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LADIES' TAILORING a Specialty.
Call and give me a trial.

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Now is the time you need a good wagon and we have them on hand We ask you to examine them and see for yourself they are the wagon that will fill your needs. These wagons are built by skilled mechanics out of dry seasoned lumber.

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We have the AMERICAN FENCE in different heights.
GASOLINE, MACHINE and COAL OIL of best grades.

SHAFER, REDMILE & COMPANY

KENNEDYVILLE, - - MARYLAND

SIDNEY P. TOWNSHEND, ATT'Y.

Ratification Nisi.

W. S. & A. M. Culbreth, et. al.
versus
Wm. A. Bell, Adm'r, etc., et. al.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County In Equity. No. 1903.

ORDERED, this 22nd day of January, 1916, by the Circuit Court for Kent County in Equity, that the Auditors Account and Report, stated and reported by Lewin W. Wickes, Auditor, in the above entitled cause, be Ratified and Confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 21st day of February next; Provided a Copy of this Order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent county, once in each of two successive weeks before the 14th day of February next.

A. PARKS RASIN, Clerk.

True Copy—Test:
A. PARKS RASIN, Clerk.

Jan. 29, 1916—2t.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that the subscribers have obtained from the Orphan's Court of Kent county letters testamentary on the estate in Kent county, Maryland, of

ROSE V. STRONG,

late of Kent county, Maryland, deceased.

All persons having claims against deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the proper vouchers thereof to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of July, 1916, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefits of said estate. All indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the subscriber.

Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of January, 1916.

JAMES EDGAR STRONG,
WILLIAM MILLER STRONG,
Executors

jan22-4t

WOOD'S Prosperity Seeds.

With bright prospects ahead for good prices on Vegetable and all Farm products, our farmers should feel encouraged to plant improved varieties of seeds, so as to increase their crops.

WOOD'S VEGETABLE SEEDS, long known for their superior quality and productiveness, have greatly increased in demand and popularity

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WOOD'S DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG gives valuable information about all Seeds for the Farm and Garden. Mailed free on request.

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For good results place an advertisement in the "Kent News."

MANY DEFECTS IN STATE SCHOOLS

Take Education Out of Politics, Expert Advice to Maryland.

TEACHERS BADLY TRAINED.

General Educational Board of New York, After Inspection of Every County In the State, Points to Need of More Superintendents, Higher Salaries and Changes In Existing Laws.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 6.—The Legislature of Maryland in 1914 authorized the appointment of a Commission to procure a survey of education in Maryland and appropriated $5,000 for its expenses. The Governor appointed as members of this Commission B. Howell Griswold, Jr., of Baltimore; Col. Albert W. Sisk, of Preston, and Dr. J. McPherson Scott, of Hagerstown.

At the request of the Commission, the General Education Board of New York undertook to make the survey, agreeing to bear any expense incurred in excess of the state appropriation. The results of the survey are made public to-day.

The Report is the work of Abraham Flexner and Frank P. Bachman. The former is the author of "The American College" and several years ago conducted for the Carnegie Foundation investigations of medical schools in the United States and Europe; Dr. Bachman, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Cleveland, was a prominent member of the Hanus Commission which investigated the New York schools and is the author of important educational studies.

Every County Inspected.

Every county in Maryland was visited and typical schools of all kinds were studied throughout the state; the records of the state and county departments were carefully examined; and much new material was gathered. The material is set forth in a comprehensive volume dealing with each detail of the situation.

"Public education in Maryland is on the whole soundly organized," says the report of the General Education Board. "Further, the state deals generously with its public schools in the matter of money.

"We do not propose therefore any fundamental changes in the general scructure of the public school system of Maryland nor do we suggest that the State increase at all its appropriations to the schools.

"But there are other aspects which will cause grave concern. A few counties possess good and steadily improving schools; a good school may be found here and there in other counties. But the large majority of the schools are poor; teachers are, for the most part, poorly trained; instruction is ineffective and obsolete; children attend school with disastrous irregularity; school buildings are far too often in unsatisfactory condition, school grounds, neglected and untidy.

