

BENEFITS OF HIGH SCHOOLS

L. A. Read Points Out a Gap In Our Public System.

IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Voters Will Decide at June Election Whether County High School Shall Be Established.

(This is the first of a series of articles, written by Prof. L. A. Read, of Park Place School, on the Benefits and Advantages to be Derived from the Establishment of a County High School.)

The question of a county high school is now before the people. More than enough signatures have been secured to a petition requesting the county court to place it upon the official ballot June 4. It is only proper, therefore, for those who are in favor or are opposed to the measure to let their views be known in order that others may judge as to the proper action to take.

In this, the first of a series of papers on the subject, we shall treat of the question, "Has the time come when we should try to give our children a high school education?" Evidently this is the first question to be settled. If we think the time has not come, then we are not in favor of any kind of high school whatever; if, on the other hand we think it has, then the question, "Is the County high school the best means of securing a higher education for all the children of the county?" will have to be answered. This latter topic will be discussed at another time.

As an answer to the subject under discussion, let us find out what the tendency is throughout the United States. If we find a strong and increasing desire for a higher education than the public school, then we may safely conclude that there is a necessity for some action in this direction, since a large body of people will not continue a demand through a long period of years unless some benefit is to be gained thereby.

During the school year 1881-82 there was in attendance in both public and private high schools in the United States, 116,754 pupils; in 1890-91, 309,996 pupils; an increase of 188,242 or 167 per cent in the ten years. By 1900-01, the last year in which statistics are available, the attendance had reached 655,301, an increase of 345,305 or 111 per cent in the last eleven years.

This increase has been steady and gradual, as is shown by the following table:

Year.	Attendance.
1890-91	309,996
1891-92	340,295
1892-93	356,398
1893-94	407,919
1894-95	487,147
1895-96	517,066
1896-97	554,827
1897-98	580,065
1898-99	630,048
1899-1900	649,351
1900-01	655,301

The same ratio holds from 1881 to 1891. Thus during a period of twenty years the attendance has increased over five fold. Apparently the time has come when more attention should be given to secondary education.

During these same years, Oregon has been improving her public school system and her universities. There are at present in advance of the high schools and are fairly well developed. No one can now enter the university who has not had four years' work above the grammar grades. Thus there is a gap in our public school system which a few districts are endeavoring to fill by establishing district high schools. Whether this is the best method for Clackamas county will be discussed elsewhere.

A further demand for higher education is created by the tendency to ask more and more of the people in governing themselves. The movement is from delegated authority to direct government. The new primary law places the nomination of candidates in the hands of the people, while the initiative and referendum allows them to anticipate directly in the making of laws. At the present election there will be twelve measures submitted to the people; one is the appropriation bill; five are constitutional amendments; four are laws proposed by initiative, and one the county high school. All these require study and many men feel the need of a better education either to understand the subjects better, or to state their views concerning them more clearly. There are very few with a high school education who regret having acquired it, while many feel that they are hindered by the lack or are forced to labor harder to make up any deficiency.

An historical example of the benefits of high schools may be drawn from those sections of our country that early gave their attention to such education. Massachusetts, for instance, in 1636, only seven years after the founding of the colony, established a college (about the same as our high schools of today) which was afterward called Harvard, in honor of the man who gave his library and money to it. Other New England colonies followed the lead of Massachusetts. The men who at that time connected to give their money for the maintenance of these schools had before them a future which gave but little promise for the use of that education. How much brighter is the outlook for Oregon! Yet, surrounded as we were, they believed that a higher education was necessary for their own good government and for the perpetuation of those principles by which they were to be guided in their conduct toward God and man. Later history has proved the wisdom of their action. This early attention to education gave to the New England

states an advantage which has but lately been overcome. The leaders in political and educational affairs during our early history came largely from these states. There was the first positive resistance to the tyranny of England. From there came such men as the three Adamses and Hancock in politics; Putnam, Warren and Prescott, as warriors; Bryant, Emerson, Lowell, Holmes, Whittier and Longfellow, in literature; Horace Mann, in education, and a host of others of lesser note.

Hence, whether considering the lessons of history or the tendencies of the times, the apparent conclusion is that a high school education is becoming necessary. If the world is progressing, the education which was good enough for us is not good enough for our children. Therefore, let us see what is the best method of providing the required instruction.

