

EMPTY BUILDING IN 54 SECONDS

Fire Drill at Ladd School Shows Perfect Discipline Among 807 Pupils.

ALL INSTITUTIONS SAFE

Only Exception Revealed by Investigation Is West Side High School, Where Exit to the Fire Escape Is Blocked.

As an example of what can be done in the way of emptying a large school building of children by means of a fire drill, Charles M. Kiggins, principal of the Ladd School, and the 24 teachers of his staff, marched the 807 pupils of that institution into the street in 54 seconds yesterday afternoon. While it is said that this is perhaps better than the ordinary showing in discipline, it is asserted by those in authority that excellent conditions as to drills, exits and all safety appliances obtain in all of the grammar school buildings and in the East Side High School. The only exception to the rule seems to be the West Side High School building, where investigation revealed a blackboard nailed up over two windows leading to the fire-escape on the Alder-street side.

The fire drill at the Ladd School yesterday afternoon was a remarkable demonstration of discipline. Both teachers and pupils were wholly unaware of what was coming, particularly so, because of the fact that the regular drill had occurred but a few days before. Nevertheless, within 54 seconds from the time Principal Kiggins touched the button that rings the electric gong, every person in the building had marched out and was in the street. The conduct of the children was admirable, although some of the little ones at first seemed to be somewhat frightened. Their teachers, after marching them out of the building, assured them they were out of danger and that all was well.

No Warning Is Given.

No warning is given teachers or pupils when a fire drill is to be held, and the rules on this point are said to be strictly enforced. A squad, composed of the larger boys, is in charge of the opening of doors to the exits, and at the first sound of the gong they spring to their posts. They are instantly drop their work, pupils fall into line and, without hesitation, all march out. The squads have their standing orders as to exits, and the teacher being responsible for those under her care. There is neither drum nor piano by which to march, as it is explained that either would cause a slight delay, all of which, in an emergency, might mean the loss of lives. Books and wraps are left behind, the purpose being to empty the buildings in the least possible time.

The School Board holds the principals responsible for their respective school buildings, and the principals are required to give a fire drill once in every two weeks. They are obliged to report on each drill to the board, and these reports are filed, showing that in every school building in the city drills are of common occurrence. All of the doors in all public school buildings in the city are required to be left unlocked during the study hours, and none of the doors opens inward, as was the case in the Collinwood disaster, where many children were incinerated or trampled to death.

Have Many Exits.

It is the aim of the School Board to march the children away from the fire, should there be any, and because of this, no exits in basements are used for fire drills. In most of the larger school buildings, there are exits on every side, and at the Ladd school, where the drill was held yesterday afternoon, there are five exits, two being on the West Park street side. The children marched out four abreast, but in an emergency, they could easily march six abreast.

Fire escapes are not in general use, and are not considered by the school authorities to be desirable, as the majority of the pupils are too small to use them, and that the escape from a building is slow, it is said. Fire drills, numerous exits, unlocked doors, all opening outward, are regarded as the best means for the prevention of panics.

While the public school buildings are nearly all frame structures, the School Board regards them as safe. The members of the board, as well as City Superintendent Rigler and Fire Chief Campbell, declared yesterday that all of the buildings are in good condition. The one exception, so far disclosed by investigation, is the West Side High School, with respect to the Alder street fire escape.

Superintendent Rigler Talks.

"I think everything is all right in all of our school buildings with regard to fire," said Superintendent Rigler. "I think there is no cause whatever for apprehension. All of the rules and regulations pertaining to fire, unlocked doors and exits are strictly enforced. Drills are held every fortnight, and we have a record of reports filed by the various principals. All exits are used in drills."

"I make an annual inspection of school buildings," said Chief Campbell, of the Fire Department. "The last inspection is about due, but as I feel that an inspection at this time would create unrest and fear among the pupils and parents, I will not investigate just now. I have reason to believe everything is all right. When the last inspection was made, we found things in good condition. We made some recommendations, all of which are now in force. It takes three weeks to inspect all the school buildings."

Since the Collinwood holocaust, the principals and teachers of Portland schools have been besieged by parents for information as to the condition of the local school buildings, and fire drills have been held in most of the schools.

DEMAND SAFE SCHOOLHOUSES

Prevent Repetition of North Collinwood, O., Fire Calamity.

