

DOUGLAS COUNTY AND CITY SCHOOLS STAND AMONG HIGHEST IN THE STATE

Records Show That High Standards of Efficiency Are Maintained in City and Rural Schools—Consolidation of Rural Schools Makes Big Change in Educational Opportunities.

The schools of Roseburg and Douglas county stand among the highest in the state, from the standpoint of efficiency, and the residents of the county may rightfully be proud of the showing that is being made. In Douglas county the schools rank higher than in almost any other county in the state; practically all meet the full standard requirements, are equipped with the best of paraphernalia to carry on the work of instruction, and are conducted by teachers who measure up to the highest degree of efficiency.

Under County School Superintendent O. C. Brown, the advancement has been sure and steady. Mr. Brown has taken a personal interest in each teacher employed and has secured the closest kind of cooperation, not only of teachers but of school boards and school officials as well. The standard requirements have been kept constantly before the teachers and directors until nearly every rural school in the county measures up to the high mark set for standard schools. A standard school is one in which proper lighting and ventilation are observed, all necessary equipment furnished, and features observed which makes the school efficient in every particular. These requirements are put out by the state department of education, and when a school fulfills each rule a certificate is issued.

Another move which has been encouraged by the county superintendent's office is that of consolidation. A large number of rural schools have been consolidated, transportation being furnished pupils by the various districts. This has been made possible by the improved road and highway conditions. Whenever road improvements have been made schools in the vicinity of the improved thoroughfare have in many cases consolidated. Children who formerly were forced to tramp a mile or two through rain and mud to reach a small school house where there were only a few pupils under a poorly paid teacher, are now conveyed from their homes in autos or busses to schools where there are many children from nearby districts, where the best of equipment can be provided, and several well qualified teachers are engaged in giving instruction in classes and departmental methods.

As a result of this system a decided improvement has been noticed. More children are completing the 8th grade in rural schools. In fact, the attendance is much better than under the old system, and the rainy, stormy weather does not interfere with school activities. The health conditions are also improved, as the children are dry and warm when they reach school instead of being wet, draggled and cold upon their arrival.

Several of the consolidated schools

have especially fine buildings, comparing very favorably to the best of city schools. As the taxes of the various districts are combined, and at the same time the cost per pupil of maintaining the schools reduced, it is plain to be seen that there are many great advantages.

The city of Roseburg has four very fine school buildings, but is in need of another, which must be built, within a short time, if the efficiency of the city schools is to be maintained. M. S. Hamm is superintendent of the Roseburg schools.

The high school building is a very beautiful and well furnished structure, providing every convenience and facility for the instruction of the pupils. It is surrounded by a beautiful lawn, and the girls of the school are having constructed several fine tennis courts. The building has a yard occupying almost an entire block and is well situated in the center of the city.

The Belmont school is located in North Roseburg, and is also a very pretty building. A large playground is provided for the students and there is a big yard in which their play may be conducted. Plans are being considered for beautifying the grounds around the building.

The Rose school in the southern part of the city, is the oldest school building, and was formerly used for both high school and grade school purposes, but is now used for grade school work alone. It also has a large yard, with playshed, and is well equipped throughout.

The Fullerton school in West Roseburg is the smallest school in the city, but is provided with everything necessary for an efficient city school. A playshed and playground apparatus are maintained there as well as at the other schools.

In spite of the fact that Roseburg has these four fine buildings, there is a badly congested condition which is making necessary the consideration of plans for a new structure. The building, which undoubtedly will be built within a very short time, will doubtless be used as a Junior high school, and will give rooms for the 7th and 8th grades of the grade school, and the 9th grade or freshman class of the high school. This will relieve the congestion in both departments, and will provide for the city's needs for several years to come.

A table showing the growth of the city schools since 1912, in both attendance and census, is given below. In this table, the attendance for the

1923-24 season is estimated at 1,400 the estimate placed by school officials.

School	Attendance	Year	School	Census
1.163	1912		1.579	
1.152	1913		1.628	
1.180	1914		1.540	
1.130	1915		1.631	
1.164	1916		1.502	
4.066	1917		1.402	
1.080	1918		1.281	
1.274	1919		1.386	
1.190	1920		1.409	
1.268	1921		1.572	
1.361	1922		1.645	
1.400	1923		1.789	

All of the city schools and nearly all of the rural schools, have the support and aid of live-wire Parent-Teacher associations. These associations have been of great help to the schools and much of the improvement which has been made is directly due to the efforts of these workers.

