

SCHOOL TOPICS

Edited by E. E. Coad

We have no mid-year beginning primary class in the Hood River schools. Other school systems in towns no larger than Hood River have such classes. At this time of the year we have to answer many queries regarding this policy. It is possible that the general public may be interested in the reasons that have actuated the school board and the superintendent in determining not to provide for such a class.

Pupils must be six years of age in order to enter school. We have been asked if we consider it right to not provide a mid-year class for the pupils who become six years of age soon after the opening of the school year; if it is right to prevent a child from enjoying school privileges until he is almost seven years of age. In determining the school policy this question is taken into consideration. But there are four main reasons that have guided our action thus far.

First. The mid-year class unit is too small for economy of either time or expense. Every beginning class naturally separates into two units. Almost without exception the children 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 who enter school at six. This has been demonstrated again and again. No less an educational authority than Stanley Hall declares that a child should not enter school until he is at least seven years of age. The other reasons also indicate why this class is of doubtful utility to the pupils concerned or to the school from the standpoint of economy.

Second. Winter weather and consequent exposure make this class one of doubtful value to the school public. Young children are kept indoors during inclement weather. If they do not have the months of gradual hardening to accustom them to the wet and cold, and are sent from their homes first during the worst winter weather, the result is certain to be bad colds and much loss of time from school on account of illness. Such loss is bad enough with the small children who have been gradually accustomed to the weather changes during the year, but experience demonstrates that it is greater with such a class. The third reason might be stated as a corollary under this.

Third. Irregular attendance inevitably resulting from bad weather conditions makes it impossible for the teacher to accomplish much with this class. Beginning pupils can accomplish but very little in one day. The loss of a day by one or more pupils, particularly during the first few months, retards the class by about

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 accomplished to a minimum.

Fourth. The four and one-half months time this class spends in school is not a long enough period of time to firmly fix in mind the facts learned. It is practically all forgotten by the end of the summer vacation. For illustration, two or three pupils who have not been in school since before Christmas returned Monday. They have apparently completely forgotten everything they were supposed to have learned during the four months they were in school. If the vacation period had been extended a little longer for them they would have to wait for a beginning class next year. But if they are in school regularly the remainder of this year it is very probable that these pupils will get sufficient drill so 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 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 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 does not matter in individual cases. Some children are better developed physically and mentally at five years of age than others are at eight years of age. We have children in school this year who cannot control their muscles to hold a pencil. Yet their parents insist that they come to school. If you talk to the Primary teachers they will tell you that they have to use too much stimulus with many of their children to get them over the required work. The work is not readily grasped. They will tell you that a normal child will grasp the work readily and not have to be constantly urged in order to concentrate his attention. It is wrong to send children to school when they are too young to grasp the work. As it is now, there are many children who are caused to do their work one and two years in advance of their normal physical and mental ability. All children would be better off, fewer children would be positively injured, all would go through school with greater efficiency, the schools would do more efficient work both in the grades and in the high school, if children were not allowed to enter school until they were at least seven years of age.

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

Mr. Bell has been a resident of the district for the past 25 years, 18 of which he 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.

W. A. BELL IS OUT FOR WILSON'S PLACE

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.

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 meeting.

When buying a cough medicine for children bear in mind that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is most effective for colds, croup and whooping cough and that it contains no harmful drug. For sale by all dealers.

For Sale--A fine lot of hay in the Mt. Hood district. Near Mt. Hood Post Office. Phone, Odell 38 or 2002-x.

Extra Special This Week

Dining Tables

Solid Oak, Massive Round Pedestal, Round Top Extension

\$10.75

Dining Chairs

REDUCED

Solid Oak, leather box seat; Each Fumed or Waxed. **\$2.25**

Solid Oak, saddle seat, half box, finished in Wax, Golden or Fumed Oak. **\$1.89** Each

DAVENPORTS

Revolving Seat Beds with Felt Mattress

Now Only--

\$26.75 - \$29.50
\$35.00 - \$40.50
\$48.00 - \$69.50

No Dull Days at Franz's JANUARY SALE ATTRACTS HUNDREDS

"First it blew and then it snow Then it friz and then it Thew"

but never a let-up in the hustle and bustle of this sale. The "Specials" are snapped up almost as soon as shown. We're bringing out all reserve stocks and filling in the gaps, so, no matter what your FURNITURE or RUG requirement, it's here

For Less

Closing Out All

Holiday Goods

\$4.00 Smokers \$3.25
3.50 " 2.65
1.75 " 1.19
2.00 Magazine Racks 1.49
3.50 Jardeniere Stands 2.50
1.50 " " .99

Solid Oak

Library Table

\$2.65

FULL SIZE

RATTAN ROCKERS

\$2.49

Finished Brown or Natural

A DRIVE IN RUGS and LINOLEUMS

Reg. \$55 Wilton Velvet Rugs, 9x12	\$42.00
" 50 " " " "	37.50
" 35 Axminster " " "	27.00
" 28 " " " "	21.50
" 24 Brussels " " "	18.00
" 20 " " " "	14.85

Our Linoleums--Wonderful Values--
Heavy Grade, printed.....54c yd.
Heavy Grade, inlaid.....98c yd.
Remnants--Several pieces large enough for small rooms.....per yd. 49c up

E. A. FRANZ CO.

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE AT ODELL CHOOSES OFFICERS

The Odell Development League at a meeting held last week elected the following directors for the ensuing year: Harry Connoway, I. U. Lufferty, George Sheppard, Thomas 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 warehouse there and a new church was built. One unique work of progress accomplished by it was the building of a sidewalk from the more thickly settled portions of the district to the schoolhouse.

Neat and natty job printing quick-executed at the News office.

We Repair

- Motor Cycles
- Bicycles
- Lawn Mowers
- Sewing Machines
- Type Writers
- Cash Registers
- Moving Picture Machines
- Small Motors (Water and Electric)
- All kinds of Locks
- All kinds of Fire Arms
- Saw Filing

&C.

BERGMAN & BRITAIN

Gun and Locksmith
GENERAL REPAIR WORKS

Stewart Hardware Co. Building
Phone 11

It's Coming !!

It's Here !! CHEAP ELECTRICITY for Your Home The Prize

Is Yours

Our ELECTRICITY is the CHEAPEST; our SERVICE the BEST

"Acme of SERVICE at LOWEST COST"

HOOD RIVER GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

PHONE 55

Better Baking for Less Money

Is the result of using

Crescent Baking Powder

The high grade baking Powder that sells for a moderate price.

FULL POUND 25 CENTS



Crescent Coffees, Teas, Mapleine, Spices, Flavoring Extracts, Etc., enjoy a well deserved reputation.

Grocers everywhere sell them. CRESCENT MANUFACTURING COMPANY SEATTLE



Bring Your Horse Here to be shod as he should be. We will shoe him with shoes that fit, that will correct many a fault in his gait.

SHIVELY & DRISCOLL
Phone 62-X