



"Highly Satisfactory"

Principal T. H. Newsom, Buffalo Springs: Enclosed you will find check of 50 cents for which please send one more copies of spelling lists. We are using them exclusively in principal's room and extensively in other rooms. They are highly satisfactory.

Debate Bulletin Popular

Miss Constance Douglas, Debate Coach, Main Avenue High School, San Antonio: My students find the debate bulletin of great assistance to them and are always requesting me to supply them with copies.

"Good, Practical Words"

Miss Alice Pickle, Principal, Midway School, Howard County: I'm going to use the spelling bulletins the second half term of this session of school in the place of our text speller. I've always found your spelling list containing such good practical words that the pupils should learn to spell.

Likes Music List

Mrs. Lena Milam, Beaumont: All of our fifth, sixth, and seventh grades are very much interested in the new music memory list. The senior music students will present a lovely program to the students on February 27, besides some of them going to the schools to perform these numbers.

Dawson League Active

G. M. Roberts, Principal, Lamesa Grammar School, Lamesa: From all reports Dawson County is coming to the front in the League work and we are going to do our best to make all schools members this year. Each director is pushing his phase of the work diligently. With this fact in mind and considering the enthusiasm that has developed in the last few years for the League, we see no reason why we cannot have the best ever held in the county.

Heath School Has Many Entries

Virgil E. Smith, Superintendent of Heath School, Rockwall: I find the League spelling list to be very practical, and am going to use it in all my classes. We are also going to have a large number in the League contest.

Tahoka Uses 550 Lists

Nat Williams, Principal, High School, Tahoka: Please send me 100 more 1927 spelling lists. I am enclosing a check for \$3 to cover cost of same. This brings the total purchased for this year to 550. We use them as supplements to the texts in spelling in the grades and as a basis for the spelling in the high school.

Lists Better Than Ever

Clara McGill, Berclair: Enclosed find 75 cents for which please send me one and one-half dozen spelling lists. They get better every year and I require everybody to study them.

Great Extra Curricular Activity

W. E. Johns, Principal, Redwater School: I wish to endorse the Interscholastic League program, and also endorse lowering the age limit to 18. Let us have a contest of boys and girls and not of men and women. The executive committee has started a clean-up campaign and shall try to make the League in this county what it should be. I believe the League to be the greatest extra curricular activity in existence.

Medina County League

Supt. G. M. Turner, Devine: We are planning to put on a strong contest in Medina County this year.

Satisfies Long-Felt Want

Garnett P. Townsend, Principal, Concord School, Liberty Hill: Please find check enclosed for thirty-six (36) additional spelling lists. They are really just what I have been looking for.

Live Debating Club

A. A. Berry, Principal, Kaufman High School: We require all our English teachers to teach the League spelling list, and we have organized a live debating club.

HOLD JOURNALISM MEET AT BELTON

University Representatives Attend High School Press Association Gathering.

FOUR representatives of journalism in the University of Texas were the guests of the Department of Journalism in Baylor College at Belton on Friday, December 16, the opening day of the Texas High School Press Association meeting.

Harry Moore, editor of *The Alcalde*, the ex-students' magazine; Mrs. Moore, member of Theta Sigma Phi, honorary journalism fraternity for women; James McCamy, secretary of Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalism fraternity for men; and DeWitt Reddick, instructor of journalism, made up the party of visitors from Austin.

Present at the meeting were 200 representatives from high-school papers over the State. Miss Helen Wortman, head of the Baylor Department of Journalism, had charge of the two-day program. She was assisted by Miss Alyse Parten, instructor in journalism, and by members of Theta Sigma Phi.

Brackenridge High, of San Antonio, carried off honors from the meet by winning first award for the best high-school newspaper in the State with *The Brackenridge Times* and first award for the best annual in the State with its yearbook, *The Retama*. Since this is the third time *The Retama* has won first award, the silver cup was given to Brackenridge High as a permanent trophy.

Main Avenue High, of San Antonio, carried off the highest number of places, winning three first and two second awards. Students from several other high schools won prizes for their writing.

Representatives from the high schools were divided into three groups for the lectures, one section for those interested in the high-school newspaper, one for those interested in the annual, and one for those interested in the magazine. Prominent speakers were on hand from various parts of the State to speak to the young journalists.

Entertainment was furnished by a banquet and two plays, which were given Friday night. The visiting boys and girls were given rooms in the dormitories of the college to use during their stay.

Small School Entertains A Big County League Meet

THAT a small community can often entertain the county meet with profit to itself and the whole county is evidenced by the experience of F. B. Jones, of the Los Angeles school. He writes:

Last year while teaching at Artesia Wells a small rural school in the county, I had the pleasure of acting as host to the county in our annual meet.

I am now teaching at Los Angeles—a larger school, yet in the same rural class. I firmly believe that the League does its greatest good in the rural communities. The interest which it stimulates in school work is surprising.

I have convinced the people of this community that the 1927-28 county meet should be held in their community. The county directors have decided that we shall have it; and we expect to demonstrate for a second time that a rural school can play host to 600 or 700 people and manage an interscholastic meet as well as any Class B school.

