

NOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BASES OF OBJECTION TO PAYING TAX MONEY TO KINDERGARTENS.

Director Thompson's Reasons for Opposing the Payment Asked by the Portland School Board.

In explaining his attitude toward the question of applying public money to the support of kindergartens, Director Thompson yesterday said his contention was that this school money had no legal right to turn public money over to any private body to be disbursed as that private body may see fit. The action proposed by the Portland School Board when it asks Clerk Allen to pay over to the Free Kindergarten Association the money collected from the special levy authorized for the purpose of supporting free kindergartens in this city is, according to Director Thompson's view, a violation of law in several particulars. He maintains that kindergartens may legally receive the benefit of public money only when it is in the form of the common school system. They are not a part of the common school system when they are conducted by private associations in no way responsible to or under the direction of the public school authorities. The teachers employed in the kindergartens are not, so far as the school authorities are concerned, qualified to receive public money, and payment of school money to them would subject officials responsible for the act, or the district, to losses and penalties. The point that there is no warrant of law for paying public school money to the Kindergarten Association, a legally irresponsible body, no charter, no legal character of its members may be seen from the section of the statute touching the kindergarten question is as follows:

The district board of any school district in the state of Oregon or section class may, when authorized thereto by the qualified electors of such district, provide for the establishment and maintenance thereof, as part of the common school system of such district, commonly known as kindergartens, and such schools shall be free to children over 4 years of age.

Districts of the first class are those having more than 1000 school children of school age, and those of the second class are those having between 500 and 1000 children of school age.

Mr. Thompson thinks it very clear that the kindergartens must be entirely under the control of the public school authorities before a dollar of public money can legally be expended in their support. They must be under the supervision of the city superintendent, and they must be taught by persons legally competent to receive school money, that is, by persons who shall have passed examination and received certificates or diplomas according to the state law. Moreover, this money must be paid them just as if they were paid other teachers, by the association.

While this is the ground taken by Mr. Thompson in the present instance, he is free to say that his great objection to engrafting the kindergartens upon the public school system. It would amount, he says, to adding another grade to the public school system, and would make necessary the establishment of kindergarten facilities in every part of the city that now has a public school system. This, he estimates, would cost the district something like \$30,000, a sum which, according to his view, is entirely too large to ask the taxpayers to pay for that purpose, at any rate. He should not be without adequate notice of its import, so that the taxpayers could act intelligently at the annual school meeting. For the meeting last winter, he estimates that \$100,000 was published, nothing being said in it that would be proposed toward adding the kindergartens to the present school system. It is not clear, however, that kindergartens would be asked. Therefore, Mr. Thompson thinks that even the small levy authorized was obtained rather unfairly, at least without adequate notice. He is opposed to paying this money over to the private association on the ground that there is no warrant of law for such action, and he is also opposed on the ground of public policy. He says that kindergartens this foothold upon the public school system.

Mr. Thompson says Clerk Allen will not pay over the money until a writ cannot be obtained. The resolution of the board is so carefully worded that it amounts to a request for the clerk to pay the money and not to give direction or instruction for him to do so.

Whether the action taken by the taxpayers leaves the way open to the school board to proceed with the establishment and maintenance of kindergartens as part of the common school system may now be open to question. And whether the school board can carry them out, even if it is legal, is another matter.

EAGER FOR KINDERGARTEN.

Toys Want to Resume Games and Lessons—Good Training.

Several hundred kindergarten children are eagerly awaiting the day when school shall reopen, and their merry games and lessons in the school room will begin. These chubby-faced little 5-year-olds do not trouble themselves about the learned technicalities of the law that are just now racking the wits of their teachers and all good friends of the free kindergarten movement. Their baby thoughts run industriously to the weaving of pink paper mats, and to outline pictures of baby cats, sewed with a big needle and blue worsted, to bright spots that teach them the small courtesies as well as the great truths of life. They are all up to date with expectations, and are hardly waiting for the happy days to arrive.

Last year, when school closed, there were between 300 and 400 kindergarten children, and enthusiasm ran so high that it is believed the number will be greatly increased this year. "It is a mistake to suppose that the mothers send their children only because they know them to be in a safe place, and are relieved of the burden of caring for them during three hours of the day," said Miss Valentine Fritchard, superintendent of the public-school kindergartens. "On the contrary, those mothers who do not belong to the leisure class send their children because they recognize the fact that the time they have before them for education is only too short, and it is quite likely to be cut off abruptly after a few scant years of school life. In order that the child may become a breadwinner. The mother, therefore, sees that it is of the greatest importance to extend the years of her child's education at one end, if she cannot at the other end. Her child, she feels, is not only happy in the kindergarten, but what is far more important, is becoming fitted for the stress and duties of life.

