SCHOOL ATHLETICS HELD VITAL NEED

Student Activities Part of Necessary Training.

RURAL EDUCATION LAGS

California Superintendent Says Higher Standard Must Be Maintained in Country.

Athletics and student activities in the public schools are essential to the development of social intelligence, developing qualities of leadership and an ability to co-operate, in the opinion of Will Wood, superintendent of public instruction of California, who addressed the City club at its luncheon meeting yesterday at the Benson. "These two highly important phases of educational development can no longer be considered as fads and fancies," he said.

The speaker explained the emphasis placed on a training of social intelligence on the part of the students which is now in operation in California schools. He pointed out the advantage to the community life of any city of having a citizenry trained in social intelligence and characterized civic organizations as a post-graduate course of the educational system in development of this phase of character.

Social Institutions Behind.

"Juvenile delinquency is due to the fact that social institutions have not kept pace with the economic changes in the last 20 years," he continued, and urged that rural education throughout the country be placed on a higher plane.

"Many families have moved out of the rural communities because the one-room schoolhouse has been kept there," the speaker said, and pointed to the urgent necessity of immediate expansion of courses of instruction in these districts.

"The one-room schoolhouse is as essential to modern education as the ox cart was to the automobile," he continued. "In California we have become aroused to the fact that when the American rural population has moved to the educational centers of the cities immigrants from the southern European countries have immediately taken their places on these farms as tenants. We have taken steps to bring our American population back to the farms, for we realize that the destiny of our cities and our nation depends upon the future education in the rural districts."

Education State Problem.

"Education in California has been made a state problem, not a local problem," he explained in pointing out the remedial measures which had been taken to meet the situation in rural communities. "Legislative measures have been brought about which eliminate the burden from district taxation for maintenance of public schools and place it on the state treasury," he continued. This measure has provided for $60 each year per pupil for every pupil in the elementary schools and $90 a year for the pupils of the secondary schools.

Districts in California which are rich in children but poor in property under this plan are to have equal advantages with those districts in cities where property taxation for school maintenance has provided an excellent public school system. "Greater state and county bounties are being sought in the effort to relieve the burden from the poorer rural districts," he explained.

Private Schools Discussed.

"To meet the problem of private schools, which has been your problem in Oregon, we have decided to eliminate it as a problem," Mr. Wood declared. "Our public schools are going to be so good that there will be no necessity for the private school."

Vast expansion of the public schools, more especially the secondary division which includes the high schools, which in his opinion has been the most significant development in the history of the last 25 years, has been caused by a demanding pressure from business and industry, according to Mr. Wood.

"The apprenticeship system in America is almost a thing of the past," he said. "Vocational education methods in the schools have supplanted the apprentice system. America needs trained mechanics, not cheap labor, and the logical solution is to train American boys for modern industrial fields."

Cost Held Cheap.

He explained that nearly 200 courses were now being offered in the public schools and that the cost of vocational training in California had been $1,500,000 last year.

"But that is cheap when you must consider that the riches of any community are in the developed talents of its people," he said.

"No city has ever been bigger than its hinterland, and the rural dwellers of one age throughout history have been found to be the city dwellers of the next. They must be educated," he declared in conclusion. "And as civilization becomes more complex the task becomes greater."

PRIZE CAR CAUSES SUIT

Alleged Winner of Moose Coupe Demands Auto.

Action growing out of the advertised awarding of a motor coupe by the Moose lodge, No. 291, at its recent entertainment in the auditorium has been started in circuit court by the filing of a suit by J. H. Day against Harry Anderson. The action seeks to recover the coupe, said to be illegally withheld from the plaintiff. Its value was given as $450. Anderson filed a motion asking that the Moose lodge be substituted as defendant in the suit for the reason that he was merely acting as an officer and agent of the lodge.

According to E. V. Littlefield, attorney, who filed the replevin suit for Day, the latter was winner of the car. The reason the lodge officials give for not turning over the car to Day, according to the attorney, is that the ticket Day had was one in a package that was stolen and never accounted for.

LANE ROAD JOBS LET

Work to Begin at Once on Willamette and Florence Highways.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Contracts for the construction of the Goshen-Lowell section of the Willamette highway, the Cheshire-Goldson section of the Florence highway and the Lost creek bridge on the Willamette highway were signed in Eugene today and representatives of the different contractors said work would be started immediately.

The Warren Construction company has the contract to build the Goshen-Lowell section for $82,571.

A. C. Mathews of Eugene received the contract to build the Cheshire-Goldson road for $40,920 and E. D. Olds will build the Lost creek bridge located between Trent and Dexter for $9033.50.

For the county court the contracts were signed only by County Judge Barnard and County Commissioner Harlow, Commissioner Sharp refusing to sign as he expressed belief that the bids are all excessive.

ORPHEUM SHOW SNAPPY

MIDNIGHT MATINEE WILL USHER IN NEW YEAR.

Roscoe Ails, Dancing, Singing Comedian and Other Artists Head Programme.

All the snap and the comedy that a new year show should have are promised in the interesting programme of Orpheum vaudeville which opens its brief engagement at the Heilig theater on Sunday afternoon. This new show brings in the new year with a popular midnight matinee, starting at 11 o'clock Sunday night and continuing until a splendid series of amusing vaudeville numbers have been presented. The new programme is headed by Roscoe Ails, the famous dancing, singing comedian, assisted by Kate Pullman, his syncopated orchestra and Charles Calvert, in all the last word in that style of entertainment. These artists will have a big place on the New Year's eve programme, too. The Ails act is programmed as "A Conglomeration of Melody and Jazz," and is said to warrant fully that classification.