DEBATERS who want strong negative argument on the McNary-Haugen farm relief legislation should read an article entitled "Anarchy on the Farm" by Prof. J. E. Boyle, of Cornell University, in the December (1927) issue of the *World's Work*.

Last Call for Senior High Schools for Entry in 1928 One-Act Play Tournaments



Contestants in 1927 State Tournament

Revision of Plan for This Contest Gives Extension of Time for Entry to March 1—Schools Desiring to Enter Should Notify the State Office at Once.

Provision Made for State Championship in Three-Tournament Series

LAST YEAR for the first time the League undertook a State-wide one-act play contest for senior high schools with very gratifying results. The plan for the contest this year has been altered considerably in pursuance of suggestions and recommendations of the Texas Speech Arts Association.

Briefly, the plan calls for a series of three tournaments: first, six tournaments in East Texas and six in West Texas; second, an all-East Texas tournament participated in by the winners of the first series in East Texas, and an all-West

Texas tournament participated in by the winners of the first series in West Texas; third a final State Tournament at the State Meet of the Interscholastic League, winners in East Texas and in West Texas, respectively, eligible.

Last year, the following schools with individuals composing casts, won in their respective regional tournaments and participated in the State Tournament:

Mexia: Virginia Rollins, Willie Mae Stewart, Margaret Smith, J. D. Sellers, Rita Cox, Helen Cochran, Morris Knox, Lloyd Kerzee, Thomas Blackman, Walter McDonald.

Houston: Mary Alice Krahl, Tracy Word, William Sears, Richard Reordan.

Abilene: Ethelyn Clark, Marjorie Bland, Oscar Senter, Charles Signor. **Miami:** Mary Dell Razor, Naida

Hockett, Mattie Edith Russell, Pedro Dial, Walter Cravey.

Palestine: Ruth Turbyfill, Edwilla Brymer, Maxine Tindall, Lester Hamilton, Henry Davenport.

Sinton: Maurine Stout, Grace Maude Peckham, Bob Sipes.

Forney: Ola Pauline Adams, Thomas Anderson, Jr., Albert Eston Morton, Fred Sowell Dozier, Perry Del Harvey, Rupert Solomon Eudy.

San Angelo: Isla Gayle Barler, Doris Dunbar, Scottie Johnson.

Results of the State Tournament follow: San Angelo, first; Mexia, second; Abilene, third.

The all-star cast selected at the State Tournament follows:

Girls
Virginia Collins, Mexia; Maurine Stout, Sinton; Isla G. Barler, San Angelo; Ethelyn Clark, Abilene; Willie Mae Stewart, Mexia; Grace M. Peckham, Sinton.

Boys
Bob Sipes, Sinton; Pedro Dial, Miami; Tracy Word, Houston; Wm. Sears, Houston; Scottie Johnson, San Angelo.

SCHOOL PAPER OK'S LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Declares Bluntly No School Can Be Progressive and Fail to Join.

THE LEAGUE is particularly gratified to receive the endorsement of pupils in the membership of schools. We take pleasure in reproducing an article on the "Value of the League" from the *Lampasas Record* of January 9, which in turn had been copied from the Florence High School *Buffalo*. The article follows:

The Texas University Interscholastic League is a great educational force among the public schools of today. Its scope is so broad as to include every school in Texas, from the smallest rural school to the largest city school. Some phase of the League will include every pupil. Its aim is to help train and develop the body, mind, and morals of the pupils; to raise the standard of the schools, and thus of education in general.

Competitive Spirit Universal
The spirit of competition is the greatest propelling force in our country today. It is the very life of our material progress, and is no less important in our educational progress. The desire to outdistance or outdo someone or other is an inborn instinct in every person. The League makes capital of this instinct and aims to turn it into proper channels. The competition along various lines which the League has furnished has added zest to school work and has raised the standards of the schools. Education today is demanding results; the Interscholastic League is securing re-

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LEAGUE STARS STILL SHINING

One purpose of the Interscholastic League is to discover and encourage talent among the high-school boys and girls of Texas. One proof that it is fulfilling this function is found in the remarkable number of League winners who distinguish themselves. In this column we shall publish personal items concerning former winners, and we shall be grateful for information from any source suitable for inclusion in this column.—Editor.

EARLE RACEY, of Dallas, winner of second place in boys' debate at the State Meet held in Austin in 1915, received his B.B.A. degree in 1924.

Racey was a member of the University Interscholastic debating team, and served as business and advertising manager of the *Texas Student Publications* while he was in school. Racey is now traveling for a candy company in Dallas.

LAWRENCE QUICK, of Dallas, winner of the State Meet, second place, in the tennis doubles in 1924 and 1926 and State champion in tennis singles in 1924, 1925, and 1926, received the Interscholastic League loving cup in 1926 in tennis doubles. Quick is a sophomore at the University of Texas and is a member of the University Interscholastic tennis team.