L. A. READ.

Friend of the Railroads.

(Continued From First Page.)

fountain head of free passes for the railroad companies in this county for years. He has for years either been a member of or appointed the committee on railroads in the state senate and in this capacity what harm has he ever done the railroads or what good has he ever done the people?

Brownell is the friend of the railroad corporations and when the interests of the people and the corporations conflict, he has always exerted every effort to fool the people, because he couldn't and wouldn't fool the corporations.

The corporations have for years been extremely lucky in having a friend in control of the politics of Clackamas county and what has been the result? The corporations have fastened their talons upon Oregon City and Clackamas county with an iron grip and our children's children may never loosen them.

Why are the corporations so anxious for the nomination of Brownell and why so opposed to the selection of Porter? This is a question which will furnish food for thought.

BRUCE C. CURRY.

Oregon City to Blame.

(Continued From First Page.)

oped by George O. at the Bryan stronghold of Molalla. Those theories that he once condemned as the "vagaries of Populism," were now pure quill. Something was also said of corrupt use of money by H. W. Corbett, but nothing of pledging himself to vote for Corbett, taking Corbett's money, giving a note for same, violating his pledges as to voting and settling his note at fifty cents on the dollar. The failure to attend to this was undoubtedly an oversight.

GEO. OGLE.

HISTORY OF THE FRANCHISE.

In the early part of last fall the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company had quietly found place on its pay roll for four members out of nine of the Oregon City council. The company was then prepared to spring the little game for which it had been making preparation many months prior to that time. The first plan was to support the pre-arranged scheme of the council with the semblance of an approval by the people of Oregon City. The council called a mass meeting of citizens and a motion was made authorizing the appointment of a committee to arrange a franchise suitable to the people of Oregon City and acceptable to the railway company. One of the citizens moved an amendment to the last motion requiring the chairman to include on the committee three members from a list of well known and reliable taxpayers and citizens of Oregon City. The amendment carried and the committee of five had to have three members that, as was well known, the railway company could not use against the interests of the town.

Mr. Morris, the head of the O. W. P. & R. Co., refused to meet with the company, giving as his reason the fact that Ed Caulfield was a member of it. This was failure number one.

Then the council appointed a committee to fix up the railway franchise. This committee and Mr. Morris had no trouble in agreeing and after the matter had been allowed to sleep quietly for a few months it was suddenly sprung. The council declared its intention to slide the franchise through. Then it wavered and a minority in that body stood out stubbornly to have the matter submitted to a vote of the people of Oregon City. The railway people, confident of their strength, and not wishing to arouse public opinion, concluded to let the question go before the people.

The people voted the franchise down, three to one. Then the company got out its whip and the council in the face of a terrible protest, as expressed by the people's ballots, passed the franchise. Then came the long litigation, with the citizens of Oregon City on one side and the city council, representing the interests of the railway company, on the other. In the litigation the railway company won every time.

Then came a public remonstrance against the franchise that represented about nine-tenths of the voting population of Oregon City. This argument satisfied Mayor Sommer and he vetoed the ordinance, and this was failure number two.

The company's next play is to come. If it gets the Clackamas county legislative delegation in the shape it had the Oregon City council the game will be easy and beyond an appeal of the people.

After the fight, Mr. Morris, head of the O. W. P. & R. Co., announced publicly that it was no part of the company's plan and had never been to build south from Oregon City. His interview was published in the Evening Telegram and was read by so many, that anyone must be stupid, indeed, who attempts to make campaign material out of the Oregon City franchise fight. Mr. Brownell, in attempting to make the people in the southern end of the county believe that had he and the O. W. P. Co. had their way, those people would have a railroad, is assuming that the people in the south end are ignorant

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and dapsely stupid. He undoubtedly read Mr. Morris' public statement and he is mistaken in assuming that Southern Clackamas is in the back woods or that the people there are not posted.

Mr. Brownell manipulated the franchise fight for the O. W. P. Co. from start to finish. The public for once had the good judgment to turn him down. Now he hopes to divide the public and swing half of it on the side of himself and the railroads. That is all there is to his little game.

