

NEW SCHOOL LAWS

SUPERINTENDENT ACKERMAN WANTS REVISIONS MADE.

Rural Schools Should Be Improved By Closing One or More Small Schools and Uniting Revenues of the Districts in Which They Are Located into One Central School.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. H. Ackerman, has taken the recommendations of the county superintendents of the various counties and from them has drawn up a bulletin showing where desirable changes may be made in the school laws. He says: The best educational thought of the common school teachers of to-day, is given to the question of how to improve the rural schools. Educational methods and practices have made great advancement during the past twenty-five years; but there is no disguising the fact that the advancement in the rural schools has not kept pace with that of the village and city schools. City schools are in the hands of the best educational talent that can be secured. This is effected by the payment of liberal salaries to teachers, by supplying the best buildings that brains and money can produce, and by holding out the inducement of attractive surroundings to the teacher. There is no valid reason why a child who attends a rural school is not entitled to as nearly adequate school accommodations and as efficient a teacher as the child whose lot happens to be cast in a city school. Not that there are no efficient teachers nor any good work being done in the rural schools, for often the contrary is true; but the good work accomplished is secured in spite of the many discouragements met with and at a fearful expense of time and energy on the part of pupil and teacher. The result is not to be compared with what could be accomplished if many of the existing conditions were changed. These conditions can be materially improved by more effectual supervision; by securing better teachers; by furnishing school boards with ample funds with which to pay better salaries; and by closing one or more small schools and uniting the revenues of the districts in which they are located into one central school, to which the children would be transported at the expense of the consolidated districts.

Better teachers can be secured if school boards would insist that the teachers they employ shall be especially trained for their work; and one of the most hopeful signs, for the betterment of the rural schools, is that school boards are more and more coming to realize the importance of such training, and are employing only trained teachers. This is as it should be, and the time will soon be when no school board will think of employing an untrained teacher; neither will a teacher presume to teach who has not been trained for her work. There is a scarcity of rural school teachers. This has been brought about, largely, by the small salaries paid for teaching in the rural schools. Many of our best teachers cannot afford to teach for the compensation offered; hence, seek and find employment in more lucrative vocations. Of course, teachers should place teaching on a higher plane than a mere pecuniary one, but, after all, say what we will, we are all more or less influenced by monetary considerations. Many school boards would willingly pay more if they had the means; but with the tax levy and other sources of school funds as they are, and it being quite impossible to secure a special tax levy, school officers must, perforce, conduct the school affairs of their district with the funds received from the five-mill county tax and the interest from the irrevocable school fund. In view of these conditions, I would respectfully suggest that your honorable body pass such enactments as will provide rural schools with ample funds.

In this connection I would recommend the following:

1. Amend section 2, Oregon School Laws, so to read as follows: "The county courts of the several counties of this state are hereby required to levy, at the same time they levy other taxes, a tax upon all the taxable property in their counties, for school purposes, of at least six mills on the dollar, which shall be collected the same time and in the same manner and by the same officers that other taxes are collected."
2. A law providing that the State Land Board shall have the preferential right to purchase all school bonds and pay for the same out of the permanent school funds.
3. A law placing a small annual tax on corporations, the proceeds to be used for public school purposes only. The sum realized to be turned over to the State Treasurer and annually apportioned by him among the several counties of this state in proportion to

the number of persons in each between the ages of four and twenty years.

Some of the benefits to be derived from consolidation of small schools and the transportation of pupils at public expense, are as follows:

- (a) The schools being larger and more closely graded, better teachers can be secured.
- (b) Experience in other states has proved that the per capita cost is reduced.
- (c) The larger school employs more teachers, hence, a better classification can be secured than in small schools.
- (d) The larger school produces larger classes, therefore a greater enthusiasm is obtained than can be secured where there are but three or four in a class—the number in the average class in a small school.
- (e) Supervision is more thorough and more easily accomplished.
- (f) A better and more regular attendance can be secured.
- (g) Tardiness is reduced to a minimum.

(h) Better buildings and more apparatus and appliances can be secured at less cost.

(i) Longer and more regular terms of school would result.

(j) As the pupils are conveyed to and from school their health is uniformly better.

(k) Older children are enabled to attend their home school much longer.

(l) The farm surroundings of the community will be greatly improved.

(m) In a consolidated school opportunity can be afforded for studying special branches.

