SCHOOL TOPICS

We have no mid-year beginning plished to a minimum. primary class in the Hood River provide for such a class.

pils who become six years of age he is almost seven years of age. In question is taken into consideration. But there are four main reasons that have guided our action thus far.

First. The mld-year class unit is too small for economy of either time or expense. Every beginning class naturally separates into two units. dren who are seven years of age enter the rapid class, while those who are but six years of age cannot keep the pace and fall behind. Those who enter at seven years of age will finish the grades at the same age those do who enter school at six. This has been demonstrated again and again. No less an educational authority than Stanley Hall declares that a is at least seven years of age. The other reasons also indicate why this class is of doubtful utility to the puplls concerned or to the school from the standpoint of economy.

Second. Winter weather and conof doubtful value to the school pub-

Third. Irregular attendance inev-

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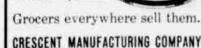
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to be shod as he should in his gait.

D that much. Then the pupils who need to be in school every day are usually the very pupils who are absent from school. The loss of time that is unavoidable in this class reduces the amount of work accom-

Fourth, The four and one-half Other school systems in months time this class spends in towns no larger than Hood River school is not a long enough period of have such classes. At this time of time to firmly fix in mind the facts the year we have to answer many learned. It is practically all forgotqueries regarding this policy. It is ten by the end of the summer vacapossible that the general public may tion. For illustration, two or three be interested in the reasons that have pupils who have not been in school actuated the school board and the since before Christmas returned Monsuperintendent in determining not to day. They have apparently completely forgotten everything they Pupils must be six years of age in were supposed to have learned durorder to enter school. We have been ing the four months they were in asked if we consider it right to not school. If the vacation period had provide a mid-year class for the puthey would have to wait for a beginsoon after the opening of the school ning class next year. But if they are year; if it is right to prevent a child in school regularly the remainder of from enjoying school privileges until this year it is very probable that these pupils will get sufficient drill so determining the school policy this that they will retain what they learn this year, at least they will retain enough so that they can advance with their class.

There are other reasons that might be cited to support the position taken, but these are the main ones. They seem reasonable to us and we Almost without exception the chil- deem them worthy your consideration at least. There is another question involved here concerning which I would like to advance a few ideas for your reflection. And that is in regard to the proper age for a child to start to school.

The idea seems to be firmly fixed that every child should start to school when he is six years of age. It is true that if the state law would child should not enter school until he allow it children would occasionally be sent to school at four years of age. But there are not many parents who send their children to school to get rid of them. The idea prevails that a child is old enough to be in school at six. Now as a matter of fact age sequent exposure make this class one does not matter in individual cases. Some children are better developed lic. Young children are kept indoors physically and mentally at five years during luclement weather. If they of age than others are at eight years do not have the months of gradual of age. We have children in school hardening to accustom them to the this year who cannot control their wet and cold, and are sent from muscles to hold a pencil. Yet their their homes first during the worst parents insist that they come to winter weather, the result is certain school. If you talk to the Primary to be bad colds and much loss of time | teachers they will tell you that they from school on account of illness, have to use too much stimulus with Such loss is bad enough with the many of their children to get them small children who have been gradu- over the required work. The work ally accustomed to the weather is not readily grasped. They will changes during the year, but expert, tell you that a normal child will ence demonstrates that it is greater grasp the work readily and not have with such a class. The third reason to be constantly urged in order to might be stated as a corrolary under concentrate his attention. It is wrong to send children to school when they are too young to grasp itably resulting from bad weather the work. As it is now, there are conditions makes it impossible for many children who are caused to do the teacher to accompilsh much with their work one and two years in adthis class. Beginning pupils can ac- vance of their normal physical and complish but very little in one day, mental ability. All children would The loss of a day by one or more pu- be better off, fewer children would be pils, particularly during the first few positively injured, all would go months, retards the class by about through school with greater efficienclent work both in the grades and in the high school, if children were not allowed to enter school until they

W. A. BELL IS OUT

were at least seven years of age.

W. A. Bell, of The Dalles, has filed state as a republican candidate at schoolhouse the primaries, April 19, for the office of district attorney for the seventh judicial district, comprising Crook, Hood River and Wasco countles.

Mr. Bell has been a resident of the district for the past 25 years, 18 of which be has been in the active practice of law at Prineville, Crook county. He has served 16 years as deputy district attorney, having served during all the terms that A. A. Jayne and Frank Menefee held the office, and a portion of the term of Fred W. Wilson, the present district attorney.

The candidate says that if he is nominated and elected to the office that he will give the duties of the office his personal and first consideration to the exclusion of other law business, and will make it an object to often visit each county, looking after and attending to the business of the office and assisting the officers In the enforcement of the law.

Apple Fair Association

The annual meeting of the Apple Fair Association will be held in the Commercial Club rooms on Saturday Jan. 27, at 1:30 p. m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of five directors for the ensuing year and to transact such other business as may regularly come before the

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The Odell Development League at a meeting held inst week elected the following directors for the ensuing ear: Harry Connoway, I. U. Laf-Lacey, Mark Cameron and J. W. Wilson. The Odell community made a rapid advancement during the past year. Many orchard homes were erected in the community. The Apple Growers' Union erected a ware-FOR WILSON'S PLACE house there and a new church was built. One unique work of progress house there and a new church was accomplished by it was the building of a sidewalk from the more thickly his petition with the secretary of settled portions of the district to the

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