

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Mondays and Thursdays

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COST OF EDUCATION INCREASES 700 PER CENT.

Here are some startling figures

that may well give us pause:

The cost of education in grammar schools and high schools, according to the national industrial conference board of New York, has increased seven fold since 1900. During the same period the attendance has doubled, and also during the same time the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased, so that the actual increase in cost of education has not been so great as the figures might at first lead us to believe, but by the most liberal figuring the increase can not be cut below 200 per cent. That is we who are paying the taxes now give our children 200 per cent more than we received.

The cost of higher education, it is to be presumed, has increased in about like proportion.

Despite this tremendous increase in the cost of education, we are told that conditions at our institutions of higher learning are well nigh intolerable and that because of these conditions our children are not being given a fair chance to prepare for their battle with the world.

We have no doubt whatever that conditions at the university, at the agricultural college and at our normal schools are as they have been described and so far as we are personally concerned we should like to have the conditions corrected. We wish our children to have every advantage that it is possible to give them, but sometimes we wonder whether we are not too liberal rather than too niggardly. Sometimes we wonder whether better citizens wouldn't be developed if the inconveniences of getting an education were made more numerous, instead of less numerous. We are not going to advocate that this be done, but there is no harm in speculating.

And we are led to this speculation by things that are said by those who would benefit by liberality in providing funds for education.

As an example:

Proceeding the recent session of the legislature a special edition of "The Lamron, Monmouth normal school paper, was sent over the state. In that issue Oregon was charged with being a tightwad and penurious in the expenditure of funds for education.

There are none of us who will claim that Monmouth normal has been oversupplied with funds. All of us admire President Landers and his faculty for the splendid work they have done under adverse conditions. The Sentinel believes that the normal is actually in need of larger appropriations.

But it was not President Landers who was speaking in an editorial headed, "Not Paid for Want of Funds." This writer has taken it for granted that one of the students wrote the editorial, and the editorial was a demand, not an appeal, for more liberal treatment of the school.

The editorial started with this statement: "We are told that Oregon suffers a deficit at the close of this present biennium." From the wording of that opening sentence we are inclined to believe that it is time for the taxpayers to make some demands. Surely they are as much entitled to do so

as the beneficiaries of the money we spend for education.

We are somewhat mystified as to how the state could "suffer" a deficit. Of course it might be expected that the taxpayer would suffer as the result of a deficit, and the state might face one, or run away from one, if not suffering so much that it would be unable to run. But if a state can suffer a deficit, it wouldn't suffer it until the close of "this present biennium," and the writer should have said "will suffer." Possibly the pupil believed that an impending deficit was of such size as to cause advance suffering.

Another statement in this same editorial was: "As a state Oregon spends not one cent on the education of her children. The county and the district are compelled to stand the educational burden alone."

That statement, of course, is not true, and is not anywhere near true. The state spends millions annually for the education of its children in the way of millage taxes and direct appropriations by the legislative assembly. The inaccuracy of the quoted statement is not material, for it makes little difference to the taxpayer whether \$100 is collected from him by the state or whether the same amount is collected by the county or school district. If this comes to the attention of the student who wrote the editorial referred to, he or she may, if he or she wishes, try to explain why an appeal was being made to the state for normal school funds if the state doesn't spend a penny on its children. The same student may explain, if he or she can, which county or counties, or which school district or districts support and maintain the normal schools.

This statement by this student forcibly illustrates two things: that our kids are not being well enough grounded in the fundamentals of education and that they are getting an idea that is already too prevalent among older ones. That idea is that money which comes from a larger taxing district than the one in which we live costs us nothing. We who live in Cottage Grove get nothing given us by the state. The state has no way of getting money except to tax us, or to use money that would otherwise be used to reduce our taxes.

Another statement in the same editorial is: "During the past twelve years Oregon has paid over eighty-two millions of dollars for a highway system that is known far and wide as a good example of fine road building, and of which any Oregonian may justly be proud. Oregon has not stamped her highway account 'not paid for want of funds.'"