(n) Eighteen states have laws upon their statute books authorizing the consolidation of districts and the transportation of pupils, and it is the consensus of opinion of superintendents, school officers and teachers, where consolidation and transportation have been tried that the plan is far superior to the old plan of having a small school at every crossroads.

In thus impeaching the work now being done in our rural schools we are not unmindful of the fact that the rural school has been a potent factor in our American civilization; but this is an age of organization and centralization. The conditions under which they did their best work have been radically changed, and with the change must come a corresponding change in the methods of conducting these schools. The boys and girls in the rural schools are just as bright, just as intelligent and as capable of doing good, thorough work, as any pupil in the city schools. The benefits to be secured in the scheme of consolidation are that the child may still be surrounded by country conditions—the very best possible—and at the same time shall be afforded a school that has all the advantages of classification and organization found in the city school. The child in the country is infinitely better off than the child in the city, from the fact that he has some definite work to perform, such as can only be found on a farm; hence we believe the very best conditions for making strong men and women, both physically and mentally, are best secured by keeping them in close touch with rural surroundings and at the same time furnishing them with the very best school conditions possible.

Second. Amend the law so that each school clerk shall enroll annually on the first Monday in March, for school purposes, all persons in his district over four and under twenty years of age.

Third. Amend the law so that a county superintendent may use a part of the institute fund for holding local teachers' meetings.

Fourth. Amend the law so that when a vacancy shall occur in the office of a school director or a school clerk the vacancy shall be filled by the district boundary board until the next annual meeting, when such vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the qualified voter of the district.

Fifth. A law making it the duty of the county superintendent to attend annually a county superintendent's convention, at such time and place as may be indicated by the state superintendent, making it the duty of the county court to audit the traveling expenses of the county superintendents to such meetings, and the same to be paid out of the general fund of the county.

Sixth. Amend section 32, Oregon School Laws, so that it shall read as follows: "Districts shall not be entitled to their respective proportion of the school fund, at the disposal of the county superintendent, unless they shall have reported to him by the first Monday in July of each year; and shall have had a school taught in their respective districts at least four months in each year."

In Clackamas County ten districts have three months school during the year, ten districts have four months school, nine districts have five months school, twenty districts have six months school, eleven districts have seven months school, eighteen have eight months, twenty have nine months and twenty-two have ten months.

TEST JUNK SALE LAW

SUIT BROUGHT TO QUIET TITLE ON GLADSTONE PROPERTY.

Gladstone Real Estate Association and H. L. Kelly, trustee, Bring Action Against T. F. Ryan—Law Declared Invalid in Other Counties in This Judicial District.

The Gladstone Real Estate Association and H. L. Kelly, trustee, have brought suit in the circuit court against Thomas F. Ryan to quiet title of over 600 acres of land in Gladstone, which were recently purchased by Judge Ryan at a junk sale of property, against which taxes were due for 1898. About 600 acres belonging to the Gladstone Real Estate Association were sold for \$423 and in addition to this Judge Ryan bid in about 40 lots which H. L. Kelly holds as trustee. This is the first attempt that has been made in Clackamas county to test the law under which a county may sell and convey title to property, which has been sold for delinquent tax and bid in by the county. H. E. Cross, of the Gladstone Association, said this afternoon that this county is the only one in this judicial district where the law had not been tested and found invalid. Judge Ryan refused a bonus of \$75 for the redemption of the property, and asked \$120. Last year the Gladstone Association paid the county \$1700 for last year's taxes and back taxes.

MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS.

Twenty People Talk About Amendments to Charter, but Take no Action.

The meeting of citizens of Oregon City called for Saturday night, was productive of nothing. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the proposed changes in the city charter and only two councilmen, Koerner and Powell, were present. About 20 men were present and after several hours discussion the meeting adjourned without taking action, except to sanction the proposal to increase the authority of the recorder.

The most important changes suggested by the council committee, Powell, Koerner and Albright, are the levying of a 10-mill tax on all assessable property within the city limits; giving the board of health authority to quarantine all patients who may be stricken with contagious diseases within two and one-half miles of the city limits; granting additional authority to the city recorder in trying cases and empowering him to hold office until his successor is appointed; providing for the licensing of all telephone, water, gas, electric and power companies.

