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**Among the Schools of Wasco.**

Editor of the Chronicle:

The following notes were gleaned concerning the schools during the fall visit. This was begun September 17th and, with many interruptions, closed December 18th:

That portion of the county on this side the DesChutes river and east of the Canyon City road and all that beyond the Deschutes was reserved for the spring trip. All the rest of the county was traveled over and all schools visited that were in session. An exception from this is made of the schools in The Dalles, the town of Hopd River and the Cascade Locks, which will be visited during the winter.

The statement is again reiterated here that in order for the superintendent and the schools to work jointly and in harmony with each other, the superintendent must be informed, either by the clerk or the teacher, or both, of the beginning of every school session. The necessity of this is apparent to any one who will stop and think a moment. To time his visit so as to reach the greatest number of schools, he must know at such time what schools are in session. Again, how can the superintendent successfully assist in supplying the schools with teachers, as he is expected to do, if he is left in the dark as to the result of his efforts? Often, long after a teacher has left the office to supply a certain place, it is accidentally learned that he has been engaged at another, and so the muddle goes on. Much more might be said in this line, but "A word to the wise is sufficient."

Mention is here made of every district visited and I have endeavored to make note of all improvements made since my last visit. Commendation and criticism have alike been offered with a view to the welfare of the school. The world is marching on, the school world too, and the progressive schools are marching with it. Those who make no improvement will surely be left. If people could only see that the advancement of the school underlies all other advancements—that of the family, the neighborhood, the state and the nation; even this money-loving age might understand that it pays financially to invest in a good school.

District No. 2 of Hood River Valley, has R. S. Andrews employed. He is one of the first grade teachers of the county and in a quiet way is doing good work there. He is always buying new books and studying new methods. The directors and patrons are to be commended for their zeal in furnishing the house with apparatus and furniture. They have lately put in new patent single seats, the only country district in the county that has them.

District No. 4 has C. E. Gilbert for teacher, who has taught here, I believe, two years and a half. This is the largest country school in the county, 54 pupils being enrolled, and those who support it deserve the highest praise. They have made the experiment which some other districts ought to imitate of having a first class school at home, instead of moving to town to send to school. The house is supplied, it seemed to me, with everything a teacher could ask for. They have regularly voted ten mill tax and pay the teacher \$75 per month. The half day spent there was a happy one indeed. Every recitation seemed a delight to both teacher and pupils. The progress of the latter certainly more than justifies the money spent.

H. L. Howe is teaching in No. 5. Mr. Howe is an old teacher, who having tried business awhile has again returned to the profession. This is his second year here. A new porch has lately been added to the house. They have maps, globe and dictionary. The house needs painting, and reading charts and new seats are needed. The district being large, with a reasonable tax it might be one of the first schools in the county.

The school in No. 6 is small, only 12 pupils being present the day of visit. Mrs. Belle Graham is teaching. This is her second year, and she is well liked. Here we find one of the few log school-houses in the county. They have a small globe, dictionary and a very fine physiological chart.

Miss Ella Cooper was teaching her second term in No. 7 and gave general satisfaction. I noticed a small globe, dictionary and one wall map. The house needs finishing.

No. 8 has a very nice house and very well furnished. Some of the pupils here are well advanced. Miss Josie Spink seemed to be doing good work for a young teacher.

No. 9 has a small house but very well finished and furnished for a country school. The school is small, only seven scholars being present. Miss Florence Cram has been out of teaching for some time, but on reentering the profession her heart seems to be thoroughly in the work.

The house and surrounding in No. 21 Union School—seems hardly in keeping with the community. They need a new stove, the house needs brightening up, and the grounds improved. Mrs. Esther Menefee, the teacher, seems to have the faculty of getting the good will of all the pupils.

In No. 24 they have a very comfortable house, and very well furnished. I found Miss Kittie Sullivan lately from the Michigan normal school, is doing good work here.