This is a truthful statement, but the expenditure of these millions for roads is not comparable with the expenditure of a greater number of millions by the state alone for educational purposes. These millions spent for highways have either been provided by those who get the benefit of the highways, or bonds representing the expenditures have been guaranteed by anticipated receipts from those who will use the highways. There would be no difficulty whatever in getting a similar number of millions of dollars for education on the same terms.

The Sentinel always has and always will advocate liberality toward our schools, but it can not help but remark that students who demand a greater slice of tax funds as their right, as a necessity if they are to be fitted for their battle with the world, are not fitted to get the most out of education, regardless of how liberal we may be with tax funds.

Niggardliness with funds for education would not mean that our children would have to go without education. Education, unlike highways and many other things, can be gotten regardless of whether the state pays the way.

There is some doubt as to whether Shakespeare had even the equal of a common school education. In the days of Lincoln schools were not provided with athletic directors to teach kids to play, nor with gymnasiums, art departments, shower baths and the many other things with which we are pleased to equip our schools of today, and he could not have enjoyed them even if they had been available, yet no one will attempt to say that Lincoln's education was inferior to that of the average college graduate of today.

And Old Abe is only one of many thousands who could be named who did not demand that the state provide more liberally for its youth yet acquired an education that any college student of today might well envy.

A few months ago a speaker from an eastern state addressed several audiences in Oregon. His reputation had preceded him and he was greeted by capacity audiences for political addresses. His school education ended at the sixth grade, yet any college graduate might well envy him his real education and his ability to address, educate and entertain an audience.

Our schools, regardless of how liberal we may be, are not likely to produce men and women who will stand out more prominently than men and women who were reared in the days when getting

SOCIETY

Mrs. F. L. Grannis, Mrs. Elbert Bede and Mrs. T. C. Moody were hostesses Thursday afternoon for the Constellation club. Mrs. A. W. Shofstall was an additional guest. More than 30 club members were present. At the business meeting the club voted to cooperate with the Masons in financing the building of a new stairway to the hall. A pleasant social afternoon was enjoyed. Sweetpeas, Scotch broom and apple blossoms were attractive table and room decorations. A delicious two-course luncheon was served. Election of officers will be held at a meeting on May 12 and the present officers, Mrs. James P. Graham, Mrs. D. H. Hemmaway and Mrs. A. A. Richmond, will be hostesses.

The Presbyterian missionary society was entertained Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. F. E. Mendenhall. Missionary work in Africa was the study and Mrs. William V. McGee was leader. Mrs. H. A. Miller led devotionals. Dainty refreshments were served.

An education required ambition, initiative and perseverance of a quality not found in the average student of today.

But Oregon is not niggardly in its expenditures for education. Its stands seventh of the states of the union for per capita expenditures, with an outlay of \$84.47 the student. Of the total of its tax moneys it spends 45 per cent for education.

When we consider these facts, we who pay the taxes are not spurred to greater efforts by the unjust criticism of those who are benefitting by our liberality.

A demand for greater expenditures inclines us to say, "Get out and hustle a little more for yourselves. A little hustling now is more likely to give you better preparation for your battle with the world than greater expenditures of public funds to make education any easier than it now is.

The institutions of higher learning are taking cognizance of the situation by increasing fees. At the university they have reached \$109.75 per capita for each school year for the resident and \$150 a year in addition to that for the non-resident student. While these fees are high, they can be increased as easily as the ordinary taxpayer can be talked into believing that he has been niggardly in providing for educational activities.

Possibly we may provide even more liberally for education, but we take umbrage at any demand from the beneficiaries of our liberality couched in such language as that we have quoted and again we remind those interested that education can be secured, at least as much education as 75 per cent of the students get, even should the state greatly decrease its appropriations for education.

We also remind these youthful critics that such men as the presidents of Reed college and Brown college, and others high in educational circles, are telling us that half the children going to college are wasting their time and actually losing time that they could better use in other ways in preparing themselves for their encounter with a cold, cruel world that is going to demand of them a large slice of their earnings for the education of future generations.

It is little credit to stick to the straight and narrow path merely because of fear that we will be found out.

Imitate the unobtrusive mirror which always shows its bright side.

