SCHOOL DAYS —— By DWIG



SCHOOL NOTES

By Janet MacVean

It's almost report time again. How time does fly. And how scarce news becomes between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Science Club met at one o'clock Wednesday, Nov. 30th. After the meeting had been called to order the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Bayard Sutton explained the paramecium, one of the simplest forms of animal life, which was then examined under a microscope. Mary Margaret Eliason farther explained this organism with the aid of a poster drawing. Alchemy and chemistry were discussed by Elizabeth Westcott. Dorothy Walbert and Carrie Schrieber conducted an experiment.

The experiment with the white rats, which were mentioned last week was explasned by Elizabeth Fontaine. Mary Margaret Eliason read a chapter on Bambes, a type of ants found in Africa. The meeting was reluctantly adjourned.

The white rats were donated by Mr. Brinsfield of the Stam Drug Co. The daily weighing of these rats has proved that Rat A, which was originally slightly the larger, has neither gained or lost weight on his diet of crackers and water, while Rat B, fed on crackers and milk, has gained over ten grams, or about 1-3 of an ounce, since Nov. 29. These rats will be kept on this diet until Dec. 23. There are two other rats which are not being experimented with. Since Mr. Willis also has a pigeon in the Science room, that room will soon resemble a circus, if additions are made to the menagerie. *

The History Clubs have a new supply of C. H. S. pencils. The first lot was accompanied by a pencil sharpener and the second by a desk dictionary, both of which are certainly useful. Pencils make nice Christmas presents.

The Commercial department and the rest of C. H. S. are rejoicing because Miss Feitz is back, although minus her tonsils. Also some typing medals and a pencil sharpener have been ordered. This will relieve much of the strain on Miss Peacock's sharpener.

Miss Kersey reports that the 9th graders are starting to make salads and have already had a lesson on boiled dressing. The Juniors in their course on Historic Costume have studied Egyptian, Asiatic, and Grecian costumes and are to study Roman styles soon. The Seniors are making guest towels, wooly dogs, embroidered work, etc., for Christmas presents.

There will be an auction held on Wednesday at noon in Miss Riches' room for the benefit of the Reflector. The auctioneer is expected to be Charles Dole. This auction is planned to last for several noon-times.

By the way, have you seen the little C. H. S. stickers with the dragon on them that the Reflector is selling? You'll want one as soon as you see them.

The Dramatic Club presented a most successful one-act play, "The Rising of the Moon," at the Youth Conference held in Kennedyville last Saturday. Rehearsals for "The Importance of Being Earnest" are going on, but no definite date has been set for its production.

Basketball practice starts this week or next. The boys have held an athletic meeting concerning this sport already.

The preliminaries in the battle for the Shore Championship are still being played. Sudlersville lost to Chesapeake City 4 to 0, Tuesday. Robert Hopkins, captain of the Sudlersville team, and former C. H. S. player, was not up to his usual form because of illness. We are sorry for this reason, that Sudlersville lost, but we are still cheering for Chesapeake City.

Subscription to The Transcript $1.50 per annum.

TAX PROBLEM OF THE MD. FARMER

(BY MILES H. FAIRBANK)

PART 3

Farmers in Maryland, as elsewhere, pay the bulk of their taxes based on the value of their real estate.

Our tax laws are based primarily on real estate since in the early days land and buildings were the only visible means of wealth. In fact, a state income tax was placed on our books twice prior to 1850 and repealed both times, largely because it brought in no revenue.

There were few securities, bonds, or stocks in those days. Also, we did not have a large share of our population earning their livelihood from professional service as today.

The method of assessment in the counties is well known. It is based on the sales value of the property and, while there is a general feeling that assessments are too high, a study has shown that over a period of ten years assessments have not been excessive compared to sales and neither has farm property, according to this survey, been higher in propertion than town property.

The demand for a lower assessment will not solve the farmers' tax problem, since, under existing conditions, the rate must be correspondingly increased. Baltimore City's assessable basis will be reduced by 238 million next year and that fact will necessitate a substantial increase in the tax rate, in spite of drastic economies proposed.

