

Medford Daily Tribune

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A DEFENDER OF NORMALS.

Wednesday's issue of the Ashland Valley Record might be called a normal number, so full is it of the normal school question. Editor Kaiser, awakened from a long hibernation, pops and cracks the editorial whip about the normal school enemies, lashing critics, raising great welts in legislators and even flecking chunks of moss off the back of Harvey Scott, arch enemy of normals. If the loss of the school has had the same effect on everyone in Ashland that it has on the Valley Record's publisher, it again proves that there is no loss without a corresponding gain.

A very strong case is made for the maintenance of the normal school system. Figures are given showing that every state and territory maintains two or more normals except Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Utah, which have but one. The entire trend today is toward several schools, and many of these states are figuring upon additional schools.

The number of normals in various states is as follows: Alabama four, Arizona two, California five, Connecticut four, District of Columbia two, Georgia three, Idaho two, Illinois five, Iowa two, Kansas three, Kentucky three, Maine three, Maryland two, Massachusetts nine, Michigan four, Minnesota five, Mississippi two, Missouri four, New Jersey two, New Mexico two, New York twelve, North Carolina four, North Dakota two, Ohio two, Oklahoma four, Pennsylvania thirteen, South Carolina two, South Dakota four, Texas three, Vermont three, Virginia two, Washington three, West Virginia seven, Wisconsin seven.

The Record discusses The Tribune's editorial utterance of February 24, in which it was stated that Ashland citizens should have rushed to Salem to rescue the normal, asserting that the history of ten years' experience is contrary to the suggestion that a lobby was needed. Says the Record:

"In the face of the butchery executed by one session of a state senate out of five, we are not quite prepared to believe the result would have been different. The idea cannot get away from us that regular committee meetings and one or two citizens in possession of the information the representatives of the state need to consider, and the consideration of the report on the floor of the house or senate, is the proper place to center the issue."

Politics is not what ought to be, but what is. Disinterested consideration and logic should sway legislators, but seldom does. All talk to the contrary does not disprove what everyone familiar with legislation knows, that more laws are made by the lobby than in either house. Practical politics secured Ashland the normal. The merits of the proposition had nothing to do with it. Practical politics might have retained it. If there had been a strong lobby, the result might have been different. At least it would have been worth the effort. Never trust a measure to succeed on its merits alone, and be prepared to fight the devil with fire.

Here is the way the Record hands it to Senator Jay Bowerman, who fought the normals:

"Yet this senator secretly prepares the most outrageous program that was ever put on foot in behalf of any measure before an Oregon deliberative body to narder the three state normal schools in Oregon and deliver their belongings to the city of Portland for that purpose through Portland-Salem alliances and through the spineless backbone of other senators who felt obliged to emaculate themselves in order to get on committees he compelled the subserviency of every measure that became a law to the diabolical job he had concocted and it failed only partially because the house refused to be bludgeoned into such a horrible undertaking. But Senator Bowerman, prospective candidate for governor, appealing to the avarice and cupidity of Portland's big vote and to the prejudice of the parsimonious low-browed pessimists of the Willamette valley, who are willing to scuttle the state university and cut the heart out of the state public school system, is a study that men will despise."

The Record gives Mr. Bowerman too prominent a place in the conspiracy to wreck the normals. A majority of the senate were inimical from the start, and the ways and means committee sounded the knell. Even if Bowerman had favored the normals, their success was problematical. Then again, Bowerman comes from central Oregon, that has no normal, and was more interested in the coyote scalp bounty and other measures desired in his section than in the woes of the normals belonging to other regions. Had the normals been strong enough, they could have forced Bowerman's support, as the anti-normal crowd, being the strongest, was able to force it. Continues the Record:

"The Oregonian has repeated the groundless statement that the normal schools were 'born in sin and nurtured in iniquity,' until it has made others believe it. What little truth there is in the statement lies in the charge of trading, and the illustration of a normal school appropriation having been secured years ago by the friends of a school

switching one vote that broke a deadlock and elected a United States senator. The United States senator is dead now, and we trust his soul is in heaven, hence safe from any interview with the normal school kidnappers. But it is safe to predict that if the noble old Roman cured to come back to Sodom and Gomorrah (Salem and Portland) and inventory the corruption and iniquities wrought on the morals of the people or the pocketbook of the taxpayers, the one single alleged normal school dicker would prove to have been merely a "cliché" feature in the larger games of the scoundrels' combine holding a just appropriation until one friend of the school delivered the goods to the politician.

"Yet the Oregonian is so base and low that it is prepared to swallow herds of camels and make a big fuss over a goat, and when we read the Oregonian we are solemnly advised that if it was not for the normal schools Harvey Scott would surely make Oregon take the place of 'Billiken, the God of Things as They Ought to Be.'"

The Tribune, along with everyone in Jackson county, regrets the loss of the normals, and if a special session of the legislature is held, Medford will send some of her third house brigade to fight the battle for a normal appropriation.

\$12,000 BUILDING IS ASSURED LA GRANGE

LA GRANGE, March 6.—Over \$12,000 will be expended by Henry & Carr, architects, on a plot of ground facing Washington avenue, adjoining the Blue Mountain cemetery building on the west.

The expenditure will be for the construction and equipment of a morgue and undertaking parlor. According to plans now being drawn for immediate use the structure will be a two-story brick, 40x110. The first floor will be occupied by the undertaking parlor, morgue and chapel, while the second floor is to be converted into living rooms for the attendants, who will be in attendance day and night and also for show floor for the undertaking department of the Henry & Carr store.

FRANCE AND AMERICA TO HAVE TWO-CENT POSTAGE

LONDON, March 6.—While urging the Association of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom to agitate penny postage with France, a member of the British chamber of commerce in Paris said today that he had the authority of John Huxtable Houston to say that penny postage between France and America was about to be established.

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