PORTLAND, March 5.—(To the Editor.)—The North Collinwood, O., school-house horror, where a great many children have been burned to death, should arouse Portland to take all available precautions against repetition of a similar disaster here.

Out of 300 children, less than 30 escaped unhurt. Negligence alone can not account for this. Those children were confined by some action arbitrary and criminal. Some malignant malefactor seeking the destruction of 300 children could hardly hope to succeed so well.

Immediate steps should be taken in all



SCHOOL CHILDREN MARCHING OUT OF THE LADD SCHOOL, FOUR ABREAST, DURING FIRE DRILL.

schoolhouses wherever located to see that all doors open outward and are at all times unlocked, with hall doors preferably open and so secured. Every exit door should be supplied with an ax inside and out, and every room more than ten feet from the ground with a coil of rope ladder adjusted and in place.

BLACKBOARD BLOCKS EXIT

CONDITION AT WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL BAD.

Building Lacks Fireplugs, Hose and Extinguishers—Board Will Investigate Various Omissions.

Investigation of conditions existing in the Portland public school buildings, relative to safety devices for use in case of fire, yesterday led to the discovery that the West Portland High School building needs prompt attention at the hands of the authorities. It has no fire-plugs, no hose or extinguishers and the exit to a fire-escape from the assembly-room, on the third floor, is blocked by a big blackboard, which is nailed across two windows.

So far as discovered, conditions at the West Side High School building are the worst existing in the Portland schools. Principal T. T. Davis, however, declares that, in his opinion, the fire escape feature is not very serious, as he says, there are sufficient exits to make it an easy matter to clear the building. He also says there is access to the fire escape through another room, which could be used in case all other exits were cut off.

Just why the large blackboard was put up to block the exit to the fire escape, is not known. Principal Davis could not tell; neither could Superintendent Rigler. It has been that way ever since school work was done in the assembly-room, some time ago. This will undoubtedly be a matter for the consideration of the School Board, which is scheduled to meet next Monday afternoon.

After hearing from his daughter of the conditions existing at the West Side High School, H. D. Wagner, a well-known Portland citizen, yesterday made the following statement:

"As I read the headlines announcing that 200 school children had been roasted alive, as an offering to the gods of greed and ignorance on the part of the school officials of Ohio, I learned from my daughter that she was seated, with 20 other high school pupils, in a room that has 'Fire Escape' painted on the door, and that the window leading to the fire escape is boarded up by the blackboard, making this room, on the third floor, a highly efficient roaster, where we may be called on any day to offer up some of our boys and girls as burnt offerings to the eternal stupidity and indifference of the School Board and other city officials who should see to it that such things are not allowed in a school-room."

Schoolhouse Doors Locked.

PORTLAND, Or., March 5.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's comments on the recent frightful disaster near Cleveland are timely, and the practice which you suggest should be adopted, not while the School Board is considering the question of fire drills, it would be well also to investigate the matter of locking the schoolhouse doors. A reliable man, whose duties require him to visit the schools frequently, informs me that it is a common occurrence to find some of the doors locked. The Ladd, Holman and Sunnyside schools have been recent offenders in this regard. Probably this is done by the janitor without the knowledge of the teachers, but this only makes it worse. If the teachers in the Collinwood school had known that the way was barred, they might have taken the children to some other exit in safety.

J. P. NEWELL.

Read Sharkey's Sunday ad.

THREE THOUSAND ATTEND

FUNERAL OF HENRY SHAFER ATTRACTS GREAT CROWD.

Line of Marchers Following Casket to Grave Nearly Three Miles Long.

Three thousand people attended the funeral services over the body of Henry

home and yard was packed by people and hundreds stood out in the street.

The funeral was held under the auspices of the Longshoremen's Union and fully 600 men, wearing the union insignia, fell in line as a funeral escort when the long trip to the cemetery was taken up. From the family residence, at 314 Failing street, to Morrison and Seconia streets is a march of nearly three miles, but the entire route was covered by the marchers. An hour and a half was required for the march, the cortege crossing the Steel bridge and proceeding up Third to Morrison, thence east to Second, where street-cars were taken for the Rose City cemetery, where interment occurred.

The services at the home were conducted by Rev. Mr. Krafft, of the German Lutheran Church. No reference was made to the manner of Shaffer's death.

mense throng of people, nearly all Germans, waited respectfully outside until the close.

