABOUT SOMETHING
It is very nice to know what is going on about you, is it not? It is sensible, too, for people, all of us, and that, of course, includes the boys and girls, to know what is happening and what is being planned for the future of their city or country. You have probably heard some talk about home rule for Richmond, but perhaps you do not know exactly what that means.

Professor Harlow Lindley has kindly agreed to tell us what is meant by home rule for Richmond as he tells it to his Juniors at home.—Ed.

(See Story)

The Letter

I have been asked to tell you children something about home rule for cities. Home rule simply means freedom of the city to manage its own affairs instead of having to go to the state legislature for the privilege of doing what it wants to do for itself. The privilege of home rule develops in the people of a city, a spirit of community strength and pride and a feeling of confidence to do things and manage their own affairs in the way best suited to their own needs, just as you boys and girls do in your student government organizations in your schools.

Home rule means that the city can frame its own system of city

government and direct it in the interest of progress, economy and safety always keeping in mind the general welfare of its people. Under our present state constitution, not a thing can be done by our cities without the specific permission given by a law passed by the state legislature.

Surely the good and responsible citizens of Richmond can come nearer telling what they need, than the members of the state legislature, meeting once in two years at Indianapolis. But you must remember that we cannot have real home rule in Indiana until we change our state constitution so as to allow it.

What you are learning these days about a change in the form of our city government from a mayor and city council system to a Commission form or Business Manager form is a step in the right direction and goes as far as we can go at present, since the state law now gives cities the right to choose the form of city government they want, and since these two plans provide a city government more responsible to the people than what we now have, it is a step toward home rule.

HARLOW LINDLEY.

CHILDREN PRESENT FAIRY PLAY IN LONDON HIPPODROME

"Aladdin"—the ever popular fairy story was given in pantomime by English children recently in the London Hippodrome with great success. Chinese was spoken—not always easily understood, it is reported—and all the important parts from the little emperor down to the most important slaves were taken by children. Only the most subordinate parts were taken by grown ups in this performance. A regular adult company has given several performances of "Aladdin" recently in the Hippodrome.

All the actors—mostly actresses though—enjoyed their parts thoroughly.

After the show, the children, wearing the fine costumes which had been made for them, sat down to a lavish banquet on the stage. The performance will be repeated soon, and the money given to some charitable enterprise.

John Amos Comenius, a native of the but recently made independent country of Czechoslovakia, made what is thought to be the first picture book for children.

STORIES OF OLD RICHMOND TOLD IN STORY HOUR

Saturday afternoon, April 2, a large crowd of children appeared at the library to hear stories—the never-told-too-often kind of King Arthur and his knights. Joseph Moore school acted as host. Pictures of these knights and their adventures and guests—as they appeared to be in the fancy or imagination of different artists—were shown to the junior listeners. Mrs. Mary Girty told the stories, taking the place of Miss Caroline Girty, who was announced earlier as the story teller for that day. Mrs. Girty also will tell the stories Saturday, April 9, instead of Mrs. Grosvenor, as announced. The subject will be Richmond stories, and St. Andrew's school will be the host. Saturday, April 16, Mrs. Helen Griffis will tell the legends of the fowers. The children of Joseph Moore who were the hosts for the King Arthur story hour were: Emma Rickels, Roma Mabey, Alice Moelk, Eloise Cloud and Catherine Rickels.

OVER IN ENGLAND

In England there were some children who were poor and did not have enough bread to eat. One day there was a man brought some bread. When the children heard that the man was in town, they all went running down to get some bread.

All of them got near the biggest loaf of bread but one little girl who took the smallest loaf of all. Then she went home to her mother. When supper was over, the two sat down to eat.

The mother went to cut the bread when a gold coin dropped out.

"That is not us," said the mother, "you must take it back to the man." But the man said it was all right. She kept this up till her mother and she had lots of money.

ELIZABETH HOLT.