Need of More Superintendents.

"The County Superintendency is in even more unsatisfactory condition. In the first place, the law does not even require the County Superintendent to be a trained or experienced school man; in the second place, adequate provision for skilled assistance exists in only one or two counties.

"In most counties, therefore, an untrained official without expert aid, certificates teachers, arranges courses of study, supervises instruction, and examines for promotion pupils who attend school regularly or not, as they or their parents please.

"Finally, the state's large school fund is not distributed so as to accomplish the greatest possible good. For it is distributed almost unconditionally. The counties get their quota whether they do their educational duty or not, with the result that the backward counties sometimes do much less than they ought and some well-to-do counties do much less than they should.

"The state fund thus becomes a source of positive demoralization. It can be converted into a real help and stimulus only if payment by the State is conditioned upon the performance of local duty.

"In view of these conditions, it is easy enough to understand why a fundamentally correct type of organization produces unsatisfactory educational results in Maryland. But, as a matter of fact, the state does not even fare as well with its present organization as it might: why not?

Education Is "In Politics."

"A few words suffice to explain. Public education in Maryland is 'in politics.' Politics are apt to prevent the State Board from acting with vigor; to determine the composition of the County Boards; to affect the choice of the County Superintendents; even to enter into the selection of the one-room rural school teacher.

"Of course, there are exceptions. Some of the county boards are excellent; some schools are entirely free from political taint. But in general political and personal considerations impair the vigor, independence, thoroughness and efficiency of the school system. The public does not begin to realize the seriousness of the political infection or the damage it does."

The report of the survey says that:

"Baltimore County must be singled out for especial commendation. The County Superintendent is a man of experience and modern training; and he is aided by a corps of supervisors, including an assistant superintendent, a primary supervisor with an assistant, a grammar grade supervisor with an assistant, a manual training supervisor, a domestic science supervisor, and, finally, a supervisor of rural schools.

"But every county in Maryland could, up to the limits of its financial ability, do the kind of thing that Baltimore County does. At bottom it depends on the competency of the County Superintendent."

Training of Teachers.

In discussing the weaknesses of the school situation in most of the counties, the Report points out that the teaching force of the state is in a high degree miscellaneous. On this fundamental point the Report states:

"Regarding the training of these teachers, no general statement can be made at all. There are the widest possible variations in the training of teachers doing the same grade of work—inconceivable confusion and lack of sequence and order in their preparation.

"Of over 3,000 white elementary teachers in the state outside of Baltimore, 391 (12.7 per cent.) have had only an elementary school education; 634 (20.7 per cent.) have spent one or two years in a high school; 1,031 (33.7 per cent.) have completed a four-year high school course; only 148—less than 5 per cent. of the whole—have received a standard normal school training.

One-third of Teachers Untrained.

"Of the rest, some have spent a little while in normal school; some have received an irregular normal schooling; a few have been to college and still fewer through college. Grouping together standard normal school, part college and college graduates, about 10 per cent. of the elementary teachers of Maryland—not more—may be called well trained; not quite one-third could on a stretch be called fairly well trained; at least one-third are practically untrained. The body as a whole is thus heterogeneous to the last degree."

Of the high-school teachers, it is declared that not over two-fifths are adequately trained.

A revision of the law dealing with the certification of teachers is therefore recommended as the first step toward realizing improved conditions.

Teachers' Salaries Too Small.

Salaries are too low to obtain well-trained teachers; they range "from an average of $271 a year in St. Mary's, to $662 a year in Baltimore County. Three counties pay an average of less than $300; four less than $350; seven less than $400; seven less than $450; and only two, Allegany and Baltimore, pay in excess of $450."

School Attendance.

The attendance of school children is so irregular and uncertain that even good teachers could not teach successfully. As the state is without an effective compulsory attendance law, many children remain away from school altogether—large numbers begin to go to school too late or attend irregularly. The precise extent of this evil cannot be stated, for there is no correct school census.

