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Clackamas County Teachers' Institute

The Clackamas county annual teachers' institute opened Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock in the Barclay High school building. County Superintendent Zinser called the session to order and made a few introductory remarks welcoming the teachers, and explained the use of the registration blanks given them. One hundred and twenty-five teachers were present and marked attention was shown and a deep interest taken in the work throughout the day.

The programme opened with a musical number, which was followed by a reading on primary work by Professor Frank Rigler, city superintendent of Portland's schools. President P. L. Campbell of the Monmouth Normal, talked on primary language work, and Superintendent R. F. Robinson, of Multnomah county, spoke on a geographical topic, "Trade Routes." He was listened to with much interest and gave the reasons for the location of large cities and the establishment of commercial routes. Miss Loretta Smith gave a reading on primary number work.

The afternoon session commenced with an anthem, "Praise Ye the Father" (Gounod), which was rendered by St. Paul's Episcopal church choir. Superintendent Robinson made an address on civics, his subject being "The President's Advisers." He gave a complete account of the duties of cabinet officers and explained the work of the different departments represented in the president's cabinet. President Campbell spoke on "The Physical Nature of the Child." He made an earnest plea for comfortable physical conditions in the schoolroom, based on the needs of the child's body, and showed that the increase of life was four years in the last decade. He urged that proper attention be given to heat and light in the schoolroom, and that teachers pay particular attention to defects of eyesight, hearing and to nervous defects. President Campbell said that we do not achieve the possibilities of our race chiefly because we do not pay sufficient attention to the physical needs of the body.

He was followed by President Campbell, who took the new grammar and made an outline of how it should be presented in the schools.

Prof. Joseph Schaffer, assistant professor of history, University of Oregon, took for his subject, "Why We Study History in the Schools." History is a new subject compared with mathematics and language, and we are justified in discussing the reasons for studying it. It has not yet a definite and assured place in the curriculum; but, with the two great reports of the Committee of Ten, (1893) and the Committee of Seven, (1900) teachers are rapidly coming to some sort of agreement on what history should be taught, and to some extent, how it should be taught.

In Oregon we have now provision for eight years of history proper, beginning with the fifth and extending through the twelfth grade. Surely Oregon teachers should be able to give reasons for the faith they show in thus giving history a prominent place in the school course. Some of these reasons are as follows: In general, history is justified on pedagogical grounds. Like all training, it has as its aim to increase the efficiency of the individual subjected to it. That is, the reactions against our environment must be effective reactions if the individual is not to be overwhelmed by the great forces pressing in upon him. These forces, (this environment) have two aspects. On one side is the natural world. A study of natural sciences increases the efficiency of our reactions upon it. We get from the study knowledge, facts, power and insight. On the other hand is the social environment. This is the side concerning which power is gained in the study of the historical subjects. To sum up the legitimate results of historical study, it should:

Train the practical judgment;

Show the connection of the present with the past, and thus explain the present;

Unify the course of study;

Afford a motive and guide to independent work in after life.

Professor M. M. Ringler, physical director of the Portland Y. M. C. A., outlined a series of physical exercises and demonstrated the movement. He also submitted a printed outline of the work in this direction for the whole year, which will be used in the public schools of the county. The subject of "Nature Study" was ably handled by Miss Smith, who gave a general introduction as based upon books recently selected by the Oregon Text Book Commission. Her remarks were illustrated by an object lesson on leaf.

One hundred and fifty four teachers registered at the second day's session, which opened with music and was followed by a talk on number work by Miss Loretta Smith, critic teacher of the training department of the Monmouth Normal. She took the figures 6 and 3 in combination and went through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, showing how she would teach it concretely and abstractly. Her lecture was illustrated by means of splints.

City Superintendent Frank Rigler, of Portland, spoke on the phonic method of teaching primary reading. This was one of the most practical lectures of the session. He illustrated his method of dealing with a child by taking different words.

In the afternoon these four points were discussed with reference to the methods of securing these results. The necessity of broad historical preparation on the part of teachers of any part of history, and of libraries to furnish materials for study, were emphasized. Historical training, it was shown, should impart the power to use the world's acquired knowledge.

At 1:30 o'clock Miss Imogen Harding sang "Voices of the Wood," and Miss Loretta Smith lectured on "Nature Work." The most excellent books in Nature and Science study that were adopted by the late text-book commission, were introduced to the teachers in a way that it might assist them in making a course of nature lessons, including the suggestive topics given in the State Course of Study. Miss Smith said that one of the great difficulties in nature study has been to find some basis for selecting and arranging the most important and suitable topics for a course in nature work. This difficulty has been entirely removed in this state. With the many helpful books that have been adopted, and with the very interesting and abundant material to be found on every hand, any teacher should have little trouble in

(Continued on page 7)

HERMANN'S REPORT

Shows a Heavy Increase in Land Office Business.

During the Year 15,662,706 Acres Were Disposed of and the Receipts of the Office Were $4,967,160.

Hon. Binger Hermann, Commissioner of the General Land Office, has completed his annual report, which shows that during the year 15,662,706 acres of the public domain were disposed of, and that the receipts of the office were 14,967,160. The receipts exceeded those of last year by $592,402, and the land disposals by 2,108,908 acres. The report embraces tabulated statements showing the business done in the land offices and at Washington. Referring to the increase of business shown by the report, Mr. Hermann says:

When in my last annual report I called attention to the remarkable showing made in the tabulated statements of work in this office—of lands disposed of and cash received for that year—and which far exceeded the record for many years preceding, I confidently believed a maximum had been reached. The cash receipts were then $4,374,758, an increase of $1,309,621 over the previous year, and an increase of $2,101,763 over that of the year 1898. The land disposed of was shown to be 13,453,827 acres in 1900, as against 9,182,413 acres for 1899. Of homestead entries, 8,478,400 acres were shown in that report, as against 6,177,587 acres for the year before.

