

front improvements, the commendable Laurgaard plan, docks, harbor and river improvements are very important matters of public consideration, there are no questions of so far reaching importance to this community, now or any time, as the question of adequate, properly constructed public schools. If the schools are not what they ought to be it is because public opinion is not at work on the schools; their construction, affording safety to life and health of the children, the subjects taught and the teachers employed.

The first concern of the man who purchases a run-about auto or what we term a flivver, is a garage so constructed that his auto is safe and secure, which calls for a considerable investment, or he rents a garage or a storage space costing from five to ten dollars a month. The safety of his machine, representing a small investment, makes this justifiable. Yet, many of these flivver owners take very little interest in what kind of a building their children attend classes, what they study and what kind of teachers they have.

Public sentiment must be aroused in the interest of properly constructed public schools, that competent teachers are employed and that the children of our community receive the best of training possible, equipping them for the kind of citizenship upon which rests the superstructure of America's future.

The Portland public school board has called for a bond issue of seven and one-half million dollars more to provide the construction of proper school houses for Portland's present and immediate future needs. The only matter seemingly at issue is a delay of time to have others than the school board check up on the board and its recommendations. A minority of the board is in favor at this procedure, though they agree that measures must be taken without delay to provide more and better school building facilities for the children of this city.

Two school directors are to be elected on June 16th, at the same time the people will be called upon to vote for or against the bond issue proposed as the essential thing to be done before plans can be definitely made to eliminate the portable schools that rise here and there and everywhere like drygoods boxes dotting the city school grounds.

The two members of the board whose terms have expired are Mr. F. W. Woodward, chairman, and Mr. Frank L. Shull. The former is for the bond issue with the majority of the board, the latter is against the issue, until the outside opposition can have opportunity to survey the situation. This will mean delaying the matter for another year, at least.

We believe that the position both these men occupy justifies the recommendation of their re-election regardless of the outcome of the bond issue.

There is a happy combination represented in the two men; those who are anxious that advanced steps be taken for school improvements have a staunch representative in Mr. Woodward, while those who are conservative and dubious as to the proposed improvements, could do no better than to have Mr. Shull continue on the board another term.

That both these men are sincere and aim to give

the community the best service they are able to render in constructive school administration, of that there is no question. In this way those who are in favor of the plans of Mr. Woodward's and the majority of the board should be able to reconcile themselves with the conservative elements and vote also for Mr. Shull, likewise those who are conservative and favor Mr. Shull, should be able to view it as consistent to vote for Mr. Woodward. Those who are in the race seeking to displace Messrs. Woodward and Shull may be very fine citizens, but we believe that the interests of the community will at the present time be served best by voting these two citizens back on the job to carry on the program of the school improvements already intrusted to them and the plans for the immediate future whatever the outcome of the bonding issue may be.

THE URGE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP EMPHASIZED THROUGH THE ADVERTISERS

THAT THE advertisers in The Western American have literally caught the spirit of the citizenship appeal in its columns may be seen by reading the advertisements in this issue.

These advertisers are contributing valuable suggestions to the sum total of good citizenship in the space they have bought to advertise their business interests.

That is a most commendable spirit, suggesting that the businessmen of our community, some of them at least, think in terms other than that of dollars and cents. These Americans, native and foreign born, who advertise their business in this magazine have by their patronage evinced that they are mindful of the cause this publication represents and have had that in mind as much as the commercial value they might derive from such advertising. These citizens firmly believe that our progress as a nation depends more upon the inculcation of ideals and sound principles in our citizenship than upon the accumulation of wealth. Likewise they firmly believe in the creed of tolerance enunciated in the columns of this magazine. They believe in unabridged equality rights among the citizens of America, irrespective of nationality, race, religion and place of birth, and are unalterably opposed to all lines of differentiations that are obstructing the common fellowship between the citizens of this land.

These appeals to the foreign born to save and invest here at home in bonafide good securities and bonds at high guaranteed interest rates, and the urge of the banks to let their savings accumulate, which eventually will represent a substantial foundation backing up earnest aspiration to citizenship, are certainly comparing favorably to the appeal in the advertising carried on one hand in the foreign language publications urging the foreign born to exchange their savings in American dollars into unstable foreign exchange, and on the other hand the subtle appeal to class prejudice conveyed through advertisements in the publications that are declaring a boycott on businessmen and firms because of their religion, race and nationality.

Anyone wanting to ascertain the "leanings" of our