It is recommended, therefore, that the state enact a state-wide compulsory education law, including proper provisions for attendance officers and whatever else is required to make it effective.

Organization.

The schools of Maryland are supported in part by county, in part by state taxation. Some of the counties, notably Baltimore, Allegany, Queen Anne, and Worcester, support their schools liberally; the rest do less and some of the most prosperous do much less than they can and should.

Help Those Who Help Themselves.

It is recommended by the Report, therefore, that the state contribution should in future be paid to no county which does not levy for educational purposes a minimum tax fixed by the Legislature. The more progressive counties will, of course, continue to levy more as they now do.

* * * * * * *

Again, the state and county organizations exist in skeleton or outline only. The State Department of Education, which should guide, study and report upon the educational activities of the entire state, consists of a superintendent, his assistant and a clerk.

"Nothing is simpler," says the Report, "than to authorize or require the State Superintendent to 'supervise', 'inspect', 'examine' or 'pass upon'. But neither inspection, supervision, nor examination can avail, unless an adequate trained organization is provided through which he can work. The force now at the Superintendent's disposal is utterly insufficient. He has a single assistant appointed with the approval of the State Board at a salary of $2,000 and one clerk at a salary not to exceed $1,200. In addition to his own salary, he has an expense allowance of five hundred dollars, and one thousand dollars more for furniture, supplies and printing. Three persons thus constitute the entire staff at the disposal of the Superintendent of Public Education in Maryland.

"It goes without saying that the functions which we have enumerated simply cannot be effectively discharged by this organization."

Would Increase Number of Officials.

The Report therefore recommends an increase in the staff in the office of the State Department of Education, said staff to be paid, not by additional legislative appropriation, but out of the present school fund, before this fund is distributed to the counties.

Equally defective is the county organization. At present, the County Superintendent is not only the main but in most counties practically the only county educational officer. Balti

Continued on page 8.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

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Makes coal burn brighter, give more heat, last longer, with less ash.
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Bears the Signature of
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TO GIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Chestertown Chautauqua Association extend an invitation to all who have signed pledges for tickets to be their guests on Monday evening, April 24th, at the Lyceum, at which time Miss Mary Agnes Doyle, will give a recital, "Peg O' My Heart."

Miss Doyle has been engaged by the Swarthmore Chautauqua Association for "special recitals" for her wonderful interpretation of "Peg O' My Heart."

She so well suits the character that she so ably delineates, in her happy Irish way, that one can hardly think of her other than the real "Peg," as she passes through the many interesting stages of "Peg's" character.

Miss Doyle is a highly talented young woman, and her interpretation of this charming story is to be classed with the very best features of the Chautauqua.

The special courtesy is extended only to those who have or will sign the pledge for tickets before the entertainment—so get busy, sign up for your ticket, which can be secured from any of the guarantors, or by calling on or writing Mr. M. Wilber Thomas, Secretary, Chestertown.

WE are indebted to the widely known seedsmen of Richmond, Va., T. W. Wood & Sons, for their handsome 1916 catalogue. It is a pamphlet of over one hundred pages, and contains a world of information for every one who cultivates the soil, and every farmer or gardener, and lover of flowers should write them for a copy—it will be sent free.

THERE will not be a woman this year who can justly complain that none of the spring hats suits her particular style of beauty, for they are of all shapes, all styles and all colors. There are large floppy hats for the outdoor girl, more fascinating than ever before; smart, chic little chapeaux for the society matron; wide beflowered brims for the debutante, and the plain sailor for the business woman.

To Our Subscribers.—Look at the date on the little yellow slip on your paper. It shows the time to which your paper is paid. Thus, if the date on the yellow slip is "1Jan15" you owe the KENT NEWS one dollar. Please look at your date at once

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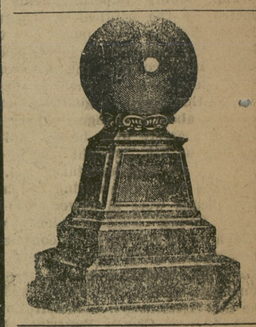
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