SOME TIMEPIECE

Once a farmer hung his vest on the fence which contained a watch. A calf came along and chewed up the vest. In later years when the good old cow was butchered, the watch was found lodged between the lungs. When she would breathe the movement of the lungs would turn the winder and therefore wind the watch. The faithful old watch never lost but four minutes' time in seven years.

FREDERICK T. SHERA

Grade A.

NOTICE TO SCOUTS OF TROOP NO. 5

All scouts of Troop 5 are asked by Scoutmaster Wilson to bring their money or their unsold seeds to the regular scout meeting on Monday evening, April 11.

By last Monday evening, April 4, 427 packages of seeds had been sold by the scouts.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY

Twenty-three years ago a piece of iron ore lay on the desk of René Béquerel, a French scientist.

One day he saw that the light from the radium had affected a photograph plate. This discovery thrilled the whole world. A scientist began to try to take this unknown element from the ore.

Two years later Mme. Curie, a French woman and her husband succeeded in doing so. To get between 5 and 7 milligrams of radium from a ton of ore, we have to combine thirty tons of water and 6 tons of chemicals and then it has to go through seven hundred to nine hundred processes.

If I wanted to carry 20 or 30 grams I would put them into a lead container. This container is over 12 inches in diameter and weighs 48 pounds. It has a leather cover and there is a circle of small holes in the center, in which they put the tube of radium. They put radium on watches and you could have a room ten by nine painted by radium paint for \$400 and it will last ten years. They use the radium to cure cancers. If they could get all the strength from one gram of radium at one time it would raise the Woolworth building in New York, 100 feet in the air.

There are in the world today, three ounces of radium and it takes a thousand milligrams to make a gram and 28 grams to make an ounce.

It is valued at \$3,260.00 an ounce and the next most valuable mineral costs only \$150 an ounce.

LEWIS WILSON,
Grade B, Joseph Moore
School.

The pledge of allegiance to the American flag, which all school children know was written by Mr. James B. Upham, a member of the Perry Mason company, publishers of the Youths' Companion. This pledge was first officially employed on October 21, 1892, when the public schools all over the country celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus.

Virginia, Formerly of Richmond, Writes Letter From Texas

Park Place, Texas.

Dear Aunt Polly:

I formerly lived in Richmond but I have moved to Texas. While in Richmond I always love to read the "Junior Palladium" and I thought that you would like to get a letter from me.

This is a wonderful state. The weather is fine and there are birds of every kind making their nests around here. We have the red bird, black bird, quail, wren, blue bird, mocking bird and many other kinds for our daily visitors.

We also have beautiful flowers of every kind. The prairie is covered with "Texas Stars" and the roadside is pink with primroses. These flowers have come out with in the last month but we have had beautiful cultivated flowers blooming outside all winter.

I have my own little garden spot, and we have been eating fresh vegetables from it. We are getting big, red, juicy strawberries from our patch. My grandmother is baking large, juicy pies from the dewberries which I gather daily.

From my savings I have bought thirteen fruit trees. Among them are peaches, pecan, lemon, orange, plum, fig, pears and comquats. My plum and lemon trees are blooming. The lemon tree is a Ponarosa and the lemons weigh two and three pounds apiece.

Well, Aunt Polly, I guess you are tired of reading my letter. Now if you think your little readers would enjoy this letter I would be glad for you to publish it.

If you would like to hear from me again, drop a line to your admiring little friend.

VIRGINIA BOMELL,
Houston, Texas.

TWO BOYS BUILD HOUSE OUT OF SCRAP LUMBER

A house from scrap lumber—every detail just like they had laid out in their plans before hand!

Oscar D. Willis, 10, and his brother, Bobby, 8, have a right to be proud of what they have done. They drew up the plans, cut the lumber, and did all the carpenter work themselves.

Bobby Willis has made his playmates envious by making chairs, too. He takes box boards and builds real chairs so solid and substantial that they are really useful.

Oscar and Bobby are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Willis, 14th street, Huntington, Indiana.



SCHOOL TRAGEDIES

LOSING THE PLACE IN YOUR BOOK WHEN YOU'RE CALLED TO READ
WILLIE YOU'RE NEXT