Douglas county each year has a track and field meet and declamation contest in which all schools participate. The county is divided into districts, and a meet is held early in the season in each district and the winning team picked to represent the unit. These district teams then meet in Roseburg in an annual spring meet which is attracting much attention.

Another activity in the county schools, which has attracted much attention, is the zone meeting plan. The county is divided into zones and a meeting is held twice each year in each zone. The school teachers and officers get together at these meetings and join in a conference and discussion of mutual problems. Various matters relative to school affairs are discussed, plans outlined for future work, and joint programs prepared. These meetings are taking the place of the county institute, and have proven so successful that the plan is being taken up in other parts of the state.

In various ways the Douglas county schools have been developed until they are among the best in the state and high commendation has been given to the county and city officers for their splendid work.

CITY TO VOTE ON LIBRARY BONDS

Agitation for a public library in Roseburg has reached a point where it appears that success is about to meet the efforts of those who have labored so hard for this great improvement. Efforts to establish a city library have continued over a long period of time, and the culmination will be reached in the near future in the form of a bond election, it is expected.

The residents of Roseburg are to be asked to vote bonds in the sum of \$18,000 to provide for a suitable library building, and from the support being given the project, there is little question but that the proposition will meet with much favor.

The Woman's Club of the city is strongly behind the effort for a library building, and is putting forth an urgent appeal to the residents of the city to support the movement. The ladies have donated a lot upon which the building is to be erected, and have worked unceasingly to provide funds. They are now petitioning the city council to hold a special election to consider the bonds and have agreed that they will serve as election officers without pay so that there will be practically no cost to the taxpayers of the city in taking the vote.

DOUGLAS HOTEL TO BUILD ANNEX

Owners Expect in Near Future to Construct Additional Hotel Space.

HAVE 70 ROOMS NOW

New Dining Room and Other Improvements Being Made at Popular Hotel Owned By Local Company.

The Douglas Hotel, located on Jackson and Douglas streets, is one of the popular hotels of Roseburg, which is enjoying a fine business. Converted from an old and dilapidated hotel, into a fine, modern, and well equipped building, the Douglas has reached a place where its owners are preparing for a much larger structure to take care of the business which has become altogether too big for the limited space available.

Within a short time the owners of the hotel expect to erect a fine new addition, which will take care of the many who are now being turned away because of lack of rooms. Other improvements are also being made to make the hotel one of the most convenient and modern in this part of the state.

The Douglas Hotel occupies the building which for many years was known as the McClellan House, Roseburg's principal stopping place. After the McClellan House was abandoned the building was left empty for some time, but a few years ago was purchased by a company formed of Roseburg business men, who saw the possibilities lying in the structure. The building was improved and such few repairs as were needed were made, modern plumbing fixtures were installed, and a very complete and up-to-date hotel provided.

There are now 70 large rooms, all except two being outside rooms, all steam heated and piped with hot and cold water. A large number of these rooms have private bath and all are light and well ventilated. All of the furniture is new and comfortable and of the best quality.

Under the efficient management of Percy Webb, the hotel has become a very popular place and during the past months has been unable to accommodate all who have sought rooms, being forced to turn many away because of lack of space.

Recently there have been a number of improvements. The lobby has been re-fitted and painted, a new floor material put in, and lighting fixtures installed. At the present time a dining room is being provided for, and will open in a few days under the direction of Fred Helitz, formerly proprietor of the Y Not Eat restaurant. The dining room has been redecorated, new flooring material has been laid over a layer of deadening felt, new fixtures have been purchased, a gas range, and automatic coffee machine placed, and new lights and drapes provided, making a very pleasant room. A lunch counter and dining room are both to be operated and

indications point to a very satisfactory trade.

It is the plan of the owners of the building to erect an annex at a very near date. It is still undecided whether the new unit will be of a forty-room size or larger, so that no definite plans have yet been secured. The new building will front on Jackson street, continuing north from the present brick structure. It will be three stories in height, and the lower floor will be used for business purposes, and the upper three will be devoted exclusively for hotel uses. This addition will be of reinforced concrete construction, entirely fireproof and modern in every particular. Furnished and all it will cost around \$75,000, it is estimated.