In No. 25 Miss Ettie Rowe has been teaching her first school this summer

and is doing very well for a beginner. They have a neat little house but need water for the school.

In No. 28 I found the poorest house in my travels. I have since learned they have repaired it and made it comfortable. The school is quite small only six pupils being present. Miss Lily M. Loy has a good method in the statements of a problem on the blackboard.

In the Dufur district, No. 29, they have placed new seats up stairs, also a partition, making another recitation room. H. M. Pitman is engaged as an assistant this year. He is known heretofore as a good teacher wherever he has taught. Under the excellent management of Mr. Frazier the school has turned out some good teachers for the county. The grounds need improving and, by rights, they will need a new house soon.

No. 30, in Long Hollow, has nice new seats. Miss Kate Cronin has an excellent plan for keeping all the little ones busy.

No. 33 has built a new house and furnished it with new seats. The house, though not finished, is a credit to the district. Miss Lena Hadley was teaching her first school successfully.

No. 35 has a new yard fence which adds greatly to the beauty and comfort of the school grounds. They need new blackboards, Miss Margaret Daly was employed for the second year, showing they appreciated her work.

Miss Maggie Merrill was teaching with success for the second year in No. 37.

In No. 39 the house needs finishing and new seats and apparatus are needed. The house and furnishings are not in keeping with the neighborhood. The teacher, Miss Mary Hawthorne had a nice little recitation in primary geography.

No. 41, near Wamic has a very good house and good seats with some apparatus. The house needs painting and also new seats. They have a good school under the leadership of J. F. Nowlin, who is a wide-awake teacher. He has a new method in numbering classes that worked well.

No. 43 has a large, warm house, but it needs painting and new seats are needed badly. O. B. Cannelly is teaching his second term and his work is appreciated.

It is suggested here that each district should have a name as well as a number. Some of them have but many of them have not. As it is necessary, if much good be effected by the visit, to meet school officers as well as teachers, the statement is here made that if they will only co-operate in this, the visit will be timed and the date sent ahead for the next trip, so that there may be a chance for school officers and superintendent to meet in each district.

Attention is here called to the fact that a plan is in consideration for grading the schools of the county, notice of which is soon to be given. It is to be hoped that parents, teachers and all friends of education will thoroughly discuss the matter, that a proper solution of the difficult problem may be found.

TROY SHEELLEY,  
School Supt.

Chile is quieting down. The Chilean government has received word that Governor Penoyer of Oregon has appointed a jigidier brindle, and the erstwhile valorous Chileans are paralyzed with fear. Our new brigadier general, the only one in the state, lives away off in the southeastern part of the state, where Oregon, California and Nevada come together, 400 miles from anywhere, but tyranny trembles just the same.—Astorian.

It is significant that the democratic press of Oregon is giving warmer support to the candidacy of Joseph Simon than that boss is getting from the republican journals. They are probably following the lead of Governor Penoyer who has recommended the appointment. It has long been suspected that Mr. Penoyer owes much of his political success to the local Warwick who now aspires to a federal judgeship.—Spokane Review.

The United States is the only nation of the world which is liquidating the national debt, and the only one which has more money in the treasury than the government needs for current expenses. Since 1874 the public debts of Europe have increased by the enormous sum of \$10,000,000,000. The debt of France alone since the close of the Franco-German war has increased by about \$3,000,000,000, while Russia has added to her indebtedness during the same period an equal sum and is now borrowing more.

**Sale of the Morning Mine.**

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 22.—Messrs. Peter Porter and Warren Hussey arrived in Spokane this morning from the east, where the sale of the Morning mine at Mullan, was consummated. Although the amount received has not been given out, rumor fixes the sum at \$450,000.

Excursion trains arrived in this city today from Big Bend, Colville and Cour d'Alene. Hundreds of persons took advantage of the low rates to visit Spokane.

