

## Literalism and Illiteracy

By ROLAND M. HARPER

Dr. Harper is a well-known Southern botanist and sociologist.

It has been observed that the authors and supporters of anti-evolution bills which have been introduced in several state legislatures in the last few years, and passed in two or three, generally hail from some of the more "backward" counties; and on the assumption that such legislators reflect the views of their constituents, the writer has made a statistical study of the population of such counties in fourteen States, ranging from Delaware to Florida, North Dakota and California. In some states two or three counties are involved, on account of anti-evolution bills having been sponsored by two or more members, or in different years. The statistics are based on the white population only, for other races are not known to have taken any part in the controversy.

It is found that the anti-evolution counties taken together rank below the combined averages of the same states, and still more below the United States average. For instance, the 1920 illiteracy figures for adult whites in Tennessee are 9 per cent. for the State as a whole, but 26.6 per cent. for Macon county, the home of the author of the law that started the famous Dayton trial. The rating holds not only in illiteracy, as might be expected, but also in a few other measures of culture afforded by census figures. For example, the "anti-evolution counties" have a larger proportion of males and a smaller proportion of adults than the average.

However, in a few states the anti-evolution stronghold ranks a little above the state average in one or more of these things, and apparently in no case does the spokesman of the "antis" come from the poorest or most illiterate county in his state. This last may indicate that the most ignorant people are indifferent to the evolution question, as the negroes and recent immigrants seem to be. But "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and the rapid extension of educational facilities to the remotest communities may make the situation more menacing in the near future than it is now.

Science News-Letter, April 16, 1927

## "Monkey War" Collapses

A survey of the legislative season just closed discloses what appears to be an utter collapse, for the time being, at least, of the great drive to banish the teaching of evolution from American schools, widely heralded after the Dayton "monkey trial" and the death of William Jennings Bryan. During the winter and spring of 1926-27 no less than twelve state legislatures had anti-evolution bills brought before them, and all twelve have adjourned without the passage of a single one of the measures.

In six of the states—California, Delaware, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina and North Dakota—the bills did not even get to the floor of the House, but were disposed of in committee, usually by decisive or even unanimous votes. In Missouri, which was declared in advance by the Fundamentalists to be a pivotal state, the bill reached the House and was there rejected by the very solid margin of 82 to 62. In West Virginia and Oklahoma anti-evolution measures were defeated by House votes of 57-36 and 46-30, respectively.

The fight was begun very early in Arkansas and carried on aggressively by the proponents of the bill, and it was expected that this state would pass over into the Tennessee-Mississippi class, so far as freedom of teaching was concerned. But it turned out otherwise, for after passing the lower house by a very close margin (three votes, according to one report; one vote, according to another) it was rejected in the Senate by an overwhelming aye-and-nay vote. A part of the clergy in Arkansas are reported to be very angry over the outcome of the contest and to have declared war on all members of the legislature who are known to have voted against the bill.

In only two states has the proposed repressive legislation survived even in attenuated form. In Alabama a bill on the Tennessee model was introduced during January and remained sleeping in committee until, in March, the legislature adjourned until June 7. What will happen then no one will undertake to prophesy. In South Carolina the bill likewise slept until the closing hours of the session, when it was reported out by the committee, without recommendation, in order, its author

(Just turn the page)



HERBERT EUGENE IVES

## Televisionary

To Dr. Ives, shown above in a picture that was sent by telephone from Chicago to New York, is chiefly due the new television process of the Bell laboratories, of whose staff he is a prominent member. For while the new process is a result of the cooperation of many minds in a great research laboratory, it was Dr. Ives who was in general charge of the work and who coordinated the various contributions, besides being personally responsible for the new photoelectric cell and the optical aspects of the whole problem.

This is not his first contribution to science, for he was also in charge of the development of the picture transmission process, by which anyone can take a picture to the telephone office in New York and have it delivered a few hours later in San Francisco. During the war he was in charge of the experimental work of the Army in airplane photography. Before that, in the decade following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania and the receipt of his doctor's degree from Johns Hopkins, he served as a research physicist for various organizations. His principal work was in photometry, and he developed the artificial daylight lamp now common in silk stores for examining colors.

