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## A VISIT TO THE SCHOOLS

Editor Takes a Day Off and Gets Acquainted with the Methods Used in Modern Instruction.

(Continued from last week.)

Mr. Williams then accompanied us to the old school building, so-called, because it was finished last year. If we remember correctly it was started three years ago, when there were but three rooms built, and it was then too large, it was thought. The next year it was found necessary to add a couple more rooms, and an annex, last year another large addition was built and this spring the annex was moved to the east of the building and is used as a dining room for the little ones who live too far from school to make it convenient to go home for lunch. Now, the rooms are all well filled with bright, healthy, rugged, happy boys and girls, and could our honored president have been present at "assembly" last Thursday, he would have been "Delighted." There were about 490 in the bunch and they filled to overflowing the assembly hall.

This assembly hall is one of the brightest features of the edifice. It is a large hall on the first floor occupying the center of the building and all the school rooms on this floor open into it. To the south side of the center of the hall is a stage raised about three feet above the level of the hall floor, from which literary, musical and oratorical programs are rendered at the pleasure of the school. In front of the stage and at the sides are racks or hooks upon which are arranged Indian clubs for use in calisthenic exercises. The room is also supplied with dumb bells for the same purpose, which are kept in closets opening into the hall.

Professor Alderson, principal of this school—an old instructor—is in close touch with the instructors in Portland where he was employed for some 14 consecutive years before coming here, and has kept the school along the same lines as to methods and course of study as are in vogue there; so that pupils may go from here there or come from there here and go into the classes of the grades to which they belong without a particle of confusion or embarrassment to either pupil or instructor. A very wise provision.

Mr. Anderson very kindly showed us over the entire building. Mr. Williams being called away by other business. We visited every room, taking note of the work being done, the methods used by the different instructors, and although the school year is just beginning, and the pupils have not yet really gotten down to solid work, there was nothing in the entire visit which would cause a feeling of embarrassment to any one of the instructors. The pupils are bright, the instructors are far above the average in capabilities, in fact, we do not think a school in Portland can boast of a better corps of teachers than we have here in St. Johns. They have been selected carefully, not on recommendation of friends, but upon the records they have made elsewhere, with the exception of two or three who have demonstrated by their first work here their capabilities, and several who have been working here for years. St. Johns has occasion to congratulate herself upon the fortunate selection of her instructors, and should be very proud of the buildings in which they are housed during the school hours.

In the basement of this building, as in the high school, there is placed a fine triple McPherson blast furnace for heating the building. There is another thing we forgot to mention in connection with these furnaces, and that is, they are arranged so that when making the fire drill, the janitor can throw through the air passages into every room a cloud of smoke, making the alarm identical with a real fire. And, lest we forget to mention it, the first fire drill of this year occurred while we were visiting the school. We held the watch on the little ones and they were just 2 minutes and 10 seconds in clearing the building. This, without any previous drill or instruction except those who were here last year remembering their drills made then. A few fire drills and these little soldiers will march out through the smoke with the regular-

## THE CITY DADS IN SESSION

Council Meets on Tuesday Evening and Transacts Its Usual Budget of Important Municipal Business

### GAS FRANCHISE HELD OVER FOR ONE WEEK

A much larger audience than usual gathered in the council chamber Tuesday evening to hear that body's decision on several propositions that were expected to come up for action. The meeting was rather shorter than usual, and most of the time was taken up with street work.

Roll call showed all members present but Councilman Autzen, whose absence was caused by a pressing business engagement at Forest Grove. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

J. F. Wyvel petitioned council for permission to erect a woodshed at the rear of the St. Johns hotel for the use of the rooming house. Petition was granted provided said structure be covered, roof and sides, with corrugated iron.

Bickner Bros. petitioned for permission to connect with sewer from his new building on Jersey street. They also asked for information concerning cost of same. Referred to street committee.

Petition to improve Portland boulevard, Charleston to Fessenden streets, was also referred to the street committee for investigation.

A petition for an arc light at corner of Chicago and Modoc streets was referred to the water and light committee.

A communication from S. V. Davidor stated that the St. Johns Gas, Light and Heat Co. would install meters free of charge to patrons in the event of their franchise being granted.

The gas franchise was then taken up, but owing to the absence of Mr. Autzen a vote was not taken, and the matter was continued for another week.

The following bills were then read: Fire boys for work done in looking after the hose, etc., at the recent fire, \$16; Mr. Sprague, for cleaning hose, \$3.50; miscellaneous, \$8.50, making a total of \$29. On motion bills were allowed as read.

The water and light committee reported favorably upon an arc light being placed at corner of Hayes and Tacoma streets.

The Hartman street improvement was taken up and a resolution adopted to improve same by grade and sidewalk. Gilbert street improvement by grade and sidewalk was also adopted.

Health and police committee was instructed to look after a pool of stagnant water on Crawford street caused by waste water from the Water Co.'s works and have same abated. Chief of police was also instructed to look after the sanitary condition of the James Muecke property near the water front.

Building committee was instructed to have the vault in the recorder's office finished and a desk placed in said office.

