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Current Events was the Theme of an Able Paper

Henry Harvey Stuart, Principal of the Sunbury County Grammar School, Discusses Philosophy Teaching by Example—A Wide Range of Subjects Covered—The Work of the League of Nations is Commended.

History, being "Philosophy teaching by example," is a subject of vital importance to the human race. It should go without saying that leaders who do not understand History cannot direct the affairs of their countries properly, and that electors who do not understand History will not be able to choose leaders who can direct the affairs of State properly.

Because of the general ignorance of History, the unfortunate History of the past is repeating itself daily. Egypt grew up slowly and painfully into a great nation, flourished, raided her neighbors, rejected her prophets, oppressed her poor, dwindled and fell into servitude. So Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Macedonia, Rome, Arabia, Turkey and Spain, in order, and so are the Great Powers of today heading.

The ancient Greeks might, had they united, taken civilized and controlled the whole earth, but from short-sighted lust of individual gain they destroyed each other and invited a fate from which they have never recovered.

Repeated Mistakes.

The more modern Teutonic tribes, in the fifth and sixth centuries of our era, repeated the mistakes of their Greek kinsmen. Had they agreed among themselves they could have Teutonized the whole Roman Empire instead of losing their identity everywhere in it except along the northern fringe. Had the Lombards spent the same energy in alliance with their cousins, the Gepidae, as they used up in helping to exterminate them, the two together could have taken and divided the Eastern Roman Empire while leaving the Ostrogoths in possession of Italy and preventing the decimation of the Vandals. Later on, the same combination could have helped to turn back the Saracens from Europe and have made the Mediterranean and its branches a Teutonic lake. But by intervention strife the blonde giants of the north lost their chance.

Another Failure.

Europe united in 1914 could have easily subjected all other races and divided all the waste places of the earth for future colonization of its nationals. But that continent failed to see and grasp its opportunity exactly as Greece failed in 431 B. C.

While Britain, in 1820 left the Holy Alliance in which she was only one of several great military powers on none of which she seemed likely to be able to impress her more democratic spirit, rather than assist the Alliance in the enslavement of Portugal to absolute monarchy and the reconquest of Spanish America, the United States of America a century later, repudiated the wider League of Nations, in the inception of which its own chief magistrate had played a most prominent part, whose covenant not only guaranteed the integrity of the U. S. A. itself but also, by recognizing the Monroe Doctrine, gave her a dominant position in the whole of Latin America, thus virtually making the area of her direct influence as large and valuable as that of the British Empire. This rejection of a covenant which would have made the U. S. A. the leader of the world and the U. S. A. and the British Empire together able to permanently mould the destiny of the whole human race, is even harder to understand than the turning of Athens against Thebes in 362 B. C. just at the point when those two little democracies united might have done much to save and rehabilitate poor misguided and exhausted Greece. Evidently the same spirit of jealousy and distrust that actuated Athens in throwing away her last opportunity for leadership of her race actuated the U. S. A. nearly 2,300 years later. She had not learned the lessons of History. Can she remedy her mistake in time? Britain in leaving the Holy Alliance made overtures to her then less powerful but rapidly rising kinsmen of the West by suggesting to the U. S. A. what is now known as the Monroe Doctrine, but the U. S. A. in repudiating the League in 1920 made no such friendly motion to the deserted mother who for at least a century had always striven to conciliate and favor her, even when it was not to her immediate interest to do so. But democracies, as well as autocracies, forget soon!

Errors of the Past.

If we are to learn to avoid the mistakes of the past we must teach our young people the significance of not only the Text Book History but also of current events. The making of History is going on at the present time at a tremendous rate of speed and, if we wait for new Text Books, whole classes of children will graduate and presently acquire full citizenship unprepared for its duties.

The Russian Situation.

Only nine years ago a concerted rising of Organized Labor in Russia placed the working class in supreme power which they at once used to disfranchise their former employers and all adherents to and sympathizers with the Capitalist System. The working class being only one quarter as numerous as the unorganized peasants, they both took the latter into partnership on the basis of one member of parliament for every 25,000 industrial workers and one for every 125,000 farmers, thus giving the individualists a permanent ascendancy. This Soviet system has overcome only in Russia, but it is merely an outcome of French syndicalism and has many partisans in many other countries. As Sovietism or the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, aims at world leadership, its progress in Russia and its propaganda elsewhere are subjects for careful study.