STATE PROVIDES HOME FOR ITS WAR VETERANS

(By G. W. Riddle.)

The Oregon State Soldiers' Home, located one mile west of Roseburg, was created by an act of the legislature enacted in 1893, to provide a home for honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who served in any of the wars in which the United States engaged, or who served in the Indian wars of Oregon, Washington or Idaho, the war of the rebellion, the Spanish war and the Philippine war, provided they are now or may become citizens of the State of Oregon; the war with Germany, provided they were residents of Oregon at the time of their enlistment or induction. Wives of such soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the war of the rebellion, the Spanish war, the Philippine war, the Indian wars of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, who were married on or before June 27, 1905, are admitted to the home when there are cottages available.

The home has forty acres of land, of which about twenty-five acres are utilized for farm, garden and orchard. The home buildings consist of the administration building, barracks, number 1 and number 2, hospital, central heating plant, new kitchen and dining room, storerooms, horse, cow and hog barns; also four cottages that accommodate eight veterans with their wives, or their widows if husbands die while inmates of cottages.

The home is maintained by appropriations by the legislature of the state of Oregon, aided by the national maintenance funds to the extent of ten dollars per month, based upon members actually present.

The home, like all state institutions except the penitentiary, is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Control. The management by the commandant and his assistants. All officers and employees are appointed by the commandant. Ex-service men are given preference in all employments.

The officers of the home are: Geo. W. Riddle, commandant, Indian war, 1855-56, also Civil war; E. A. Post, adjutant, war with Germany; Dr. E. B. Stewart, physician, war with Germany; Mrs. George W. Riddle, matron, native of Douglas county, Oregon; Mrs. N. R. Gibson, superintendent of hospital, war with Germany.

The present membership of the home is 146, of which are 119 Civil war, 11 Spanish and Philippine war, six Indian war 1855-56 and before, and 11 of Indian wars such as Bannock, Modoc, Joseph and other wars. In addition to the above membership there are 12 wives and widows at the cottages, and 18 officers and employees who are not members, making the population 172. The records of the home show that the first member admitted was Aaron Mellette, admitted on May 24th, 1894. Since that date, 1424 veterans have been admitted and cared for.

The question has been asked, "Do the people of Oregon get value received for the money which the state is required to expend in the maintenance and conduct of the home?"

To this my answer was, "If computed in dollars and cents I would say no, but if computed as a sacred obligation and duty well performed, I would say yes."

The Oregon State Soldiers' Home stands as an object lesson to the patriotism and generosity of the people of Oregon. It is an expression of their gratitude to the country's defenders. First, to the Indian war veterans, who made the early settlement of this great state possible. The veterans of the Civil war, the Spanish war and veterans of the world war who were citizens of Oregon at the time of their enlistment, can all here find a home in case of disability or need. The home shows that the people of the state of Oregon recognize and will care for the country's defenders in their old age or disability, and in their declining years they will be furnished a home in which they will be honored and cared for.

DOUGLAS COUNTY HAS MORE TIMBERED AREA THAN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN U. S.

Timber Valuation Is Approximately One-Third of the Entire Valuation of All Taxable Property Listed on County's Assessment Rolls—Resource Scarcely Tapped.

The timber industry in Douglas county is without doubt the county's greatest resource, and within a few years will be bringing huge sums of money into this community. At the present time, in spite of the fact that there are thirty or forty mills in operation the lumber output is less than one-half the annual production of new timber ready for market.

It is roughly estimated that 250,000,000 feet of timber could be cut from the privately owned timber lands of Douglas county every year for the next hundred years, and at the end of that time there would be more standing timber than there is today. It would take four mills, as large as any on the Pacific coast, operating at full capacity every day in the year, to even keep up with the growth of timber in the county.

Douglas county has more timbered area than any other county in the United States. In fact, Douglas county has one-third-second of all of the standing timber in the country. It would take the Long-Bell lumber mill at Longview, with a yearly capacity of 150,000,000 feet, a total of 100 years to saw up even the privately owned commercial timber, not even counting the government owned timber, nor the new production.

