

Phonetic Revolution Began.

Missouri Press Association Takes Stand for New Spelling.

THE Missouri Press association has won its fight—phonetic spelling is to be the rule hereafter. There's just one consolation about it—the worse you spell, the nearer you will be to being right.

For instance, read the resolutions adopted, without a dissenting vote, by the Missouri Press association a few years ago, which have now borne fruit in the establishment of a simplified spelling board, endowed with \$15,000 a year by Andrew Carnegie.

Hweraz, Editor, statesmen, scholars, teachers and philanthropists throughout the English-speaking world are making earnest efforts to amend and simplify our spelling.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Missouri Press association assembled, that we heartily sympathize with the efforts which are being put forth to simplify English orthography, and

We will aid and encourage every endeavor to begin and make such gradual changes in spelling as are recommended by the American Philological association and the Spelling Reform association.

How would you like to read a 100-page novel written in this manner? After reading this and learning that the page set by the Missouri "editors" is to be adopted by the whole world, Arrogant Ward and Josh Billings and Petroleum V. Nasby don't seem so funny, do they? They spelled that way for the fun of the thing and everybody said they were funny men. Hereafter we are all to be funny, so far as spelling goes, anyway.

Simplified spelling is no new thing, but it certainly has been a long time coming. Benjamin Franklin is given the distinction of having preceded the Missouri "editors" by several years, he being one of the earliest advocates of "simplified" phonetic spelling. Then came Isaac Pitman and A. J. Ellis, and just 60 years ago published a

phonetic alphabet—beg pardon, a fonetic alphabet—of 40 characters, composed of Latin letters and their modifications.

But the world didn't fall all over itself adopting their suggestions and went along in the same old rut, using silent letters galore and doing just what it pleased in the way of spelling.

Then the National Educational association and a few other high-sounding organizations took up the matter, along about 1855, and they resolved till they were black in the face, but still very few people paid any attention, although Andrew Carnegie now claims that along about that time the people began spelling "plow" instead of "plough."

So, you see, 50 years' work has resulted in wonderful progress.

So encouraged were the "flogologists" that they held a justification meeting the next year and laid down a lot of rules that cover as many pages as the old-fashioned spelling book. The people objected. They would have to unlearn all they had spent years in learning and the "flogologists" said: "Oh, just observe these simple rules and all will be easy, but it was harder work remembering the simplifying rules than it was remembering how to spell the words in the old way. And everything was so badly mixed up. For instance, just take two or three of these 'simple' rules we were all asked to remember offhand day and night:

"From a word ending in 'ogue,' 'ue' is dropped when the dropping does not suggest a wrong pronunciation of the word. Thus 'definite' and 'indefinite' become 'definit' and 'indefinit,' but 'finite' and 'polite' are unchanged. 'Tongue' is changed to 'tung'."

"From a word ending in 'e' silent, 'e' is dropped when the dropping does not suggest a wrong pronunciation of the word. Thus 'definite' and 'indefinite' become 'definit' and 'indefinit,' but 'finite' and 'polite' are unchanged. 'Tongue' is changed to 'tung'."

"From a word ending in a double letter, one of the double letters is dropped when the dropping of the letter does not suggest a wrong pronunciation of the word, as 'egg,' 'still,' 'all,' 'hall,' 'class,' etc. But the double 'c' in 'preceptor' is retained because

'preceptres' would suggest the pronunciation 'preceptor,' 'all,' 'hall,' etc., both 'c's are retained to preserve the sound of 'a.'

"From a word containing the diphthong 'ae,' 'a' is omitted, when its omission does not suggest a mispronunciation of the word, as 'heath,' 'beth,' 'deth,' 'weith,' 'steth,' 'erth,' etc."

"In a word ending 'ed' sounded like 't' 'ed' is changed to 't' when such change does not suggest a mispronunciation of the word, as 'visit,' 'heart,' 'tear,' etc. When there is a double letter before the 'ed' one of them is dropped, as 'flapt,' 'mapt,' 'hist,' 'past,' etc. The 'ed' is retained in 'closed,' 'placed,' 'liked,' etc., in order to preserve the sound of the radical vowels."

The Missouri resolutions went all around the country, everybody talked about them for seven days, then the "flogologists" got up from under the brickbats that had been thrown at their beloved rules and started all over again. This time they went at it simpler.