Fascism Defined.

Fascism, or the dictatorship of the well-to-do classes, is the exact opposite of Sovietism in aim but employs the same arbitrary methods. In four years under the leadership of Benito Mussolini, a former Socialist of the most violent persuasion, Italy has been transformed from a gentle tenard happy-go-lucky democracy where everyone had for the preceding four years been doing as he pleased to an outwardly, orderly and prosperous and extremely nationalistic and provocative tyranny whose municipal freedom even has been suspended. Spain adopted a similar form of government in 1923, and Fascism like Sovietism, has its proponents in all countries. Its development will also bear careful watching.

The Teutonic System.

Contrasted with Sovietism and Fascism is the Teutonic Parliamentary System which has assimilated the municipal system of ancient Rome, and which has been exemplified in the highest degree by the English-speaking people and adopted more or less by all the free peoples of the world. The Teutonic or British system believes in representative government resting upon the will of the majority of the electorate, the rights of minorities to free speech and free propaganda within reasonable limits being equally guaranteed. Within its scope Capitalism and Socialism and all grades of mixed political faith struggle peacefully for predominance, the will of the majority always being the law of the land except in exceptional cases which can soon and easily be remedied. This free system will not propagate itself. It must be ever kept before the pupil's notice. The universal tendency of liberal parties to become reactionary when in power must be guarded against with the utmost vigilance.

Mustapha Kemal, a new Oliver Cromwell and Peter the Great combined in one person, is westernizing

Turkey with the sword and the hangman's rope, has disestablished all its churches, freed its women and is educating its children. Will other Mohammedan States do likewise? This wonderful movement cannot fail to influence millions of the world's most ancient and virile peoples. We cannot shut our eyes to its significance.

Modernist Factions.

Islam has its Fundamentalist and Modernist factions as has the Christian world. The liberal Bahaite sect has made many converts in Persia and has adherents in Christian lands. The liberal Ahmadiyah of India have already like the Christian Stephen sealed their faith with their blood among the orthodox Moslems of Afghanistan. Undeterred by this, they have opened a mission in London, which the son of the King of Irak would have opened officially had not Arabian influences vetoed such tolerant example. A division of Moslems exactly corresponding to Christian differences shows that all races tend to evolve in the same way no matter at what different rates of speed.

India and China.

In India, the Brahman Ghandi, nationalist leader, is explaining to his students the New Testament, where Christ, he claims is not followed by his professed worshippers. In China we hear of a Christian General Feng with all the virtues and with none of the faults of Oliver Cromwell. In Japan we note that the government proposes to "establish" Christianity alongside of Buddhism and Shinto and "regulate" it—in the same way, probably, as Constantine the Great regulated Christianity 1600 years ago. What is there new under the sun?

As Japan gained her independence of foreign control in 1904 and Turkey in 1922 so China has awakened and is now demanding abrogation of foreign limitation of her customs duties to five per cent and foreign control of her "Treaty Ports" and foreign residents' independence of her law courts. The Chinese Empire once reached the Caspian Sea. She has 100,000,000 frugal and industrious people, lots of coal and iron, and very little room. Can we forever hold our waste places from her emigrants or close our markets to her cheap manufactures?

If time permitted we might discuss many other national, religious or economic movements that are of general interest and importance. But we must pass on to two of paramount importance which yet remain.

Imperial Conference.

The Imperial Conference now meeting in London is of compelling interest. Shall The Empire which survived the staggering blow of 1783, draw closer the bonds between its members or shall it slowly but surely disintegrate from pressure within as did the Macedonian, Arabian, Mongol, Holy Roman, Spanish and Portuguese Empires of the past? Shall we have a real federal Empire with each of the Dominions represented in an Imperial Parliament and bearing its fair share of the expenses and having a voice in Imperial policy, or shall we throw up our mission and let our influence peter away in petty parochial politics? The answer will be given by the coming generation of electors who are now being trained in our schools.

League of Nations.

Shall the League of Nations succeed or fail?

Many Leagues have previously functioned for a time and many have died still born.

The ancient Greek Amphictyony of Delphi had a high sounding constitution, but its members failed to keep their pledges and war went on as usual until Greek supremacy died of suicide.

(Continued on Page Three.)

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