**Put off for a Year.**

PARIS, Dec. 22.—After considerable debate in the chamber of deputies, the government bill to prolong for a year the treaties existing between France and other countries was adopted.

**On Their Way to Chile.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The navy department is informed that the United States steamers Philadelphia and Concord arrived at Port au Prince today.

**The Weekly Chronicle.**

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**FARMERS AND POLITICS.**

Our esteemed correspondent "Observer" voices the sentiment of the CHRONICLE exactly when he insists that methods of reform in the politics of the country, will be best worked out, under existing circumstances within, the lines of the old parties and that if the farmers desire better and purer politics they must pay particular attention to the primaries and see that the men sent to the county conventions are not such as can be cajoled or bought by ring politicians whose sole object is their own aggrandizement. For years the farmers have been complaining because so little attention was being paid by our legislature to their wants, whereas the cause for this neglect lay largely at their own doors. They have had next to nothing to say about the nominations for office. The politicians "fixed" the primaries before hand and men were sent to the conventions to do their bidding. Those whom the politicians could not use must be left at home. Thus the candidates of the bosses were nominated and the farmers of course helped to elect them, and then kept up a growl till the time came for holding the next primaries when the same thing was repeated. And the same thing will happen between this and next June unless recent political agitation shall have taught the farmers that if they want clean politics, honest and efficient state and county officers and legislation adapted to meet their best interests they must guard the primaries as a sacred trust.

**BALLOT REFORM.**

Very few will agree with the critique that appeared in the Oregonian a few days ago on the new system of voting adopted by the last legislature. The Spokane Review very properly says: "The Oregonian is finding fault with the new plan before it has been put to a test in Oregon. It thinks that—'It is a troublesome system, the machinery is cumbersome, the cost of holding elections will be much increased, the polls will be obstructed, voting will be delayed, busy men will not find time to wait, and the whole system will be a nuisance.' \* \* \* The Australian ballot law is merely a scheme of idealists and visionaries, and it may safely be predicted that after its first general trial in Oregon there will be a general demand for its repeal."

In Washington, where the new law has been given a fair trial, the people think differently. Of course, more or less inconvenience always attends the changing of the old for the new, but this soon disappears. It is then seen that voting is not delayed or obstructed, that busy men are not annoyed, and that better still there is a close approach to the ideal election, of an honest ballot and a fair count. At the last state election in Spokane, we are assured by the party managers of both parties, not a 5 cent piece was expended for the purchase of votes. Here nobody thinks of demanding a return to the old conditions. At most a few changes might be suggested in the way of simplifying the election machinery, but these need not impair the usefulness of the method.

Blest as the people of the United States are with an overflowing abundance of the good things of this life it is hard to conceive that twenty millions of fellow mortals are slowly starving to death in Russia, and harder still to conceive of such terrible illustrations of man's inhumanity to man as the dispatches furnish us when speaking of this famine-stricken land. Three men were convicted of robbery. They were condemned to suffer punishment by the knout. The poor wretches, who had probably stolen only to keep themselves from starving, died under the lash. A man detected stealing a few turnips was sentenced to penal servitude for life. The rich merchants of St. Petersburg refuse to give anything for their suffering countrymen. Collection boxes placed about the corn exchange were found filled with bits of tin and paper. In numerous instances where dealers received exorbitant prices for grain, bags were sent to the provinces filled with grass, sand and bran. Many town officials refuse to enroll starving peasants on the relief list unless they first receive a bribe. Corruption is wide spread. Sickness and death are visible on every hand.

A late dispatch informs us that among the papers presented one day this week to the senate and referred, were the resolutions of the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States adopted at St. Paul urging the completion, at the earliest moment practicable, of a "navy sufficient in ships and armaments to command and enforce the respect due the flag of the nation the world over." While war under any circumstances is to be deprecated as a dread calamity, to be amply prepared for it is an important factor

in preserving peace. Who doubts that the Chilians would not soon cease their bluster if the United States navy were such as to command a wholesome respect for its power? It is hard to conceive of circumstances under which the Chilians would have offered such wanton insults to British subjects as they have offered to American citizens. The smallest kind of a cur may tease a muzzled mastiff whose simple presence, unmuzzled, would itself drive the cur in silence to its kennel. The country needs a navy worthy of it, if for no other purpose, to preserve the peace.