A resolution was adopted to improve Burlington street from Jersey to Kellogg by graveling and sidewalk.

ity and precision of veteran soldiers on dress parade. Too much importance cannot be attached to this drill, for it may mean the saving of scores of precious lives should the dire necessity ever come for instantly vacating the building. The pupils never know whether the alarm is real or just a drill, and one instance Thursday showed that the heart of one boy was in the right place. In one of the rooms was a cripple and when the alarm sounded and the children were in their ranks a lad stepped up to this little one and offered to carry her down the stairs. His instructor told him it was not necessary, but just the same it showed that our St. Johns boys are all right and may be relied upon in an emergency.

In this school Mr. Alderson has adopted what he calls department work. For instance, while the 7th, 8th and 9th grades have regular teachers assigned to each of them, Miss Bailey teaches language in the three rooms devoting two hours every forenoon to this work. When she leaves her room to attend to one of the others, that teacher relieves her. In this way Miss Clark teaches the three rooms geography. This year the schools have been supplied with sets of relief maps which materially aid the pupils not only to gain an idea of the geography of the country, but aids materially in illustrating the great movements recorded in history, giving the pupils an understanding of the reasons for such movements which they could gain in no other way except by visiting the locations personally. While Misses Bailey and Clark are hearing the classes in language and geography, Mrs. Mabel Burghduff performs that duty in these three rooms in their mathematical studies. Two hours are devoted to this work in the forenoon and one hour in the afternoon.

The roster of instructors for the Central school, as this one is officially termed, is as follows: Miss Bertha Lick, 1-A; Miss Viola Peddicord, 1-B; Miss May Haley, 2d-A; Miss Verne Fonner, 2d-B; Miss Fannie Loller, 3d-A; Miss Mamie Adams, 3d-B and 4th-A; Miss Cainnette Haley, 4th-B; Miss Hattie Brown, 5th-A; Miss Adelaide Beebe, 5th-B; Miss Merle Woodydy, 6th-A; Mrs. Mabel Burghduff, 6th-B and 7th-A; Miss Anna Clark, 7th and 8th-B; Miss Edna Bailey, 9th-A and B. By all these instructors except Miss Peddicord, who was absent and relieved by Mrs. Alderson, we were very graciously received and the work in their various classes was explained. We are very pleased to note the degree of proficiency manifested by the pupils in their different studies in both the schools. We have not the space at this time to go into greater detail as to the different rooms and the studies under each instructor, but it shall be a part of our work to visit the different rooms in the future and give the patrons of the school a clearer insight into the good work being done in the

school and endeavor to create that interest in the work which they deserve at their hands. Just here, however, we cannot pass a mention of the instructions in free hand drawing being given by Miss Beebe. Here little ones are being taught to reproduce on paper the outlines of the trunks and branches of trees, are learning to distinguish the different kinds of trees by their habits of growth, their foliage and other characteristics; gaining, in fact, a knowledge of the woods of Oregon that they would not be able to gain by years of ordinary observation of the woods themselves. From the trees they are led on to the finished landscape.

The health of the pupil is carefully guarded. He is not permitted to sit for hours without change of position to relieve the tired muscles, but there are exercises at stated intervals which bring into play every muscle of the body, stimulating the circulation and conducting to the health of the child. The method of transferring the pupils from one room to another or from the outside to the inside of the building, or vice versa, is systematic and calculated to cause the minimum of confusion. It is wonderful, too, to note the precision with which the pupils march and countermarch. They come down the stairs in double file the girls on one side the boys on the other, meet in the center of the assembly hall and countermarch, the boys joining those of the opposite column and the girls joining the girls all turning and going to the respective play rooms or out of the door as they see fit. This is all done with the precision of regular soldiers to the time of the marches played upon the piano by some one of the teachers.

We are proud of our schools, proud of the body of men and women who are engaged to manage and operate our schools, proud of the boys and girls who compose classes and grades in our schools. We are sure of one thing, if any patron of the school will go as we have done, visit the schools until he has gained a fair knowledge of the work being done there, he will not only be glad that he is a citizen of St. Johns, but that his child has such institutions to which he may be admitted. There would be less of fault finding, there would be praises instead of censures showered upon the heads of the school board, there would be a wealth of friendship between the parent and the instructors and life for both would be happier and better. Try it parents. It is up to you. We know the instructors will meet you fairly, and we have no fear of the result's.

N. A. Gee has had a force of six men busily engaged all week in removing the old dry kiln at the St. Johns Lumber Co.'s mills. We understand this building will be converted into a modern machine and blacksmith shop, and that the company will erect large drying sheds where the building formerly stood.