The assessment rolls show that Douglas county timber lands are assessed at \$12,000,000. As the total county valuation is only about \$35,000,000, it is seen that timber lands pay approximately one-third of the taxes of Douglas county, and less than half of the timber is taxable, as the greater part lies within national forest areas and cannot be taxed. The tax rolls further show that there are 15,942,511,000 feet of privately owned commercial timber in the county. This is in addition to 271,777 acres of O. and C. grant lands which have been classified as timber lands. From these figures it is plain to be seen that this county has a resource which as yet is scarcely tapped, which will in future years bring in untold sums and will bring about great development.

The time is coming, and is not far away, when the great lumber companies will turn to Douglas county, and then great returns from the timbered sections are bound to come. At a recent meeting of lumbermen and timber owners in Seattle, the statement was made that over 40 per cent of the timbered area in the northwest had been logged over. These figures were prepared by the Northwestern Timber Conservation committee and were based on reliable estimates. This

show that lumber companies are turning to the northwest for their source of supply and that at the rate the mills are cutting the supply will soon be materially reduced.

Douglas county because of its rough topography has lost but little of its virgin timber. More than half of its timbered wealth is protected by the government, which has adopted a perpetual cutting plan, which allows timber to be cut at the same rate that new timber is produced, so that there will be an everlasting supply in the government owned forests.

This system, however, does not apply to privately owned timber lands, and these within a few years, doubtless will fall prey to the lumberman's axe, and the harvest of lumber will bring untold wealth to Douglas county.

Throughout the county there are scattered thirty or forty small mills, which are turning out lumber for local and foreign markets. The bulk of the lumbering is done near the mouth of the Umpqua, tributary to the Umpqua, and the largest mills are located there.

The C. McC. Johnson mill at Reedsport is the largest, having a daily capacity of about one hundred and fifty thousand feet. The Winchester Bay mill saws about 125,000 feet daily, the new Smith River company about 80,000 feet, and the Reedsport Lumber company about 40,000 feet. There are numerous other mills having daily outputs of from forty thousand to ten thousand feet daily, some of these being as follows: Dorlin Lumber company, and Roy Beebe's mill at Constock; Pioneer Lumber company and H. G. Baldwin Lumber company at Curtin; Anlauf Lumber company and Grannis and Wiern at Anlauf; Drain Lumber company and E. G. Whipple at Drain; Mulvaney and Wise at Reston; Fry and Sons, Roseburg; Glendale Lumber company, Lystul and Lawson, Panther Butte Mills, Glendale; Pickett and sons, Jaunser Brothers and Jinks Lumber company, Azalea; George Fiser, Riddle, Crane and Hanson, Glendale, Hazen and Jaunser, Azalea; Jackson Brothers, Cleveland. In addition to these mills named there are a number of mills cutting small amounts of timber, located at various points throughout the county, and all are doing a good and profitable business.

The timber industry is severely handicapped here by the lack of transportation, but with the advent of electrical energy and the development of the power streams furnishing cheap power for the operation of mills and electrically operated logging roads, development is certain.

FOREST GRAZING REPORT ISSUED

The Umpqua national forest furnished grazing for 1,720 head of cattle, 7 head of horses and 9,500 head of sheep the latter being divided into bands with a band limit of 1,200 according to the report made by Forest Supervisor Carl B. Neal. In addition there were about 60 head of cattle and 150 head of horses grazed without permit, being the property of packers, prospectors, campers and others.

Mr. Neal in his report advises that several minor changes be made in various districts, as there are a few which have been overgrazed and other sections where the forage crop has not yet been utilized. The Quartz mountain range, comprising approximately 6,500 acres should not be opened to further grazing before August, 1924, it is recommended.

It is very probable that the Twin Lakes, Quartz mountain and Limpy Prairie ranges will be changed from a cattle to a sheep allotment soon.

Mr. Neal advises that there be few changes made in allotments for the coming year, as existing conditions are entirely satisfactory. The Grasshopper sheep allotment, the Kelsey Valley sheep allotment, and the Bohemia sheep division are practically unused ranges which are available to stockmen. Thielson Burn and Bogus Creek ranges were also unused during the past season.