First, they got the school superintendent's department of the National Educational association to announce that the world would start on a dozen words and when they had been learned correctly the teacher would give out a few more. Here are the dozen new ways we're to start with:

"Business" for business.
"Enuf" for enough.
"Fether" for feather.
"Measure" for measure.
"Pleasure" for pleasure.
"Red" for read.
"Ruf" for rough.
"Trauf" for trough.
"Thru" for through.
"Tur" for tough.
"Tung" for tongue.
"Tung" for young.

The simplified spelling board has been established with a membership consisting of Prof. Brander Matthews, Dr. Charles P. G. Scott, Dr. William Hays Ward, Henry Holt, Dr. I. K. Funk and Col. Sprague. All these men are well known and their names will carry weight.

It is proposed that they hold monthly meetings in a nicely furnished New York office and from the depths of mahogany chairs, deeply cushioned, announce words which we are to spell in an entirely different way.

The phonetic revolution has begun, the streets are to run black with printer's ink, wasted heretofore on "ogues" and "ouges" and all the other unnecessary linguistic adornments—St. Louis Post Dispatch.



WORLD'S SMALLEST BABIES.

These are said to be the smallest babies for their age in the world. One, a boy, is six months old and weighs only seventeen ounces. The other, a girl, is four months old and just tips the beam at thirteen ounces.

The infants who are residents of a Conny Island (N.Y.) incubator are the children of poor parents living in New York's East side. They have not yet been named. Scores of physicians, as well as thousands of curiosity seekers, are watching the progress of the youngsters.

DINKELSPIEL AT SARATOGA.

BY GEORGE V. HOBART.

SARATOGA, Today.—Mien Lieber Looney—I had left your mother at home to enjoy a well earned vacation while I am up here Saratoga going myself, as far as der law vill allowance.

Beauty and fashion and all of us round boys do make life vot it is in der great metropolis was her at der races. I was having der time of my life. At night we drink highballs to make us stek so in der morning we can drink Saratoga valet to make us vell.

Dis is vot is called reciprocity in dis country, because it works both ways against der middle.

Nefer, Looney, nefer before di I see in yon bunch such a crowd of sports and spongers; of planners and pluggers; of shrimps and lopers; of canary birds and pen hawks, of hotel valets, bell-boys and plain robbers; of hack drivers and second-story men.

Here at Saratoga it costs money to draw a deep breath, and der low, hoarse voice of der each rechsler follows me all der day and haunts my dreams by der night in. Society is odd in force, especially at night, ven der full dress idea lets dem out a loodie more den der law allows.

Nefer before in der history of Saratoga hat so many peoples rushed he e mit vide open pocketbooks and mit der bank accounts frothing at der mouth.

Hall bedrooms in boarding houses, vich hidderto was used only as an envelope for der broken furniture, vas now selling rapidly at \$100 a front foot.

At some of der hotel diningrooms it costs sigs dollars to peep in, eight dollars to walk in, and twenty dollars to shovel in enough French cooking to start yon attack of dyspepsia.

Many rich peoples may be seen in dese diningrooms who vas now using a fork in public for der first time.

Der result is always picturesque, but not mituid surprises for der shirt boxmans.

You half read it in der papers, Looney, vane gambling in Saratoga has ber given a knock-out blow in der sein

apoplexus but doand belief your lis, mister, Looney, doand belief it.

Any man dot comes to Saratoga mit nipe dollars spending money and says he could find no place to play fano or loozette and a gambler—he is just a plain liar.

Diek Canfield's Petting Bungalow ain't open as usual, but it is usually open.

Die difference between dis year and last year at Canfield's vas a door mit a fancy knob on it.

Last year der door vas vide open. Dis year der knob before entering.

Dis is der up-to-date idea of dot of smoke vich says, "Ven is a door not a door?"

In Saratoga der answer is, "Ven it's at Canfield's."

I walked in dare last evening and der makinfuence of der brilliant picture spread before my eyes is someding I shall nefer forget because I lost nix dollars and my sleeping car ticket.

As der poet says it, "Wice is der monster tentants of a thousand sins—unless ve shut our money on der card dot vich."

Yare, mit luff.

DINKELSPIEL.

GIVEN UP TO DIE.

R. Spence, 134 N. Virginia St. Evansville, Ind., writes: "For over five years I was troubled with kidney and bladder affliction, which caused me much pain and worry. I lost flesh and was all run down, and a year ago had to abandon work entirely. I had tried the best physicians who did me no good and I was practically given up to die. Foley's Kidney Cure was recommended and the first bottle gave me great relief, and after taking the second bottle I was entirely cured." For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co.

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