Dr. Ives furnishes one of the rare examples of the son of a distinguished father attaining fame in a similar field, for Frederic E. Ives, his father, who still lives and works in Philadelphia, is world-famous as an inventor of photographic processes. The half-tone process, by which the photographic illustrations in the NEWS-LETTER are reproduced, was his invention, and so was the first successful process of color photography. Now he is working on color movies.

Science News-Letter, April 16, 1927

## Do You Know That—

A red blood cell in the body is really pale straw color.

There are now over 400 zoned cities and towns in the United States.

Black paint suitable for furniture can be made from pulverized coal.

The camel is not on friendly terms with any other kind of animal.

A thin rubber coating is smeared over some tropical fruits for preservation.

Coral building polyps are found as far north as Massachusetts on the Atlantic coast.

### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Of Science News-Letter, published weekly at Baltimore, Md., for April 1, 1927.

District of Columbia }  
City of Washington } ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the District and City aforesaid, personally appeared Watson Davis, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the Science News-Letter and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, None. Editor, Watson Davis, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. Managing Editor, Watson Davis, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. Business Manager, Watson Davis, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Science Service, Inc., 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. No stock, the corporation is non-profitmaking, scientific institution, trustees of which receive no compensation or profit.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

WATSON DAVIS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of March, 1927.

(SEAL)

CHAS. L. WADE.

(My commission expires May 3, 1928.)

## "Monkey War"

(Continued from page 241)

stated, that it might remain on the calendar until the next session.

The Florida legislature meets later in the year than do the law-making bodies of the other states; it convened early in April. It is taken for granted that some one will introduce a bill at Tallahassee, but up to the present no anti-evolution proposal has appeared. Some years ago the legislature of this state went on record with a resolution condemning evolution, but this does not have the force of law, and is steadily ignored by teachers in Florida schools and colleges.

Even the two states that have enacted anti-evolution laws can hardly be counted as completely gained by the Fundamentalists forces. In handing down its decision on the appeal of the Scopes case, the Tennessee State Supreme Court justices gave three distinct versions of their ideas of the meaning of the law, which are interpreted by competent authorities on Constitutional law to mean that one can teach about anything he pleases in Tennessee so long as he does not come out flatfooted for atheism or philosophic materialism. In Mississippi the law is in force, but has not yet been tested in the courts.

An action by the Education Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in condemning the anti-evolution legislative program, was hailed as highly significant by educators and interested persons everywhere. The resolution was introduced by the president of Duke University, and only two unidentified delegates voted against it. Prominent Southern Baptist churchmen have also gone on record as opposed to legislative restrictions on teaching.

Checked in their program of stopping the teaching of modern science by legislative action, the Fundamentalists have adopted a new program, which may become the more formidable because it is so widely diffused and because it deliberately appeals to the willingness of certain types of persons to play the spy and informer. The "Supreme Kingdom," founded by Edward Young Clarke, formerly prominent in Ku Klux Klan circles, announces as part of its plan to operate through small local organizations, endeavoring to prevent the employment of teachers who believe in evolution and to prevent the election of school officials

who will hire or back them. That this course is open was hinted even in the Tennessee State Supreme Court's decision on the Scopes case. The growth of the Supreme Kingdom appears to have been somewhat scotched by the misadventures of Dr. John Roach Straton of New York in Macon, Ga. Dr. Straton went there, it was announced, to give a course of lectures in promotion of the Supreme Kingdom's drive for membership, but he was assailed by the fighting editor of the *Macon Telegraph*, W. E. Anderson, who claimed that the whole venture was riddled with commercialism. Dr. Straton was coldly received by most of the civic organizations, and shortly canceled his speaking engagements and returned to New York. Since then whatever activities the Supreme Kingdom may have carried on have attracted little attention, at least in the open. There is no denying, however, that subterranean operations of this kind, whether nationally organized or not, have the possibility of becoming formidable, and may succeed where the forthright attempt to carry repression through by legislative means has failed.

Science News-Letter, April 16, 1927

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