The city charter now provides for a tax levy of 7 mills. The creation of a permanent street improvement fund is favored, the additional 3 mills to be set aside for the improvement of streets. The proposed amendments to the charter also provide that when a street is to be improved, the permanent fund shall pay one-third of the total cost, and the remaining two-thirds shall be assessed to the property abutting the street.

Luelling's Claim Denied.

The Board of County Commissioners turned down the application of ex-County Recorder A. Luelling for \$1400 for extra duty here while he was in that office. His attorneys will take the case to the Circuit Court.

Hop and Potato Sales.

Two shipments of hops have been made from this city, one lot of 13,187 pounds, sold by Wong Sing, brought 25 cents, and one lot of 9139 pounds, sold by C. G. Jacobs, brought 24½ cents. The first lot made 69 bales and the second 47 bales.

The Oregon Water Power & Railway Company's warehouse contains about 1000 sacks of potatoes. The owners are Waldon M. Shank, McKinley Mitchell and Alec White. Potatoes are worth a little over 50 cents a sack at the present time, but a raise is expected soon. The whole lot will be worked off this week.

Columbia Hook and Ladder Company will give a dance in the grandy Monday, February 23.

Concocted.

Phyllis—Harry is the most concocted man I ever met.
Maud—What makes you think so?
Phyllis—Why, he first asserts that I am the most adorable woman in the world, the most beautiful, intellectual and in every respect a paragon, and then he wants me to marry him!

Seesaw.

Nodd—Every time I go on a vacation I swear I'll never take another.
Topp—Why don't you stick to it?
Nodd—Because every time I stay at home I vow I'll never do it again.—Brooklyn Life.

STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

Immigrants For America Are Looked Upon as Cargo.

One of the biggest liners sailing out of France, with 800 steerage passengers aboard, was selected for observing the manner of handling steerage passengers bound for America.

A firm conclusion reached after the experience of that trip is that an immigrant of this class has to put up with much unnecessarily unpleasant treatment—first, simply because he is an immigrant and therefore in judgment meriting it, and, secondly, because, being what he is, he has not yet learned to protect himself. The picture conjured up by the term "immigrant" in the minds of those who have their eyes on route is not at all the color of the vision that arises before us with the word. Here in America we have a notion of a band of earnest and, it may be, if we are uncharitable, worn and unwashed men and women with families, though the family and the washing are really outside for the moment, hurrying from hard conditions of life—scarce, underpaid labor, ignorance, oppression, misrule—pressing on to what they must conceive to be a bright land of promise or they would not be rushing here; to a glorious young country, where all men are free and equal and all that sort of thing. But the man who has to see that these immigrants are given food and bunk and that they do not fall sick below has no such fancies. His sympathy, he will tell you, is not for the immigrants, but for the country that is to get them.

Those in charge of the immigrant from southern Europe will tell you that he is not a desirable creature. They have handled many, many thousands of his kind, and they should know something of him now. The company transports him, it is true, but as to that, he is freight, freight of good profit. The company would take freight to the highest degree distant if so be the rates were paid. Indeed, yes, it is a business. There is a large profit in the immigrant—oh, yes—but as a fellow passenger he is—oh, well, repulsive, repugnant or whatever you say in your language.—James B. Connolly in Scribner's.

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP.

A German Hotel Keeper's Opinions on Hottish Peoples.

"I think that the Americans are altogether too quick to pick a quarrel," said a German hotel keeper in Harlem who had just had a petty tussle in putting out an unwelcome customer.

"They are not to be compared with the French," said an American lawyer who happened to drop in. "Why, you know about those French apprentices, how they are always ready to fight and often lose their lives over a few words."

"I've heard about these apprentices," said the German. "We have them in our country. They roam around the country. But what of that?"

"Yes," was the answer. "A party of them, with a leader and representing some craft, will, for instance, meet another party of apprentices. They are organized into different societies, each intensely jealous of the other, and if two such bands are different societies there is a fight in an instant. First the leaders come to blows, and then the melee becomes general. They fight with fists and sticks until the road is littered with the wounded and sometimes the dead."

The German, not to be outdone by the French, said before he had thought twice: "That's nothing. Why, our students in the universities have fights. They belong to different societies and fight with sabers. Because of some little insult often one will have his head fairly cut open."

"And yet you complain about the Americans!" said the lawyer as he laughed to see how the German had stepped into his own trap.—New York Tribune.

A True Friend.