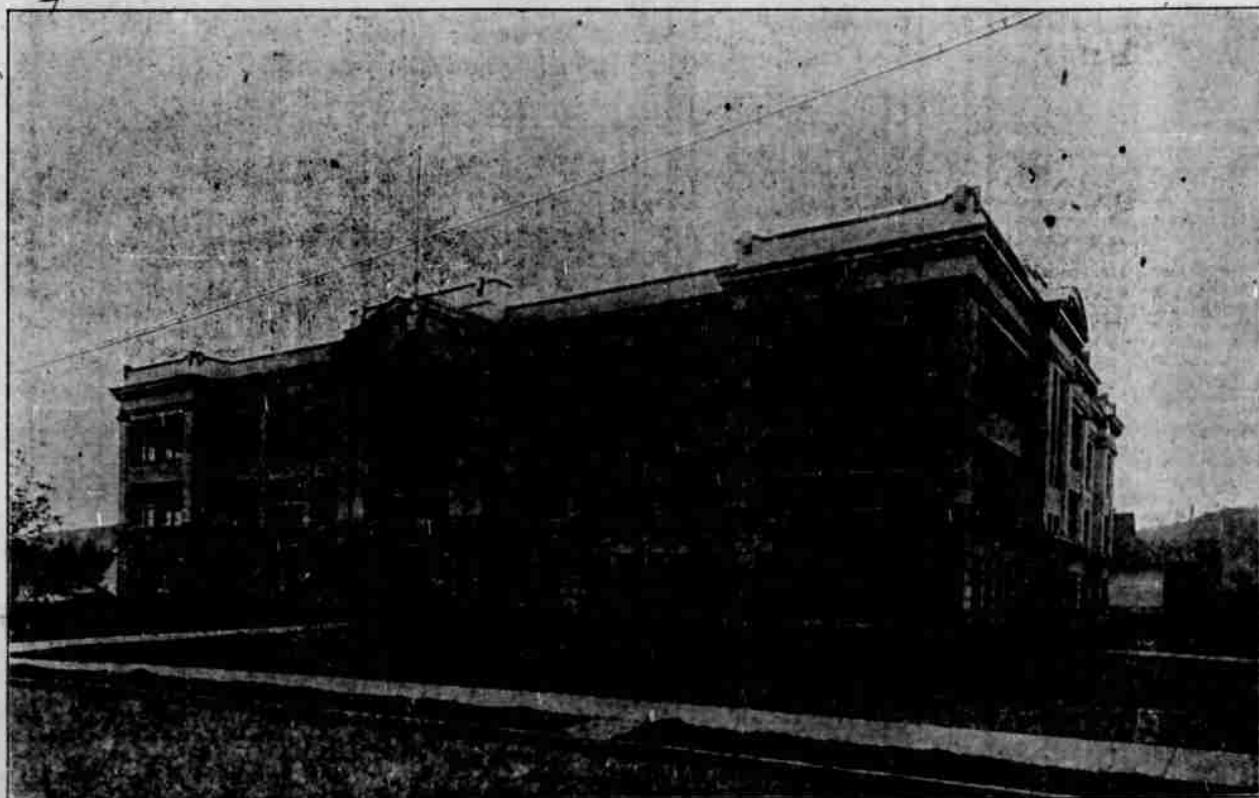
It is recommended that 14,500 head of sheep and 2,100 head of cattle and horses be allowed to graze on the forest during 1924. A salting system keeps the stock on the various ranges for which allotments are issued, and in some cases herding is required.

STONE-TILE PLANT TO BE ENLARGED

The stone-tile industry, conducted in Roseburg by the Denn-Gerretsen company, promises to become one of the big business enterprises of the community during the next few years. Stone-tile is a hollow concrete brick, which through a special method of manufacture is water-proof, offering an advantage, which has in the past been somewhat of a handicap in concrete construction. Because of its adaptability for all purposes, stone-tile is rapidly becoming one of the leading building materials, particularly in California, where it is being used in a large number of the new buildings.

A national association has been formed to control the quality of the building material and independent firms are licensed to manufacture the tile. This national association maintains a bureau which furnishes plans for any desired buildings and aids builders in every possible way.

The license for manufacture locally is held by the Denn-Gerretsen company, which up to the present time has been doing all of its work in a trial yard adjoining the office on Main street. There is a growing demand, however, which necessitates additional room, and a larger yard is being procured just outside the city limits, adjoining a gravel bed, where materials may be easily procured. Additional equipment is being ordered, so that the plant will have a capacity of about 4,000 daily. The present output is around 1600 daily. Two buildings using stone-tile, the Model Bakery building, and the F. C. Gurnee residence, are now under course of construction, but several others are in prospect.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, ROSEBURG, OREGON