JAMES TAYLOR, representing Rodgers High School, of Bell County, participated in the 1918 State Meet as a half-miler. He graduated from high school in 1919 and worked at the printer's trade in Rodgers and Cameron until the fall of 1922 when he entered the University of Texas. He secured a job as night foreman in the University Press and spent the next five years securing a B.A. and an M.A. degree. His night job lasted 7 hours and 20

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Report Declares That Pupils Are Kept in Grades too Long

Our Schools Maintaining the Elementary Course of Eight Years Notwithstanding Conditions Favorable to More Rapid Advancement.

(Extracts from Report of the Commission on Length of Elementary Education)

THE FACT that most school systems have been extremely conservative in their attitudes toward elementary education is demonstrated by the very general failure to reduce in any way the length of time that is required for the completion of the combined elementary and secondary curriculums. In most cases where the junior high school has been adopted and where the elementary curriculum is said to be completed in six grades, pupils are required to spend twelve years in the grades and in high school before they are allowed to take up the advanced courses of the college. The beginnings of acceleration which were made by reducing elementary education to six grades are thus rendered ineffective because the system as a whole continues to demand as much as it did formerly.

THE YALE-HARVARD CULTURE CONTESTS

Two Universities to Engage in Series of Scholarship Competitions.

WE READ that Yale has challenged Harvard to a "battle of culture." Every once in a while something happens to refute the popular fallacy that college students think of nothing but athletic and social activities. Not long ago, students on this campus packed the men's gym to hear Bertrand Russell speak. Thus, from time to time, there are encouraging flashes of intellectual interest among college students. The plan advanced in the East, however, is unique.

A series of competitive examinations covering each department of study is proposed. The teams representing each school are not to be selected until just prior to their meeting; so that special individual preparation for the examinations will be eliminated. Medals and money prizes are suggested, and a fund has already been donated at Harvard to promote the plan.

Although such a scheme is open to several criticisms, and will no doubt draw many an amused smile from those who are blind and deaf to the value of culture, it is worthy of attention. Perhaps it will prove to be but the germ of later ideas which will stimulate true educational interest. Perhaps it will start other such plans with the result that scholastic competitions will attain a prominent place in the spotlight. Of course, it is difficult to conceive of a time when thousands of spectators will gather in a stadium to cheer for the old alma mater in its annual English literature meet with the rival university. But scholarship is, by the very nature of its appeal, somewhat handicapped by lack of publicity, and contests of the sort proposed between Yale and Harvard may do much to preach the gospel of learning.—*Wisconsin Cardinal*.

Old Boys Held in School By Athletics "A Nuisance"

PRINCIPAL C. A. SCHMIDT of the Big Hill School, Route 4, Thornton, writes approval of C. W. Bingman's suggestion to lower the age-limit, as follows:

I wish to say that the article by C. W. Bingman which appeared in the November issue of THE LEAGUER, asking a reduction of the age limit to 18 years meets with my approval. I have three boys in school this school term that would be out of the way and thus give some of the younger boys a chance. These boys should have graduated at least two or three years ago. This type of a boy is just a nuisance in school, because he doesn't intend to graduate. I say, "Weed them out."

Further striking evidence of conservatism is to be found in the fact that such examples as those set by the schools of Kansas City, Mo., and Ottawa and Toronto, Canada, and by the laboratory of schools of the University of Chicago, where pupils are successfully transferred to the high school at an earlier age than is common, have not been followed by neighboring school systems. This shows how tenaciously school administrators and communities hold to the idea that rudimentary training should consume the number of years which has been established by tradition. * * *

Conditions Favor More Rapid Advancement

That an earlier beginning of secondary education grows naturally out of the expansion of American education will be readily understood when it is remembered that the elementary school is today working under conditions which are favorable to more rapid advancement of pupils than was formerly possible. Formerly, pupils made slow progress because the school year was short, teachers were little trained, and textbooks were less attractive than they are now and less well adapted to the needs of pupils. Improvement along all these lines has brought as its direct results both a more highly differentiated curriculum in the upper grades and increasing disposition to detach the seventh and eighth grades from the elementary school. * * *

American Pupils Two Years Behind Europeans

That the upper grades of the elementary school have been only partly transformed is thought of by some as fully justified and as in keeping with

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ENTRY BLANKS BEING MAILED

ENTRY BLANKS are being mailed to 5,000 member-schools at this issue of *The Leaguer* goes to press. Each school needs one blank for entering its contestants in the county meet. Many of these blanks will be thrown into the waste-paper basket by busy principals and superintendents under the impression that it is some circular or other. Then about ten days before the county meet, this same principal or superintendent will need the blank. He will find cause for annoyance in the fact that the State Office has not seen fit to mail him a copy. He will call up the telegraph office and dictate over the phone a rather hot message of complaint. This will cost him 40 or 45 cents, depending largely upon the humor he is in. Another copy will then be mailed him. It will reach him in two or three days, and then, maybe, some Director will make difficulty about accepting late entries. More telegrams to the State Office and telegrams in reply. Some temper may be generated. This will act deleteriously upon the digestion. Ill digestion will further aggravate the temper, etc., etc.

MORAL: Open and examine carefully all mail received from the League—and all other mail, for that matter, circular and otherwise.

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