It takes a great soul to be a true friend—a large, catholic, steadfast and loving spirit. One must forgive much, forget much, forbear much. It costs to be a friend or to have a friend. There is nothing else in life except motherhood that costs so much. It not only costs time, affection, strength, patience, love—sometimes a man must even lay down his life for his friends. There is no true friendship without self abnegation, self sacrifice.

Born With Them.

"Mamma," said the little girl, her eyes wide with excitement, "I do believe the minister told a story!"

"Why, the idea?" said her mother. "You don't know what you are saying."

"But I do, mamma. I heard papa ask him how long he had worn whiskers, and he said he had worn them all his life."

A Synonym.

"What? Fifty cents a box for those pills?" cried the customer. "Why, it's robbery."

"I wouldn't say that," returned the druggist coolly.

"No?"

"No. Since pills are under discussion, I'd try to be humorous and call it 'pillage.'"—Philadelphia Press.

Visits, but Doesn't Put Up There.

"My boy Josh writes me that he is stoppin' at the best hotels," remarked Mrs. Cornsossel.

"Is he a commercial traveler?"

"No. He's drivin' a transfer wagon."—Washington Star.

When Dame Fortune goes calling, she utterly disregards "at home" days.—Chicago News.

There is neither thunder nor lightning within the arctic circle.

BROWNELL WINS IT

CAUCUS NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENCY OF OREGON STATE SENATE.

Representative Harris, of Eugene, Secures the Speakership—Result is a Signal Victory for the Forces of C. W. Fulton for the United States Senate.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE—GEORGE C. BROWNELL, of Clackamas County.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE—LAWRENCE T. HARRIS, of Lane County.

State Senator, George C. Brownell, of Clackamas County, will preside over the destinies of the Oregon Senate for the next 40 days. His eight years of service in the upper house of the legislature has been crowned with reward. A caucus of the 24 republicans in the senate was held this morning and seven ballots were taken, all of them resulting in 12 votes for Brownell and 12 votes for Dr. Andrew C. Smith, of Multnomah County. An adjournment was taken until this afternoon, when Senator Brownell obtained enough votes to secure the coveted plum. He is the caucus nominee and The Record congratulates him. The hardest kind of a fight was put up against him and the fact that he won out will give him additional prestige and influence. In this Clackamas County will be the gainer. His third term opens auspiciously and he is now in a position to enforce needed legislation.

Representative L. T. Harris, of Eugene, is serving his second term in the house. He is a young man, a lawyer, and in the last legislature obtained distinction and won recognition. Mr. Harris is a brilliant speaker and a good parliamentarian. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, situated in his own town, Eugene, and received his degree of bachelor of laws from the University of Michigan. His victory, as is Senator Brownell's, means a victory for the forces of Charles W. Fulton for United States Senator.

Tax Levy Will be Made Wednesday.

The board of county commissioners adjourned Saturday until Wednesday when the annual tax levy will be made and the regular venire of Circuit Court jurors drawn.

The annual roll call of the members of the Congregational Church was held Thursday evening.

OLD FASHIONED.

What has become of the old fashioned man who called a boil a "gatherin'?"

What has become of the old fashioned man who referred to coal as "stone coal?"

What has become of the old fashioned woman who bought wall paper and hung it herself?

What has become of the old fashioned boy who believed that eating gunpowder would make him fierce?

What has become of the old fashioned mustang pony that had to be broken every time it was latched up?

What has become of the old fashioned person who said to a child that had fallen, "Come here, and I'll help you up?"

What has become of the old fashioned woman who used to say to her boy when he came in late, "I'll attend to your case after supper?"—Acheson Globe.

Carefulness of Surgeons.

It is an object lesson in godliness to see a surgeon washing his hands after performing an operation, says the Chicago Chronicle. He works of course with sleeves rolled up to the elbow, so that the washing extends from the crazy bone to the tip of the finger nail. First there is a hard scrubbing with plain soap and sterilized water. This is followed by a swabbing with tincture of green soap and sterilized water. Then comes a genuine scouring with equal parts of quicklime and soda in sterilized water and finally a rinsing in a solution (1 to 2,000) of bichloride of mercury. Without these four separate washings no surgeon would think of venturing out to scatter germs of disease.

Romance of a Marriage License.