Alimony is probably a contraction of alibismoney.

When a girl says she intends to be an old maid it is a dangerous time to propose to her—unless you really want her.

As much as we dislike a kicker, he is head and shoulders above a do-nothing.

By stopping to raise others less fortunate than ourselves we lift ourselves to a higher level.

No one, regardless of how independent he may be, says all the things he would like to say—and perhaps it is better that way.

Council Action Approved.
COTTAGE GROVE, Ore., April 30.—(To the Editor.)—If you love your dogs, keep them at home and enjoy their society.

SALEM, April 25.—Miss Belle Burkholder entertained a group of co-workers of the State Industrial Accident commission Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Protzman. Guests were Emaline Nerd, Marcia Smith, Caroline Nerd, Izora Templeton, Sadie Mathis, Mabel Lindquist, Hettie Kriebemund and Laura Douglas. Bridge was the diversion. Wild currant blossoms and tulips were decorations. The hostess was assisted by her mother, Mrs. Clara Burkholder of Cottage Grove.

Of interest to their many friends is the marriage of Miss Bernice Brainard and Orbre Purcell, which was solemnized Friday at the Eugene Central Presbyterian manse, Pastor A. H. Saunders officiating. The young couple will make their home in Eugene. Both are well known here. The bride is a daughter of George M. Brainard and is a graduate of the Cottage Grove high school.

Mrs. Wilbur Spray entertained Thursday evening for the Bona Tempo club. Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Glen Smith and James Dungen. The evening was spent playing bridge and Mrs. Glen Smith and F. H. Allison held high score and Mrs. R. H. Osborne and Fred Bennett consolation. Wild currant blossoms were attractive room decorations. Delicious refreshments were served.

The Good Neighbors club was entertained Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Ida Veatch, who invited as additional guests Mrs. J. Q. Willits, Mrs. Elbert Bede, Mrs. Carrie Hemmaway and Mrs. Victor Kem. A pleasant social afternoon was enjoyed. Potted plants, marigolds and wild orchids were attractive room decorations. Delicious refreshments were served.

Mrs. Henry Veatch, Mrs. William Thum, Miss Myrtle Kem, Miss Lula Currin and Miss Esther Silsby entertained Friday evening with a dinner at the Colonial cafe for the Joker club. Special guests were Mrs. M. M. Boney of Eugene, a charter member of the club, and Mrs. O. M. Kem. The evening was spent playing bridge.

The Knights of Pythias entertained the Pythian Sisters with a social hour and refreshments Wednesday evening following the business session. Grand Chancellor Walter Gleason of Portland will speak Tuesday at the regular meeting of the Knights of Pythias. Refreshments will be served by the Pythian Sisters.

The losing team in the experience social of the Methodist ladies' aid will entertain the winners tonight with a covered dish supper at the church. Mrs. D. A. Forbes is leader of the losers and Mrs. D. C. Bosley of the winners.

The Latham Community club will meet at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Nora Yearons. "Remembrances of Mother" will be a feature of the program and musical numbers will be given. Sewing will be a diversion.

The Tanglefoot club will hold its third dance of the series Tuesday May 10, in Phillips hall. The dance is being postponed from May 3 because of a conflict with the Legion minstrel show.

Mrs. F. E. Mendenhall will be program leader for the meeting of the Research club Tuesday afternoon in the city library. "American Homes" will be the study topic.

Mrs. Charles Adams will speak on Oregon wild flowers at the regular meeting of the Tuesday Evening Study club to be held Tuesday in the library. Mrs. Dan Haman will give a paper on trees and shrubs of Oregon.

Mrs. F. L. Grannis will be hostess at a 1 o'clock luncheon Tuesday afternoon for the Tuesday Bridge club.

The Tillicum club will be entertained Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Scott of Eugene.

The Mothers' club will meet Thursday at the home of Mrs. L. MacAboy for an all-day quilting session.

The Ad Libitum club will be entertained Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. R. L. Cone.

Mrs. B. R. Job will be hostess Thursday afternoon for the Social Twelve club.

Mrs. C. E. Frost will entertain Tuesday afternoon for the O. L. H. club.

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