

SCHOOL TOPICS

Edited by E. E. Coad

There was a misstatement, unintentional on my part, in the introduction to last week's article. It was the understanding that this column was to appear on page 7, but it was not possible to give it that position last week.

All the schools in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties were closed last week so that the teachers in the three counties could attend the joint annual teachers' institute at The Dalles. The school law requires all teachers to attend.

The institute program for Oregon is rather unique this year from the fact that the same instructors, with local exceptions, tour the state. There is a continuous program, two institutes each week, ending with the state institute at Portland during the holidays. The instructors at The Dalles last week were as follows:

L. R. Alderman, superintendent of public instruction; J. H. Ackerman, president state normal school; Montana Hastings, department of education, University of Oregon; Ruby Shearer, primary department, Oregon Normal School; Helen Kennedy, Oregon Library Commission; E. D. Ressler, Oregon Agricultural College; Dr. C. H. Jenkins, Hood River; J. O. McLaughlin, Hood River; W. B. Young, The Dalles.

A few of the Hood River teachers went to The Dalles Sunday, but the majority chartered Mr. Dean's fast boat, the Ollie S., and went up Monday morning in time to be there for the opening session at 9 o'clock.

A great deal has been said in regard to the action of the school board in requiring the high school students to be well up in their studies in order to participate in athletic sports. In the absence of such requirements such action would be admirable, for all thinking people must agree that athletics must not interfere with a student's regular school work, but have a wholesome influence upon student life. But the published accounts of this action and of the protests of the students have failed to record the following facts:

Three years ago the high school students voluntarily took action requiring that any student who failed to maintain the then minimum passing grade of 70 per cent in all subjects should be barred from participation in any student activity during the following week. Enforcement of this rule was left to the faculty. Last year when the passing grade was raised to 75 per cent by the faculty the students again—voluntarily—raised their requirement for participation in student activities to 75 per cent. And this was enforced.

Consequently, when the matter was taken out of their hands, they felt the injustice of the action, for they had anticipated it by three years. Under proper regulations, reasonable direction and with adequate equipment physical exercise will exert a most beneficial stimulus upon the mentality of any class of young people. The trouble here in Hood River is that we have absolutely no equipment with the exception of the two tennis courts. Physical exercise for all the students—the students who need it most and get no attention at present—would go far toward solving many of the failure problems. There is an enormous impression abroad to the effect that many of the failures in the high school last year were due to athletics, while as a simple matter of fact not one failure can be charged rightly to athletics. (Sometime later I want to discuss the causes of failure.) Consequently the high school faculty felt that the students were right in protesting when the matter was taken out of their hands without cause. The action on the part of the school board was due to a lack of understanding of the situation, and when the matter was set before them clearly they rescinded their action and left the matter to the students. They realized, just as the faculty realizes, that self government is the best government; that the school, to be true to life, must develop self control.

right thinking and right acting on the part of the students; that a 75 per cent ruling enforced by the students is better than an 80 per cent requirement that must be enforced arbitrarily. It seems to the writer that the students of the Hood River high school are entitled to full credit for their voluntary enforcement of an educational requirement for participation in athletics during the past three years, and that the school board is to be commended for its recognition of the true value and importance of such wholesome student initiative.

OFFERS TO CONSTRUCT WHITE SALMON RAILROAD

The White Salmon Enterprise says that with the offer of Bertleson & Sons, contractors of Tacoma, to build the two-mile railroad from the S. P. & S. R. R. from a point opposite the Columbia river dock to the town of White Salmon, picturesquely located at the top of the bluff, for \$42,000, prospects are now good for the building of the first section of the Mt. Adams Railway Co. system surveyed to Canas Prairie and Trout Lake, rich hay and dairy sections in the upper end of the valley. Stock to the amount of \$15,000 has been subscribed by the citizens of White Salmon, and if they are willing to let this amount represent common stock, the Tacoma firm will take the bonds for the balance, dispose of them and begin work shortly. This firm is now engaged on a big ditching contract for the drainage of Conboy lake in the Canas valley country. The equipment of this bluff road calls for a geared locomotive of 100,000 pounds pulling capacity, a freight car and a passenger coach. With the building of this road the permanency of White Salmon as the metropolis of the valley will be assured, for it will remove a handicap to its growth. As soon as funds are available the line will be extended.

