

Oregon City Enterprise

Published Every Friday. E. E. BRODIE, Editor and Publisher.

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MORE UPON This matter of the THE SAME schools, and what is wrong with them, seems to be taking up considerable of the public attention. Mr. Gary, county school superintendent, is himself not quite satisfied with the manner in which the modern young idea is taught to shoot and from time to time comments hereon. One of his latest epigrams on the subject is "school is not preparation for life, it is a part of life." Mr. Gary has observed and he knows whereof he speaks.

School is life, and it is mighty poor life these days. It is so poor, in fact, that we no longer hear that time-honored platitude about school days being the happiest ones of all. Modern school days are not happy for anybody concerned. They are not happy for the students, because the boys and girls are confused with a mass of studies of practically no value to them in everyday life; they are not happy for the teachers, because the instructors realize that there is little enthusiasm among the pupils, and because they know that much of the teaching is worthless; they are not happy ones for the parents, because many of them can ill afford to have their children puzzling their minds over so much useless matter.

Wherein lies the remedy, is the question that confronts all. It is not thought satisfaction will be found entirely by a return to the olden-day courses, when reading, "riting and arithmetic were the standbys for the years of school life. The hope of the future, according to the general opinion, lies in the vocational school; in courses of study designed not only to be helpful in later life, but to be a part of the life of youth itself. Children will learn the necessary things much more rapidly if they are taught them indirectly. While it is true that they have to be rigorously drilled in some of the simpler subjects, such as spelling and the art of writing—now almost a lost art—much of the other work can be furnished them incidentally with instruction of real interest. Arithmetic, for instance, can be made a part of almost any vocational study. It can be coordinated with manual training, and even with domestic science.

History, geography, science, as well as grammar and other studies, can be taken up indirectly with vocational work. History and geography, in particular, can be made interesting to even the dullest dunces if taught by story and not by rote. Manual training and domestic science can be made the basis from which more advanced scholars can branch out into botany, agriculture, physics, or a host of other things; and they can be so taught that the children will welcome the hours in the class room or the laboratory, and will not go drudgingly from study to study as prisoners from task to task.

The truth of the matter is that while every other phase of modern life has undergone a great transition in recent years, school work is still hide-bound by the binding cords of the past. The desks of the modern school are more comfortable than the benches of former years, blackboards are less of a strain upon the eyes, classrooms are better ventilated and better lighted—but the curricula is still a monstrous thing which is jammed willy-nilly down the throats of the youngsters like a distasteful medicine. Schooling is presented to the child as something that has got to be suffered, instead of being offered as a tempting pathway to new fields seen vaguely in the distance.

has been regarded as a thing that should be made pleasant—but school life has lagged behind with some few other remnants of bygone eras. The change must come and come speedily else we will become a nation of under-educated folk, a land of illiterates, a people of superficial shams. It is well that the public mind is turning to this matter, for only through public agitation will a betterment be brought about.

A QUESTION Every now and then OF VERACITY something bobs up that casts discredit upon the Northwest, and when the matter is run down it is found that some too ardent booster has been exaggerating facts, and that some over-keen Easterner has nailed the lie, and has therefor concluded that all news of the Northwest is of the same calibre. There are two cures for this sort of thing: one is to "tame down" all boosting news so that the Northwest will understate its resources, and the other is to tell the East some of the weird yet apparently impossible truths about this section of the country, and to convince them that they are true. Once they learn that the apparently impossible is really true, they will be apt to believe everything. For instance, if the East was finally convinced that on the Oregon coast it is possible to break out solid rock from the sea-cliffs and find living shell-fish imbedded in the material—as is a fact—it might be easier to get them to believe the somewhat less surprising statement that four and sometimes five crops of alfalfa can be harvested in one year from the same field. Or if the East was once definitely made to understand that the velocity of the Nisqually river in Box Canyon was so great that the stream actually "runs up hill" for a part of its way to the sea, it might be more simple to get them to believe that salmon leap over waterfalls, and that land is often sold for more than \$2,000 an acre, and is worth it.

HARD TO IN seeking a competent SATISFY cruiser to discover how much standing timber there was in Clackamas county, so that the taxes could be levied with greater fairness to all, the members of the county court were forced to procure a gentleman from beyond the county limits. There may have been good crushers living within the county, but they were not available at the time; and as competency was the chief factor to be taken into consideration, the county court employed an outside man. For this they have been harshly taken to task in a certain quarter. In making alterations and repairs upon the county court house, the members of the county court let the work to residents of this county, after deciding not to accept the bids made by firms and persons who were not residents. For this they were harshly taken to task in a certain quarter. It seems to be a case of "be damned if you do and be damned if you don't." It would be interesting to know what would please the Road Builder from Cuba, who pays less taxes and makes more noise than any other member of the disgruntled trio.

Denial By Mr. Smith MACKSBURG, May 28.—(Editor Enterprise)—I read in The Enterprise an article on the recall meeting at Needy, in which my name is connected, that I wish to state is unqualifiedly false in every particular, and I ask you to publish this denial. I would state that I do not live in Needy precinct, have not been there in many months, had not signed or circulated a recall petition; could not be a road supervisor in that precinct if appointed; would not take the appointment in my own district if it was not even present at the meeting. I would further ask that The Enterprise confine itself to the truth so far as I am concerned hereafter, and not drag me in with a string of utterly false and absurd statements. The people are more interested in the recall charges than in the false statements about me. Let The Enterprise defend the charges of Mr. Olds and others, and if it cannot, then I would suggest that it at least confine itself to a few truths, so that the statements might be given a little credit. If The Enterprise knows any truths about me that are deserving of criticism, then it may put me on the roaster.