A healthy man is a king in his own right; an unhealth y man is an unhappy slave. Burdock Blood Bitters builds up sound health—keeps you well.

SMITH WINS FROM JACKSON.

Portland Wrestler Gets Second and Third Falls From Heavier Man.

Robert Jackson, of this city, was Monday night defeated in the Armory a wrestling bout by Charles (Strangler) Smith, of Portland. Ed Rechner was the referee. Smith weighed in at 154 pounds, and Jackson at 170. Two hundred people witnessed the contest, which was preceded by a two-round boxing contest by local lads. The first fall went to Jackson in 18 minutes, Smith taking the second in six minutes and the third in two minutes. The contest was for the best two in three falls for a side bet of \$100, and the gate receipts.

After the bout, Smith issued a challenge to Jackson, arguing to sign articles for any amount to throw him five times within an hour or forfeit the purse. He accepted the challenge of Conductor Simmons, of Milwaukie, Or., and W. A. Gordon of North Yakima.

BLOWN INTO FRAGMENTS.

Two Japanese Killed While Thawing Dynamite.

As a result of attempting to thaw dynamite in a stove Saturday, a Japanese named K. Omura is dead and a fellow countryman named S. Fara was so badly mangled that he died while being taken to a hospital.

The accident occurred near Gresham shortly after 7 o'clock. The Japanese had leased land and were engaged clearing the tract for a garden. They occupied a frame building, which was completely wrecked by the explosion.

The news of the disaster was brought to Portland by W. J. Lake, who lives a short distance from the place where the explosion occurred.

"I was at home when I heard the explosion," said Mr. Lake, "and paid little attention to the sound, thinking that some one was blowing up a stump. When I was told that the house occupied by the Japanese had been wrecked, I hurried to the scene. "Sitting at the edge of the debris I found S. Fara, with his leg cut off, and such an exhibition of nerve it has never been my lot to witness. The man had his right leg cut off below the knee, and with the exception of a shoe on the uninjured foot he was stark naked. "All along his body there were pieces of mortar and brick that had been blown into his flesh by the force of the explosion. But he sat there and told me the story of the explosion and never a moan escaped from his lips.

"When neighbors arrived we were not long in finding his partner. Omura had both hands blown off and he was horribly mangled. Not a stitch of clothing remained on Omura. "Fara said they had placed several sticks of dynamite in the oven of a hot stove to thaw the explosive. He did not know how he managed to get clear from the debris, but supposed that he must have been blown there by the force of the explosion."

No other buildings in the vicinity were damaged by the force of the explosion, but a great hole was torn in the ground where the building stood. Coroner R. L. Holman was notified by phone and after hearing the particulars of the accident, decided that an inquest was not necessary.

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Lee Caulfield Entertains.

Lee Caulfield entertained a number of friends at his home Monday evening in honor of Rea Williams, a student at Pacific University. The prizes at "500" and "fruit basket" were won by Miss Nellie Caulfield, Rea Williams and Oden Roberts. Those present were Vera Phillips, Dollie Pratt, Nellie Caulfield, Ethel Park, Dedonia Shaw, Earle Latonrette, Olen Robertts, Percy Caulfield, Rea Williams, Allen Adams, Lee Caulfield.

Duncan-Hannicutt.

Miss Lessie Hannicutt and James W. Duncan, of North Yamhill, stole a march on their friends Tuesday and came to Oregon City, where they were quietly married in the office of County Judge Thomas F. Ryan by Rev. P. K. Hammond, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church. Mrs. Belle A. Sleight, deputy county clerk, and Miss Louise Cochran, stenographer, were the witnesses to the ceremony. Mr. Duncan is well known in Canemah, where he formerly resided.

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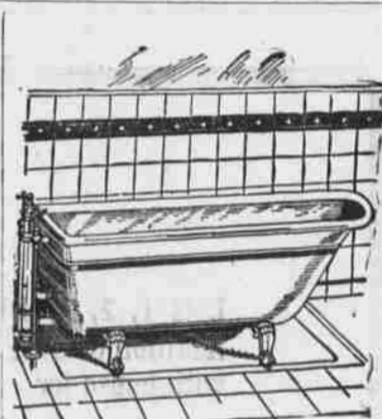
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