Added attractions on the new bill are Wilfred Clarke, assisted by Grace Menken and company, presenting "What Now," and Bert Fitzgibbon, the original Daffy Dil, who is introducing his brother Lew this year. Other big-time attractions, all of which will take part on the midnight matinee Sunday night, are Edward Miller, singing semi-classical numbers of general interest; the El Rey sisters, in a novel dance revue; Jack Haney, eccentric pantomine juggler and the Kellors, novelty entertainers.

YOUTH IS HELD SUICIDE

MURDER THEORY NOW ABANDONED BY AUTHORITIES.

Coroner and Detectives Satisfied That Chauncey Morris Fired Fatal Shot Himself.

Convinced that the youth killed himself, Deputy Coroner Leo Goetsch announced yesterday morning that an inquest will not be held to determine the cause of death of Chauncey Morris, 18-year-old Klamath Falls youth, whose body was found Thursday night in a cabin back of the old county poor farm on the Canyon road.

The fact that the bullet wound in the right temple was marked by powder burns and that Morris had talked to his companion, John Y. Tol, 17-year-old Lincoln high school student, of suicide earlier in the afternoon, is considered sufficient evidence that the fatal wound was self-inflicted, Deputy Coroner Goetsch said.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Bertha Olson of Klamath Falls, left for Portland yesterday to take charge of the body. Funeral services will probably be held from the home of Mrs. Olson's mother, Mrs. Jack Hobson, 1115 Division street.

H. A. Thatcher, lieutenant of detectives, believes that windows of the cabin had been broken by shots fired by hunters and that the five empty cartridge shells found on the cabin floor had been ejected from the revolver by Morris after shooting at targets in the afternoon.

Toll Bridge Proposed.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—A toll bridge across the Wishkah river at Wishkah street, to be operated by the city, is suggested by the chamber of commerce executive session. The chamber's action was taken following a protracted discussion of the probability that the city could secure state aid for a free bridge.

$170,000 EXPENSES CUT BY ROADS BODY

Force Is Reduced by Highway Commission.

BIENNIAL REPORT MADE

Next Meeting Set for January 8, When Matters Left Over Will Be Decided.

Reduction of force and salary cuts aggregating $170,000 a year, was made by the state highway commission yesterday at an adjourned meeting. The retrenchment was the annual revision of salaries and was not influenced by the impending change in the office of governor.

As the road work is tightening up, it was found practicable to reduce the engineering force. Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, recommended eliminating two of the three assistant engineers; elimination of one entire division and elimination of 17 resident engineers, their crews and cost of machines. There is $5,500,000 of unfinished work, and this has been redistributed among the engineering force by regrouping. Rather than cut pay, in many instances it was decided to reduce the force and double the work. The changes take effect January 1.

Oregon Salaries on Average.

Comparison of salaries paid by other states in a table compiled by the federal government, shows that Oregon's highway salaries are the average.

Engineering cost for the last two years has been 4.9 per cent, and no charge has been made for the surveying and field engineering performed for counties under the market road law. The distribution of expenditures for the past two years in highway work, in addition to the engineering mentioned, was: Grading, 30.28 per cent; paving, 24.26 per cent; rock and gravel surfacing, 16.17 per cent; bridges, 8.08 per cent; interest and maturities on bonds, 8.02 per cent; maintenance and betterment work, 4.04 per cent; co-operation on forest road work, 2.34 per cent; administration and general supervision, 1.31 per cent.

Biennial Report Completed.

According to the biennial report, which the commission completed yesterday, the work accomplished in the last two years totals 276.3 miles of paving, of which 200.7 miles are bituminous and 75.6 miles are concrete; 831 miles of rock or gravel surfacing and 785.7 miles of grading. The forest road construction in the same period is 77.2 miles of surfacing and 71.1 miles of grading.

The total amount of funds expended in the biennium, excluding market roads, is $30,905,255.49, of which state funds total $22,799,650.57; county, $4,800,237.55; railroad, $79,719.65, and government, for post roads, $3,225,651.72. Included in the state funds there is $724,970.53 of state funds for forest roads, to which should be added $67,142.21 of county co-operation and government forest funds of $836,765.18, making a total forest road expenditure of $1,628,877.92.

Next Meeting January 5.

The new assessed valuation for 1923 reduces the constitutional 4 per cent bonded debt limit for highway purposes to $40,379,966.64, which, after deducting present bond sales, leaves $4,179,966.64 as the total amount of bonds which may be sold.

Owing to the absence of Chairman Booth through illness, Commissioners Yeon and Barratt postponed a number of decisions until there can be a meeting of the full board, January 5. At that time the commission will have several recommendations to make to the legislature for the benefit of the general road programme.

WEEKS WOULD AID CITY

McNary Resolution in Behalf of Astoria Favored.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—That Secretary of War Weeks has reported favorably on the McNary resolution appropriating $500,000 to dredge Astoria harbor and fill the streets was announced in a telegram received from Senator McNary today. The message said Secretary Weeks concluded his report as follows:

"It is my view that assistance may wisely be given the stricken city of Astoria and I commend the resolution to your favorable consideration."