There is a record of a marriage license issued to two parties, and written across the face of the entry in red ink is the note by the judge: "Returned unused. See page so and so." On turning to the page referred to there is another record and the same red ink note. In short, the record shows that a license was procured and returned unused four different times. The fifth time, however, was the charm, and they were married, he at the age of sixty-four and she at forty-eight years.—Ottawa Republican.

Photography.

She—I took this picture with my "koffak" while abroad.
He—What is it?
She—Well, that building that stands up perfectly straight is the leaning tower of Pisa; those leaning buildings are the perpendicular edifices in the vicinity.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Fred Baker, of Stafford, has gone to Eastern Oregon to take up a homestead.

George C. Hess and Edwin Cox, of Stone, were in the city Thursday on legal business.

John H. Daly, of Macksburg, was in the city Friday on business before the county court.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Perry, of Portland, were in Oregon City Sunday, visiting relatives.

District Attorney J. U. Campbell was among the passengers for Salem yesterday morning.

W. J. Edmondson, of this city, has passed the state medical examination and is entitled to write M. D. after his name.

C. D. Latourette returned this morning from a three weeks' trip in the east. He visited his mother and brother in Fenton, Mich., and sisters in Boston and New York.

John Shuttle, at one time a progressive farmer living about eight miles up the Clackamas, and who sold out and went to Portland several years ago, was in the city Friday on business. He is working in Portland.

Dr. W. K. Haviland, who came here several months ago to take charge of Dr. Strickland's practice while the latter was in the East, and upon his return formed a partnership, left Monday for Japan as physician of the steamship Indrapura. He will return in about three months.

Mrs. Carlton, Mrs. Rosenkrans and Mrs. Kirk, of Canby, were in the city a few days last week, guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sleight. The latter lady is the widow of the oldest Odd Fellow in Oregon, who had been an ardent worker in that order for 51 years, prior to his death, about a year ago.

Kindness to an Emigrant Boy.

A young Austrian boy, unable to speak the language of our country, came into town Friday, tired, hungry and worn out. He is a recent arrival from his fatherland and fell into the kindly hands of Secretary Bollack, of the woolen mills, and by him was taken to G. Rosenstien, the clothier, who speaks Austrian, and 10 other languages besides. He talked to the boy who explained his impoverished condition. Mr. Rosenstien gave him some new clothes, which he was sadly in need of, fed him and then took him across the street to the Bon Ton restaurant, which is conducted by an Austrian, and secured a position for him. Mr. Rosenstien came here five years ago from Alsace and Lorine province and was glad to have the opportunity of doing a charitable act for the homeless and friendless lad.

I. O. O. F. Installation.

Oregon Lodge, No. 3, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, held its annual installation Thursday night. Harvey Starkweather was the installing officer and the following were installed:

J. B. Fairclough, N. G.; A. H. Fumegan, V. G.; T. F. Ryan, R. S.; S. S. Walker, treasurer; H. W. Trembath, F. S.; William Hedges, conductor; E. J. Noble, warden; E. Leighton, R. S. N. G.; L. H. Pfeister, L. S. N. G.; W. L. Midlam, R. S. V. G.; Geo. Reddaway, L. S. V. G.; Lincoln Waldron, I. G.; J. W. Noble, chaplain; Geo. Dahll, J. K. Morris, S. S.

Honors For Oregon City Boy.

William B. Shively, Jr., of this city, has been elected president of the student body of the Pacific University, to succeed Clark H. Williams, of this city, who left the school to enter the newspaper field at Medford. Mr. Shively is a member of the freshmen class and has distinguished himself in college circles. He was a member of the debating team which won from Willamette University last year and is the only academy student who ever made the debating team. Mr. Shively is the son of Manager Shively, of Shively's opera house.

Albert Cox Surprised.

Albert Cox was tendered a pleasant surprise last Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Canon, in this city. Forty persons participated in the festivities and a royal good time was had, indulging in games and enjoying music until a very late hour, when refreshments were served.

Buggy Overturned.

While J. McKay, wife and daughter were driving on the West Side Thursday evening, the buggy upset, throwing all three occupants to the ground. Miss McKay received a cut over the left eye, but not seriously. Mr. and Mrs. McKay were only slightly injured.

Wife Deserted Him.

W. A. Parker has brought suit in the Circuit Court against Hattie Belle Parker for a divorce, on the grounds of desertion. The complaint alleges that the plaintiff was married to defendant at Portland, January 23, 1899, and that the defendant deserted her in August 1901.