The funeral cortege was headed by De Caprio's band and covered half a dozen blocks, the marchers being arranged in column of two. The hearse and a carriage with Mrs. Shaffer and several close friends, brought up the procession.

TEAM FOR EAST SIDE

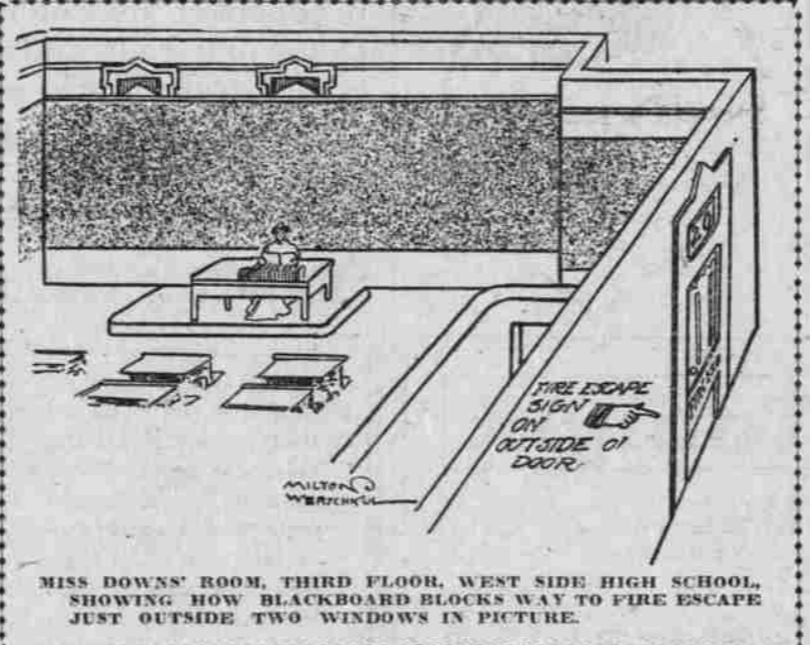
Business Men May Back Tri-City League Nine.

H. K. Smith, secretary of the Tri-City Baseball League, submitted a proposal last night to the East Side Business Men's Club that the club supply uniforms for the baseball team of the East Side, the uniforms to be suitably lettered. The proposal was received with favor, and on motion of Dan Kellaker, W. M. Jackson, H. K. Smith and H. H. Pomroy, were authorized to wait on the business men of the East Side and interested property-owners and ask contributions for the purchase of the uniforms.

O. E. Helms and George Dilworth were appointed to investigate the proposition submitted by Miss Griffith to conduct a stock company theater if a suitable building near East Morrison street can be secured. Miss Griffith said that it was the intention to establish a first-class stock theater and offer good plays. The committee is to confer with property-owners and endeavor to induce them to erect a suitable building.

In the matter of Grand avenue and East Morrison street the club decided to demand that improvement work be expedited. Secretary Jackson was instructed to write the management of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company to ascertain when the company intends to put in the permanent tracks at the intersection of Grand avenue and East Morrison street. This action was taken in order to have these streets ready for the Rose Festival automobile parade.

Secretary Jackson was instructed to acquaint the several push clubs with the 50 offer the East Side Business Men's Club is making for the best floral arch on the route of the parade, and to ask what action they will take. He will visit the clubs in company with a representative of the Rose Festival Association.



MISS DOWNS' ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL, SHOWING HOW BLACKBOARD BLOCKS WAY TO FIRE ESCAPE JUST OUTSIDE TWO WINDOWS IN PICTURE.

Shaffer, victim of Patrolman Suttler's revolver, yesterday afternoon. The Shaffer



AFTER THE DRILL AT THE LADD SCHOOL WAS OVER.

DENY EXISTENCE OF COMBINATION

Leading Furniture Dealers Testify Before Council Committee.

BEHARRELL TAKES STAND

Frankly Declares That His Faith in Honesty of Councilmen Generally Is Limited—Has No Apology to Offer for Statements.