"The present report for the fiscal year just closed greatly surpasses prior exhibits. There were 9488 more final homeentries made during the year just closed, and covering 1,180,528 more acres than for any one year since the passage of the homestead act in 1862. Nearly one-fourth as many final entries of homesteads and acres in the year just closed were made as in the entire 19 years following that law.

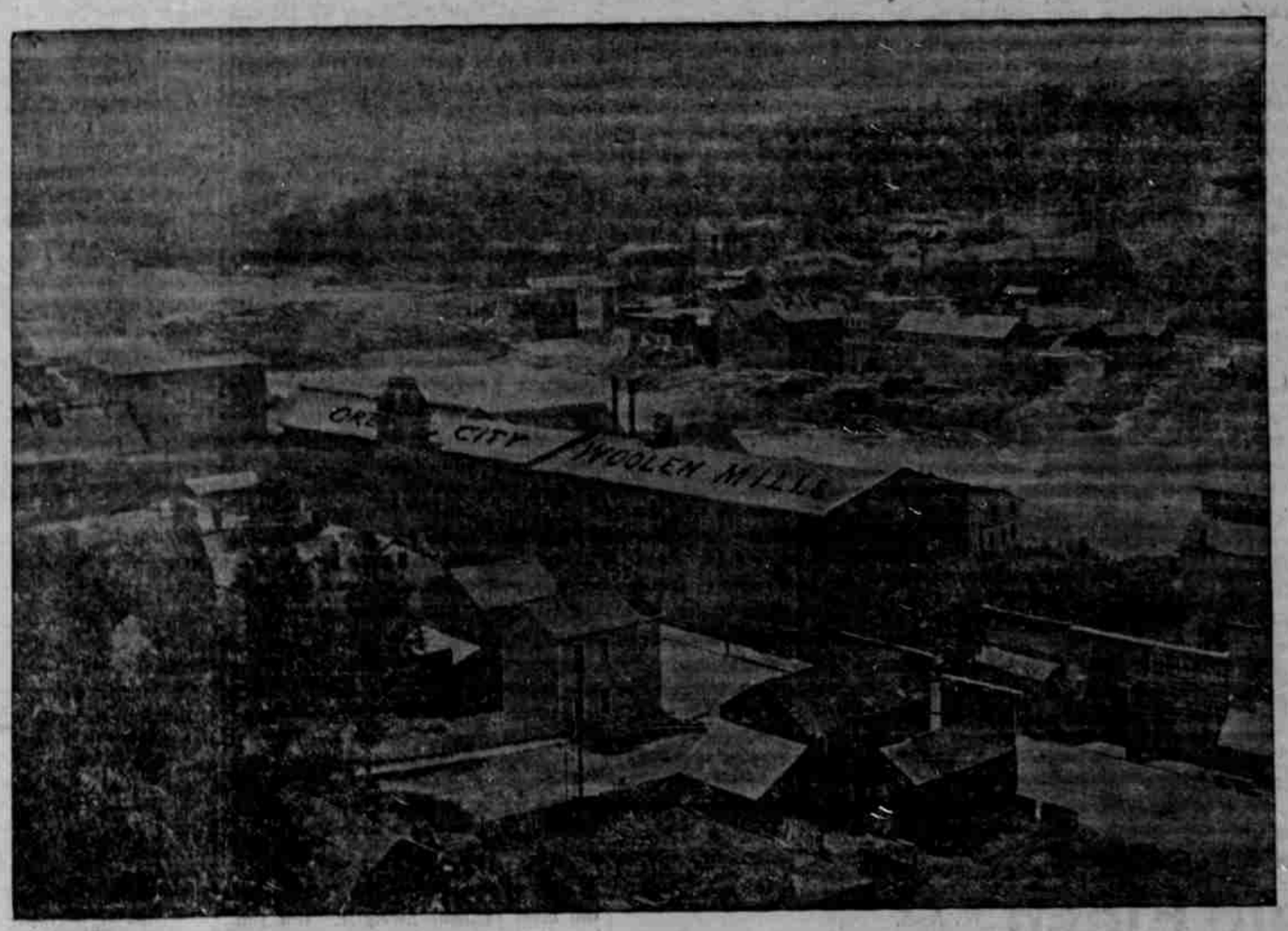
"The record of original homestead entries made by settlers on the public domain the past year is almost as great a surprise. The entries numbered 68,648 and covered 9,497,275 acres, an increase over the great year before of 7378 entries and of 1,018,866 acres. In original homestead entries, final homestead entries and commuted homestead entries made in the last fiscal year there were 111,390 entries in all embracing 15,455,057 acres, for actual bonafide homes of American settlers."

All told, the Commissioner says, the year just closed has been the best in 10 years, both in point of money receipts and amount of land disposed of. There was a surplus of $3,158,441 after paying all the expenses of the land and forest administration of the government. The patents on account of railroad grants covered 2,460,804 acres.

The commissioner says special efforts were made by his office finally to close up the swamp-land claims which still remain on the part of the different states. Last year 215,963 acres were patented, as against 98,923 this year. Swamp indemnity claims rejected last year embraced 192,900 acres.

The report shows that there still remain in the public domain 914,096,074 acres of land which has not been appropriated, and much of which has not been surveyed. This area includes the Territory of Alaska, but not the insular possessions.

The manufacturing district of Oregon City, showing woolen, paper, pulp, and flour mill and Portland General Electric station.



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