The report of the United States' statistician J. R. Dodge, dated December 10, estimates that the corn crop for the present year exceeds 2,000,000,000 bushels and "closely approaches the largest crop ever grown in this or any other country." The average price is 42.2 cents against 50.6 a year ago. On the basis of December prices the present corn crop is worth to farmers nearly \$100,000,000 more than that of last year. The wheat crop is estimated as having been 50 per cent. larger than that of last year. The average price is placed at 85.3 cents per bushel. This year's crop in the aggregate is worth to growers in the neighborhood of \$175,000,000 more than that of last year.

It can hardly be doubted that there is trouble in the camp of the majority in the house of representatives. The election of Crisp to the speakership, accepted at first as a shrewd stroke of conservative policy may prove in the long run to have been a mistake. The followers of Mills are unwilling to accept defeat with good grace and a split seems imminent that may work considerable mischief to the country as well as the party to which it belongs. If after all the cry that has been made against the McKinley bill the democratic majority cannot agree among themselves to at least attempt to give the people something better, the people may survive the affliction but the party will suffer.

In view of the fact that this country has yet several millions of vacant lands suitable for agricultural purposes the Oregonian suggests that the followers of Henry George, who hold that the land belongs to the people because of the simple fact that they were born upon it, should go to work and possess themselves of a few acres before it has all become occupied. The suggestion is a good one but it won't be adopted. The followers of Henry George don't want that kind of land. They are after nice, improved farms or handsome corner lots, that other men's labor and energy have made valuable. They have no use for lands that require years of patient toil to make valuable.

The deposits on the New York banks last Saturday footed up the enormous total of \$446,578,000, the largest that the banks ever had at any one time since the organization of the clearing house. This plethora of money, in the opinion of many conservative bank officers and brokers, is taken to indicate a big boom in the near future, while in the opinion of some the boom has already commenced.

Let no one say that muddy streets have not their uses. A fire occurred in a two story building in Seattle the other day and a man named Maxwell jumped from a second story window into the muddy street and came off without a scratch. Then a Mrs. O'Brien threw her baby out after him and it was saved. Then Mrs. O'Brien herself jumped into the mud unharmed. Thus a muddy street saved three precious lives.

The Dunn family now look with sharp eyes upon a straw cutter over in Martin & Sanders' ware-room. Taylor went in and tested the merits of the machine, coming out with the loss of the first joint of the index finger of the left hand by sticking the finger between two cog-wheels of the machine. A day or two afterwards Mr. Dunn was showing a friend how Taylor had suffered his loss. He set the machine in motion and when he got it to going good let 'er go, and the weight of the balance wheel carried it for some time at a good rate of speed. "This is the way he done it" said Mr. Dunn, as he laid the index finger of his left hand between the cogs that were meshing together, when whack went the first joint of the finger all the same as Taylor. "Well, I don't want any of your gold-smashed machines" said he, and then went and hunted up a doctor and had his wound dressed. Both are painful, though not serious injuries.—Pole County Observer.

The people here think that the leaders of both of the old parties committed the most damnable outrage on the people in recommending Joe Simon as one of the district United States judges that could have been done. It looks like the bosses of both parties have formed a co-partnership and are going to have their own way and for their own political advancement. Let the people of Sherman county beware or the political bosses of this county will fix up just such a trade and persons will be nominated for the next legislature who will do for us what our members did at the last legislature.—Wasco News.

Alaska is going to have an exhibit of her own at the world's fair which, it is said, will be a very complete and interesting collection of the arts and industries of the natives, as well as the fishing and mineral products of that far-off land.