The tax rate is fixed by the Board of County Commissioners, based upon the bedget of the county and to this is added the state rate of .25c on the $100.00. Federal taxes are paid indirectly, through purchases, banking transactions, and income taxes, if a farmer should be so fortunate as to have a taxable income.

A study, made by the Maryland Farm Bureau, during the past year, showed that the county budgets were divided approximately as follows:

Roads	20%
Schools	42%
Debt	16%
All other expenses of running county	22%
Total	100%

It is interesting to note that in nearly all eforts to reduce taxes great stress is laid on cutting salaries and reducing expenses around the Court House. Laudable as this may be, it can hardly result in any great saving, since it is shown that all expenses, including law and order, public health and administration, are less than 25 per cent. of the total budget. If it were possible to cut these in half (which no reasonable man thinks possible) it would only mean a saving of eleven per cent. We feel that to get real relief, the farmers' tax bill should be cut over thirty per cent.

Debt is fixed and must be paid. Whether we agree that the bonds we issued were wise or not, the fact remains that the debt must be paid. Common sense dictates that statement.

But the items of roads and schools, constituting over half of the budget, do hold possibilities that should result in a real lifting of burden for the farmer. It is on these two items that the farm organizations have based their principal recommendations.

To do this will mean a shifting of the burden or, at least, a part of the burden. That is perfectly obvious, but is also perfectly just. It simply means that the class of citizens who have not carred their fair share of the load must assume a portion of it, at least, and lighten the farmer consequently.

Since 1913, the farmers' tax burden in Maryland has increased over 190% During the same period of time the value of his property has increasen less than thirty per cent anr his proruce still less. Surely, there can be no serious objection to his desire to have a portion of his tax load lifted.

The Farm Bureau and the State Grange cooperating have recently agreed upon a program that is designed to do just that and yet it is so equitable that it is doubtful, if anyone will find serious objection to its enactment into law.

(Next wek Mr. Fairbank will discuss the Farm Bureau tax program on roads.)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

David Crockett's Home Used as a Barn

From Frontier Times

The original home of David Crockett in Tenessee, we are told, is being used by a tenant on the old farm as a barn. The home, which is situated in west Tennessee, was built of hewn poplar timbers and is said to be in a fair state of preservation. The old farm is but a few miles from the line of the county which bears the name of Crockett and the name of the county site is Alamo.

Prophets Without Honor

From the London Norning Post

A foreign friend of mine who has a warm admiration for English literature has just returned from a series of visits to the haunts of famous English writers.

One night he spent at a hotel where Shelley was reputed to have stayed. When my friend asked whether the tradition was authentic, the proprietor replied: "Perhaps, but he hasn't been here since my time."

His next stopping place was a town which had many associations with Charlotte Bronte. When he tried to buy one of her novels at the principal bookshop in the town the shopkeeper said severely: "No, sir, we never stock the Bronts."

CHRISTMAS—Curious customs in Austria. Christmas celebrations begin in Austria on December 5th, with the advent of Saint Nikolaus and his faithful squire the Crampus. Saint Nikolaus, who is really our Santa Claus, appears in Catholic Austria in the guise of a benevolent old white-bearded bishop, vested in Mitre and scarlet cape. Like his English prototype he brings presents for good boys and girls and sometimes for grown-ups as well. His companion the Crampus has, however, no such welcome mission. He is a virulent looking black devil with a barbed tail, cruel claws, very red tongue and a dreadful pitchfork. Theoretically he comes to punish bad girls and boys—but, strange to say, he seems to be more popular amongst them than his venerable companion, judging from the large number of his effigies which appear in the toy and sweet-shop. The Crampus is sometimes made of black dried plums strung together on sticks—perhaps that partly accounts for his popularity.

In German speaking countries Christmas eve is really the great event around which the holy and romantic associations of the feast culminate. Work ceases during the afternoon and even the cinemas and theatres are closed. It is sometimes actually difficult to get a meal on Christmas eve, or Holy Evening, as it is called in Austria.