Charles Scriber was fined \$10 and costs in Justice Stevers' court Thursday for having in his possession a vicious dog. Complaint upon which the arrest was made was sworn to by a young girl who had been bitten by the animal.

claim, then it may put me on the roaster. If I have ever done anything in political or business affairs to be ashamed of, I have forgotten it, and would like the public to do likewise. J. W. SMITH.

ROAD DISTRICT 50 WILL GET HIGHWAY

In a suit filed by A. H. Schmidt and Lizzie Koch against the members of the county court, and reviewed Tuesday by Judge Campbell in the circuit court, the higher tribunal upheld the decision of the county court and denied the right of the plaintiffs to halt work on the highway in road district No. 50, determination of which was first fixed July 6, 1910.

At the same meeting of the Live Wires at which plans for this excursion were perfected, a talk was given by the members by Prof. August Wagner, athletic instructor at the high school, on the need of a playground for the boys and girls.

President B. T. McBehn and Mr. Shepherd also spoke on the matter, saying that playgrounds were a necessity of modern school life, and pledging the assistance of the Live Wires in the effort to procure an athletic field for school activities.

FOREST CLERK WANTED The United States civil service commission announces that a forest and field clerk examination (requiring a knowledge of stenography, typewriting and bookkeeping) will be held in this city on June 7, 1913.

WARM TIME WAITS CALIFORNIA FOLKS The Royal Oaks, the unique organization of live wires of Oakland, Cal., are coming north 200 strong by special train to capture the Portland Rose Festival.

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THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE PASADENA ROSE FESTIVAL will be given an elaborate reception by Rex Oregonus and his court, in which the royalties of the different floral fetes of the coast will receive their subject and these monarchs will owe allegiance to none save the rose, which all are gathered to honor.

WILSON FREES OREGONIAN WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23.—President Wilson today commuted the sentence of Elias Rich, former bank clerk at the National Bank of Salem, who was sentenced to five years in the federal penitentiary for falsifying records. Rich will only have to serve 12 months of the time.

DOGBITE IS COSTLY Charles Scriber was fined \$10 and costs in Justice Stevers' court Thursday for having in his possession a vicious dog. Complaint upon which the arrest was made was sworn to by a young girl who had been bitten by the animal.

JAPAN'S RULER BETTER TOKIO, May 23.—Emperor Yoshihito, mikado of Japan, is reported to be slowly recovering from the attack of pneumonia, from which he has been suffering. All the stores in Tokio are closed, and the populace is gathered before the palace in prayer.

LIVE WIRES PLAN RIVER EXCURSION

Through the Live Wires, who held their regular meeting Tuesday noon at the Commercial club parlors, the Oregon City Commercial club has chartered the steamers Ruth and N. R. Lang for a free excursion for members and their friends to Portland on June 5, the opening day of the Rose Festival.

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30 DIE; 50 HURT AS PIER DROPS

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, HAS GHASTLY TRAGEDY AT GATHERING OF BRITONS

WILD PANIC FOLLOWS ACCIDENT Auditorium at Water's Edge Collapses Under Weight of Crowd Celebrating Empire Day in South

LONG BEACH, Cal., May 24.—Too frail to uphold the burden of nearly 10,000 human beings assembled for the festivities of the British Empire day celebration, the land end of the big double docked pier in front of the city auditorium collapsed today. Hundreds of persons on the top deck were dropped down on the heads of other hundreds crowded on the deck below.

MAY GO TO COURT OVER NEW ISLAND

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 29.—An island containing 207 acres of rich farm land has been "discovered" in the Missouri River about a mile north-east of Miale's Ferry, the extreme east of St. Louis county.

TEDDY TEMPERATE SAYS HIS FRIENDS

MARUETTE, Mich., May 28.—Men who have been associated with Col. Roosevelt in public and private life who met him on the Nile when he returned from the African hunting trip, and newspapermen who accompanied him on his various political campaigns testified today in Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's libel suit against George A. Newett, a newspaper owner of Isabella, Mich.

KILLS WHITE HOPE

CALGARY, Cal., May 24.—Luther McCarty, while heavy-weight champion of the world, today took the count of 10 from Referee Ed Smith, which marked him the loser in the 10-round fight with Arthur Pelkey, and eight minutes later was dead. His death was caused by a chance blow, exactly one minute and 45 seconds after the fight began.

GRASSHOPPERS COVER 90 MILES

AMARILLO, Tex., May 26.—Traveling northward, a column of grasshoppers five miles wide and 18 miles long is reported in Northeastern New Mexico today. Reports that the millions of grasshoppers seem to spread as they travel and also the appearance of smaller bodies of grasshoppers in sections of West Texas have caused fear of a general grasshopper pest in the Southwest, especially in Texas, Western Oklahoma and New Mexico.

MRS. LARSEN IS DEAD

Mrs. Lenora Larsen, whose home has been at Fifteenth and Washington streets, died Friday of tuberculosis. She was 26 years of age and had a host of friends in this city. The body will be sent to Valley City, N. Dak., for interment, at the wish of her husband, E. Larsen, who is at present in the East.

ONE-CENT POSTAGE SOON WILL COME

Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson, recently appointed by President Wilson to take charge of the postal affairs of the United States, is heartily in favor of one cent letter postage. He so announced himself to a delegation representing the National One-Cent Letter Postage association, which waited on him in Washington a few days ago.

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HOT BISCUIT, hot cakes, made with ROYAL Baking Powder are delicious, healthful and easily made.

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