No "trust" agreement or combination, tentative or otherwise, exists in the wholesale or retail furniture trade in Portland, according to W. H. Beharrell and William Gadsby, two of the most widely-known furniture men of the city, who so testified yesterday morning before the special investigating committee of the City Council. Mr. Beharrell is manager for the Heywood Brothers & Wakefield Company, wholesalers, and Mr. Gadsby is at the head of the retail firm of William Gadsby & Sons. While there were slight discrepancies in the statements of the two witnesses, both being examined much as if before a grand jury, with all other witnesses excluded, each made a clear-cut declaration under oath that there is no arrangement of any sort at the present time whereby prices are maintained or independent firms boycotted.

Incidentally, Mr. Beharrell told what he thought of the City Council. Without mincing matters he informed Chairman Vaughn that, judging from the published reports of the proceedings of the Council, from the last annual message of Mayor Lane and from general reputation, that body is considered open to graft charges; that the Councilmen had called each other liars and grafters, and had generally conducted themselves in a ridiculous manner at their sessions.

Proceedings Are Disgusting.

"The newspapers have been full of reports of most disgusting performances in the Council," said Mr. Beharrell, when asked to explain what he meant in a recently published letter in which he said he thought the Councilmen were infected by a disease known as "itching palm."

"The newspapers have quoted certain members of the Councilmen as calling each other liars and grafters, and if you call each other those names, how can you expect the public to think that you are not what you call each other?" he said. "Furthermore, the Mayor, in his last message, charged that Councilmen accepted free passes from the streetcar company. If you will do that, I thought you might take something else."

Mr. Beharrell acknowledged, very frankly, that he had no specific charge of "graft" to make against any Councilman, but he said that he had formed the opinion from various sources, he said, that the Councilmen were a band of grafters. He said he would not apologize for his statement in The Sunday Oregonian, but prefaced his remarks by stating that the "itching palm" paragraph "perhaps was ill-advised."

Assistant City Attorney Grant, Chairman Vaughn and Councilman Baker, Mr. Baker being present as a spectator, took part in examining Mr. Beharrell, but the latter proved himself to be an excellent witness, and not once did he become confused.

Admits One Charge.

Getting down to the furniture business, Mr. Beharrell scored the Council for ordering an investigation of what has been termed "a trust." He declared that, not since the Federal indictment, last Summer, has there been any semblance of a combine in the trade here. He admitted that he would not sell goods to the Independent Furniture Company, or to the auction-houses and so-called mail-order firms. This, he said, was because he was in duty bound to protect the interests of dealers in the city and in the interior. He said, for instance, that he would not sell to the Independent concern because it was located just across the street from the store of William Gadsby & Sons, the latter being heavy purchasers of goods from the establishment of which Mr. Beharrell is manager.

Mr. Beharrell expressed great displeasure at the action of the Council in calling an investigation for the furniture trade, and in making it public through the press. Mr. Grant thereupon explained that the

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city charter makes all committee sessions public. Mr. Gadsby followed Mr. Beharrell, and corroborated the latter in every detail, except where Mr. Beharrell said that he could not sell to the Independent Furniture Company because if he did Mr. Gadsby would resent it, being an immediate competitor and wishing goods of an exclusive line on his floors. Mr. Gadsby said he would have no objection to the sale of goods to the independent people.

DR. SILAS C. SWALLOW ILL

Prominent Prohibition Worker Has Typhoid Pneumonia.

HARRISBURG, March 5.—Rev. Dr. Silas C. Swallow, of this city, Prohibition candidate for President in 1904, is seriously ill with typhoid pneumonia.

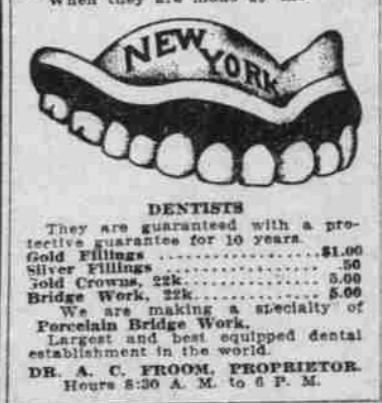
Dr. Swallow is editor of the Pennsylvania Methodist, and has been active for years in reform work. In 1897 he published an expose of politicians, for which he was tried and acquitted. Running on the Prohibition ticket, he received 115,000 votes for treasurer in 1897, and 122,000 votes for Governor in 1898. He was again a candidate for Governor in 1902, and Prohibition nominee for the Presidency in 1904.

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Metsger, jeweler, optician, 343 Wash. Read Sharkey's Sunday ad.

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