For two or three weeks beforehand the squares and open spaces of the towns have been filled with piles of spruce trees of all shapes and sizes and up to eight or nine feet in height. There are few households, even the poorest, who do not buy a Christmas tree, be it never so small, and do not decorate it with candles and glittering ornaments. In the early evening the church bells ring and sometimes in German towns Christmas music is played on horns and trombones from high up on the church towers. As the evening begins in nearly every home a Christmas tree is lit and around it the family sings Christmas hymns to tunes which are centuries old. Holy Night and Oh, Thou Holy One are perhaps the most popular. Then comes the distribution of gifts. This is done by a Christ child generally a pretty little girl adorned in a white robe and spangles.

Christmas dinner is generally about two o'clock in the afternoon. Goose supplies the place of the English Turkey and there is plum pudding—though in different districts there are special seasonable sweets, and Marzipan, in the form of small fruits fills the sweetshops.

Thus Christmas casts it spell, even if in different ways, over many lands to remind us of the rebirth of life in darkness and of the message of Peace and Goodwill to men, which the spirit of Christ brings. May that message be heard and heeded now when new life and light are so badly needed in the affairs of mankind!

TIMELY RETREAT

"Why did you break off your engagement?" asked Bill's inquisitive pal.

"Well, we were looking over our new house when my prospective mother-in-law said it would be rather small for three people; so I gracefully retired."

Old American Expression

"Raise cain" is the original and correct form of this slang phrase, which means to create a disturbance, to start a quarrel or cause trouble in general, says Pathfinder Magazine. M. Schele de Vere, writing in 1871, said that "when the rowdy is in earnest and his blood is up, he has a terrible term by which to designate the nature of his action; he raises cain." The phrase is of American origin and has been traced back to about 1850. Early examples indicate that it first was used in the West and probably alluded to the fact that Cain killed Abel. There is no evidence to support the presumption that the phrase refers to the cultivation of the plant known as cane and should therefore be written "raise cane."

SHOPPING JEFFERSON'S

I'm feeling decidedly incoherent at this moment, my head being a mad jumble of trains, crowds, holly wreaths, Santa Clauses, and giftwares warranted to make any one forget the Ten Commandments. I dashed to New York, leaped into several little importing shops and studios, dashed around to see what smart people were buying, grabbed some of the cream of the crop for Jefferson's and with what felt like one breathless bound landed back in Chestertown.

Let me caution you that I brought back only one of each kind. The gadgets I liked are linens mostly and each one was hand-picked for a perfect gift. You're going to be horribly disappointed if you waste any time looking them over.

The towels deserve first mention. There are some adorable fingertip towels in gossamer linen appliqued and embroidered in black. Swanky. And guest towels of handwoven linen with exquisite colored applique, Porto Rican work. Then there are just three regular size towels with Petite Point embroidery that is so finely done each piece is fit to be framed.

There are numerous bridge and luncheon sets and cloths, but my favorites among them are first a luncheon or bridge set of the fine linen known abroad as "church linen" in natural color appliqued with delicate silver-gray butterflies, and second a luncheon cloth of linen gauze embroidered in scarlet and black that is the last word in sophistication. Both of these items are unusual, one being subtle in color and fabric, the other bold and gay.

There are several things that make charming baby gifts. The little crib set of linen sheet and pillow case, hand embroidered with exquisite French work and fit for a small Prince or Princess. I loved the fine little Porto Rican batiste pillow slips appliqued in pink or blue baby designs. These cost only 49c but are really lovely.

One real headliner at Jefferson's is the handblocked Paisley Square, on softest Russian cashmere, made in Russia and just through the customs. You have to order these from the sample but can get them in less than a week. As a wall hanging they are breath-takingly lovely. As a scarf they are symbols of cosmopolitan smartness.

There! I really think I've found you some nice gadgets! Drop in at Jefferson's and pick up some of these gems.

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