

COUNTY MUST PAY TEACHERS

WALLOWA COUNTY CASES ARE DECIDED.

Shortage of Funds in School Department Calls for Official Opinion.

Enterprise Record-Chief Clerk.
The county is responsible for salaries of county high school teachers for the full nine months for which they were engaged. Attorney General A. M. Crawford holds, in a letter received by Supt. J. C. Conley. The superintendent wrote, as a member of the county high school board, for an opinion as to the financial status of the school. The county high

school fund being exhausted a question was raised whether the county was liable for the salaries of the teachers for the remainder of the year, and, if so, what fund the money could be taken from.

Attorney Crawford concluded that a teacher is not a public officer but an employe, and that a teacher's contract is the same as any other contract of employment. In making the contract the opinion holds that the acts of the board bind the county. The opinion continues:
"It is therefore apparent that the county is responsible to the teachers for their salaries for the entire year, unless the teachers accept other employment and are thus not in a position to render the services called for in their contract."

"The obligation to pay the teachers being one existing against the county, the court not having levied the county high school fund tax sufficient to discharge the obligation, in my opinion it has authority, under sec-

tion 937 of Lord's Oregon Laws, to provide for the payment of any debt against the county from the general fund, and therefore can transfer a sufficient amount from the general fund to the county high school fund to meet this expense; or the funds may be raised by a levy for that purpose in next year."

Mr. Crawford concludes with the suggestion that if the district in which the county high school is situated wishes, it can call an election and vote to pay the county's obligation to the high school for the remaining three months.

Synopsis of the Annual Statement of the GERMAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY

of New York City, in the state of New York, on the 31st day of December, 1912, made to the insurance commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Capital.	
Amount of capital stock paid up	\$ 400,000.00
Income.	
Premiums received during the year in cash ..	\$ 613,319.24
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	76,020.92
Total income	\$ 689,339.26
Disbursements.	
Losses paid during the year	\$ 356,389.61
Dividends paid during the year on capital stock ..	60,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	168,681.91
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year ..	18,157.83
Amount of all other expenditures	6,774.48
Total expenditures ..	\$ 609,983.53
Assets.	
Value of stocks and bonds	
Loans on mortgages and owned	\$ 1,629,174.00
collateral, etc.	55,000.00
Cash in banks and on hand	21,895.28
Premiums in course of collection and in transmission	152,337.56
Interest and rents due and accrued	8,144.75
Total assets	\$ 1,866,551.59
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	32,400.00
Total assets admitted in Oregon. Liabilities in excess of market value of special deposits ..	\$ 1,834,151.59
Liabilities.	
Gross claims for losses unpaid, \$236,588.19, less re-ins., \$234,344. ..	\$ 192,244.19
Amount of unearned premiums in all outstanding risks	466,074.14
Due for commission and brokerage	45,970.00
All other liabilities, taxes payable	10,000.00
Surplus	842,263.58
Total liabilities exclusive of capital stock of \$400,000 ..	\$ 1,466,551.59
Total premiums in force December 31, 1912 ..	\$ 884,899.17

Business in Oregon for the Year.
Total risks written during the year

Total risks written during the year	\$ 30,257.87
Gross premiums received during the year ..	42,477.06
Premiums returned during the year	7,877.42
Losses paid during the year	3,022.50
Losses incurred during the year	3,421.50
Total amount of risks outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1912 ..	\$ 591,653.69

GERMAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE CO.
By C. G. SMITH, Secretary.
General Agent for Oregon: HARVEY WELLS,
No. 324 Chamber of Commerce bldg. Portland, Oregon.
Resident agent: Security Investment Company, La Grande, Oregon.

Secretary Bryan says he will spend his leisure hours riding horseback. If he is anything like the old Bryan of private life there will not be many leisure hours.

NUMBER 17 TO CHANGE

WILL ARRIVE AT 8:10 AFTER APRIL THIRD.

New Time Table on No. 17 Is Announced by the O.W. This Week.

April 3rd, No. 17 will not meet No. 6 in this city. A new schedule has been announced on the O.W., the details of which Local Agent J. H. Keeney announces as follows:
Leave Huntington 4:29 a. m.
Leave Baker 6:15 a. m.
Leave Haines 6:32 a. m.
Leave North Powder 6:50 a. m.
Leave Union Junction 7:42 a. m.
Leave Hot Lake 7:51 a. m.
Arrive La Grande 8:10 a. m.
Leave La Grande 8:15 a. m.
Leave Kamela 9:15 a. m.
Leave Meacham 9:30 a. m.
Leave Gibbon 10:30 a. m.
Arrive Pendleton 11:19 a. m.
Leave Pendleton 11:15 a. m.
Arrive Portland 6:50 a. m.

This schedule will put La Grande people into Portland considerable earlier in the evening than usual, and gives more time for transaction of business in Pendleton and intermediate points, in a one-day journey westward.

The new schedule is effective Friday morning.

SMALLEST BEAST OF PREY.

It is a True Weasel, but is Only About Six Inches Long.

The smallest carnivorous animal in the world is an American weasel which is numerous in northwest Canada and Alaska and is occasionally seen about the great lakes. It is a true weasel, but only six inches long, with a tail only one inch in length. All its upper surface is in summer pure umber brown, but the throat, abdomen and inside of the legs are pure white, and, unlike any other weasel, it has no black at the end of the tail; hence, although the animal turns white in the north in winter, it does not show the black tipped tail which characterizes an ermine pelt, and so it is not sought by trappers and fur traders.

This fact, with its small size and secretive life, has made its habits very little known, but they seem to be much like those of other weasels. It feeds on insects, which it finds alive in summer and in winter digs out of rotten logs; upon small birds, etc., but lives mainly on mice. These it can follow into their narrowest holes and run ways, for it is scarcely larger than a field mouse itself, or, striking the trail of one, it will trace all its wanderings and as soon as it catches sight of its prey will spring after it with amazing and fatal rapidity.

It is frequently caught by naturalists in their mouse traps. An old Indian told W. H. Osgood of the biological survey, who thus captured one in southern Alaska, that it was a promise of rare good fortune. His brother, he related, had taken one when a boy and had in consequence become a big chief. A good name for this least of the carnivores would be "mouse hunter." It is known to science as *Putorius rixosus*.—Harper's.

SCIENTIFIC PUZZLES.

Some Queer Things One Learns in the Study of Chemistry.

Every one knows that the diamond is only charcoal crystallized, but there are a great many other things in nature that, though possessing widely different properties, are composed of exactly equal quantities of the same elements.

The white of an egg and rattlesnake poison are formed of identically the same amounts of the same elements.

The oil of roses and common coal gas are each formed alike, both being composed of four atoms of hydrogen and four atoms of carbon.

Sugar and gum arabic are likewise brothers of the same weight and texture.

All the hydrocarbons, known to science as a combination of sixteen atoms of hydrogen and ten atoms of carbon are alike in their composition. To enumerate some—oil of orange, lemon cloves, ginger and black pepper.

The suggested explanation of these peculiarities is that the atoms are placed differently toward one another in the molecules of the different substances.

Other things just as peculiar are evident when certain substances are united chemically. Thus hydrogen gas, which is odorless, and nitrogen gas, which is also odorless, when united to make ammonia, which has a very strong odor. Copper, which has no odor, and zinc, which also has none, when melted and mixed to give us brass, produce a substance with a very characteristic one.—Chicago Record Herald.

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