### Death of Rev. Alderson.

Rev. Christopher Alderson, one of the pioneer ministers of the Oregon conference of the M. E. church, was struck and almost instantly killed by a freight train at Albany Saturday morning. He had been visiting a daughter in Albany and had started for the depot to board a train for Portland. On a high trestle he was overtaken by the freight and his lifeless body tossed to the bed of the creek below. Mr. Alderson was 82 years of age and came to Oregon in the mining days, when fearlessness and rugged strength counted for much, even with clergymen. Four years ago he came to Portland, attending the church at Sunnyside. He is survived by his widow, two sons and three daughters. One son, W. C. Alderson, is principal of the schools at St. Johns, and the other, W. S. Alderson, lives at 173 East Seventh street, Portland. The schools here were dismissed in order that the pupils and teachers might attend the funeral, which took place at the Sunnyside Methodist church at 2 p. m. Monday. All the instructors as well as most of the directors were present.

### Pay A Good Price.

Last week a traveling artist made the rounds of St. Johns and talked some of our business men into taking space on a little folder which he got out. The advertisers were induced to take an inch and a half of space and one hundred folders for two dollars. There were about a dozen ads on the sheet and the only thing of interest was a time table of the street car line and the ferry. For the same price these advertisers could get 200 cards with the time tables on the back and their advertisement on the reverse side at this office. It would be much neater, give nearly three times the space and have no other ad on the same card. Twice the above price would secure 1000 cards. It pays to patronize home institutions.

### Nothing in The Paper.

Frequently you pick up one of the local papers and after glancing at the headlines, wearily thrust it aside remarking "nothing in the paper to day." Did you ever stop to think what the phrase means? It means that since the last issue no misfortune has befallen anyone in the city, that no fire has wiped out a neighbor's worldly possessions; that the grim angel of death has not crossed the threshold of a friend; that no man driven by liquor, hatred or fear has taken the life of a fellow human; that no poor devil, haunted by the past or the misdeeds of some other, has crossed the divide by his own hand. So the next time you pick up a paper that doesn't announce a tragedy, give a little think instead of grumbling because there is no news.—Exchange.

## A GOOD SOCIAL TIME

K. of P. Held Open Meeting and Entertained the Ladies Friday Evening.

Friday evening the Knights of Pythias held an open meeting, and all the members were instructed to bring their wives and their friends. A goodly portion responded to the call and the hall was comfortably filled with Pythians, their wives and sweethearts. The more timid of the gentler sex cast many glances of apprehension around for fear the goat might make its appearance at any time, but this much ridden beast had been muzzled and locked up safely for the night.

The prime object of the meeting was to organize a Ladies Temple of the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Valentine had this part of the program in charge, and before the evening was over had induced 23 of the ladies to enroll as charter members of the proposed new organization.

To make the affair more enjoyable a short program was rendered. J. H. Black acted as master of ceremonies in his own inimitable style. The first selection was a recitation by little Miss Weimer, in which she told of a city girl making a desperate effort to set a gentleman hen. Mrs. Valentine (aside) told of a somewhat similar experience. Miss Hilda Unger then sang a song that was nicely rendered. She has a sweet voice and bids fair to become quite a vocalist. Toastmaster Black then announced that he was going to call on a number of those present to make speeches. He likened the manner in which he intended calling the names out to lightning—that there was no telling on whom he would call to address the assemblage. When this announcement was made several of those present began to get awful thirsty and quietly sneaked out to the hydrant until the storm was over. Others tried to duck their heads under cover in the hope that they would escape the stroke of lightning. The remainder decided to face the music and either do or die.

Dr. Vincent was the first victim, and although rather startled by the shock, was game. He made a few pleasing remarks and sat down amid the applause of the audience.

Rev. Young was next on the list. Somehow you can never catch a minister unawares. He is always ready for anything. So it was in this case. The reverend gentleman stated how pleased he was that the ladies had decided to organize an auxiliary society, and told of the great contrast between the homely men and the pretty women present.

Carl Nelson was next. Carl was happy. The presence of the women tickled him immensely. Words would not come fast enough to express his pleasure in seeing so many of the fair sex present. He told all the nice things he could think of and even told a story of his brother Bill when he first rode the goat back in Colorado.

W. C. Potter expressed his pleasure at assisting in organizing the K. of P. lodge and was glad that the ladies had become interested.

At this juncture of the game, when the eyes of the lightning god were roving in our direction, we deemed it advisable to visit the ante room, and to do it without delay. There was no room under our chair and we had pulled in our neck until our chin was rubbing the flesh off our breast bone, but we didn't feel safe. A bolt for the other room was all that was left and we took it. There we met quite a few of the attendants who congratulated us upon our timely retreat. Through the open door we could hear the names of Rev. Nelson, Geo. M. Hall and others called out, but were unable to hear what they had to say for themselves. We did, however, hear the toastmaster announce that with the advent of the women free speech would hereafter be a thing of the past, and heard several murmur that they were used to that at home.

When the speaking was over and it had been announced that Miss Unger would again favor the audience with another song we heard Postmaster Valentine mutter what sounded suspiciously like the Lord's prayer as he left the bunch around the hydrant.

Refreshments were next in order, and the piles of good things that put in appearance was a sight for sore eyes. Nobody took a back seat on this occasion. An abundance of coffee, sandwiches, cake, etc., was in evidence, and a good social time was enjoyed while the viands were disappearing in an amazing manner.

The affair was a decided success, and the Lady Pythians start their new order under the most favorable circumstances.

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