DALLES LADIES ENTERTAIN LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

The members of the Old Fort Dalles Historical Society, assisted by the teachers in The Dalles schools, entertained the pedagogues of Wasco, Hood River and Sherman counties during the institute at The Dalles last week. The president, Mrs. Wm. Shackelford, gave a short address. Mrs. E. M. Wilson was introduced as the oldest living teacher in Oregon today, having taught at Forest Grove in 1851. State Superintendent of Schools L. R. Ackerman of Salem made a short address, as did the secretary of the historical society, Mrs. C. J. Crandall. Geo. H. Himes of Portland, secretary of the state historical society, was the main speaker of the day. County Superintendent J. T. Neff considered this meeting of such importance that he credited the teachers who were present with two hours on their institute attendance. This was because of the meeting's historical value. It will be made one of the events of the institute each year hereafter.

Entertainment at Baptist Church
At the Baptist church, at an early date, there will be given a literary and musical entertainment of unusual merit and interest. The program is under the superintendence of Mrs. Louise Boyden, who will render several of her choice readings. She will be ably assisted by Miss Ida J. Bryant and other well known musicians. A few of Mrs. Boyden's pupils will also take part. The date and program will be given later.

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SETTLERS WON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR SURVEYS

Settlers on national forests under the act of June 11, 1906, will no longer have to pay for a survey, as they have had to in the past on unsurveyed lands, when the claim goes to patent. This relieves many settlers under the act, commonly known as the Forest Homestead Law, from a burdensome expense. Relief from this burden has been brought about by an agreement between the secretary of the interior and the secretary of agriculture, whereby surveys made by employees of the Forest Service will be under the supervision of the surveyor general, so that they can be accepted by the General Land Office as final.

Hitherto it has been necessary to make two surveys. Under the terms of the Forest Homestead Law, national forest land can not be opened to settlement unless the secretary of agriculture has recommended to the secretary of the interior that it be listed for settlement; and listing is not possible until a survey has been made. The secretary of agriculture has no authority to list any land unless an examination has shown that the land is more suitable for agriculture than for forest purposes. So when land is applied for, employees of the Department of Agriculture are sent to ascertain its character, and at the same time make a survey of it by metes and bounds, if a survey is necessary.

This survey, however, could not be accepted by the Land Department as a basis for patent, because only surveys under the supervision of the surveyor general can, under the law, be accepted as a basis for passing title. In consequence, under the procedure provided for when patent is sought to unsurveyed lands, the settler on land within a national forest has had to pay for a second survey. This has been felt to be especially hard, because it has subjected settlers on national forests to an expense which settlers on surveyed public lands do not have to bear. Since it merely duplicates the work of the first survey, there seemed no reason why this first survey might not answer both for listing the land and for patenting it.

The survey for listing, made by

Forest officers, has always been without expense to the prospective homesteader. Under the new arrangement the field expenses of the survey will continue to be paid by the Department of Agriculture, so that the applicant will merely be called on to meet the cost of checking up and platting the surveys by the surveyor general. This will remove one of the greatest objections to the working of the Forest Homestead law. The officials of both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are pleased that the way has been found, through cooperation in the surveys, to simplify the procedure, cut out a duplication of work, and lessen the cost of settling upon agricultural lands within national forests.

WASCO STAGE LINES FAST DISAPPEARING

The Dufur-Wapinitia stage is no more. The order discontinuing it came last week and went into effect last Monday. The building of the railroads up the Deschutes has made a new mail connection. A line supplying Kingsley and Friend still leaves Dufur, but that is all. A line has been established from Wamie, via Tygh Valley to Sherar's Bridge, but no contract has yet been let to supply Victor and Wapinitia, so these offices will, for the present, be supplied from Tygh Valley. The mail between Tygh Valley and Wapinitia will be, for the present, carried by McClure & Baty, the old contractors on the Dufur-Wapinitia line. J. H. Herd has the contract for carrying the mail between Dufur and Friend.

Says Editors Are Hardened

The editor of the Sherman County Observer remarks:
"There are events occurring in every community which, if reported in the local paper, would create a commotion little dreamed of. What to report and what not to report often perplexes the editor; he is often unjustly accused of cowardice and favoritism when all the time he is looking toward the good reputation of the town where his lot is cast; he constantly finds himself, from necessity almost, between two fires, and whichever way he turns he is sure to be unjustly treated. But that cuts no ice; he's hardened to the chilly usages of the bloodless thinker."

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