"In a city the size of Portland there ought to be 200 kindergartens, instead of six. If this city is to take rank educationally with other progressive American cities. This is especially true when it is remembered that the front entrance them Portland stands as to wealth per capita."

A South Portland mother, who is an enthusiastic believer in the kindergarten movement, said: "I have seen some wonderful results come in child-development from kindergarten work. Last year there was a little 3-year-old, who entered the kindergarten at Christmas time. He had been brought up in a family of half-grown brothers and sisters, who had no tact nor wisdom in managing him, and as he was a self-willed child, obstinate temper, he was a real headache to his mother. At home he screamed from morning to night, and whenever he was asked to do anything, he would throw himself on the floor in a passion, and kick. When school closed in the Spring, after less than six months of kindergarten experience, he was completely changed, as gentle, happy and obedient

a child as one would wish to see. This is only one out of a hundred cases that I have encountered in my experience here in Portland.

"I attended the picnic given last Spring by the kindergartens that my little girl belonged to. There were 42 children, and they were out in the fields the whole day, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. During all that time—which was long one for 4 and 5-year-olds—there was not an unpleasant disturbance of any kind; not a whine, not a voice raised too loud, not a complaint made by one child against another. I considered this an extraordinary proof of the spirit of goodwill, happiness and obedience infused into kindergarten work.

"Some people say that the kindergarten brings together little children of too tender an age and compels them to duty; whereas, the real truth is that the healthy, normal child from 3-months-old up is restless and full of action every moment except when asleep. My 7-year-old is never still. Now, what is to be done with all this activity? Let it take care of itself in the backyard and on the street corners?

"The kindergarten answers every need of child activity, the play life, yet at the same time promotes the systematic growth of all the faculties. Four years old, the kindergarten age, is not too early to train the child-activities, for, if the teacher does not take these in hand, the child will attend to the matter himself.

"No mother, however great her inclination and ability, can give her child a training that can compare with that of

the free kindergarten. I, as a mother, have studied this problem diligently for seven years, and I know whereof I speak. The reason for this is that in the home she has not the material to work with. The mother in the household leads an adult life, with adult things about her. This is not the right environment for the child, who, on account of his untiring energy, needs much more care than she can possibly furnish him.

"The strict discipline in child-life is this constant craving for something to do. The healthy child is never happy unless it is busy. The kindergarten recognizes this fact, and by, therefore, the child is not the recipient of such discipline as is meted out to the child of this human plant. No matter what good rote-schools you may have, they will come to naught unless placed in a suitable environment.

"The trouble lies partly in the fact that we have not trained mothers, as we have trained kindergartners. But even when motherhood shall become a profession, we shall not be able to get on without the kindergartens. One child at home can be trained to be sweet and lovely in character, but if he is always at home alone, he will be weary, and will live with people? It will be too late when he enters the public schools, for at 7 years old the habits are already formed. In the kindergarten, however, the child is trained to be a thing as an unpopular kindergarten. Whether planted in the crociest soil or in the most highly cultivated, only grafting, cation comes from it. It apparently fills the universal need of childhood."

Each session was opened with chorus singing—the large attendance securing a full chorus. In the afternoon Mrs. Will Bushong favored the teachers with a soprano solo from Vannah, "When You Are Here, Love," and for encore gave Hugo's "Pops Song." H. Gordon sang "At the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea," repeating it for a merited encore.

The new feature was the introduction of a special physical culture department. This department holds its sessions before the regular programme begins, and is under the supervision of Mr. Krohn, physical director of Portland schools. This class was unexpectedly full, and greater attendance is expected today. This work is required by law and will be systematized by outlines from the office of the County Superintendent the coming winter. These outlines are partially completed at this time and are arranged by Mr. Krohn in much the same manner as those given in the Portland schools.

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TEACHERS IN COUNCIL

MORE THAN 500 ATTENDED THE COUNTY INSTITUTE.

One New Feature Was the Special Physical Culture Department—Addresses by Educators.

Upwards of 500 teachers registered at the annual County Institute yesterday. The large assembly-room of the High School building, including the galleries, was well filled with members of the public schools. The room had been tastefully decorated with foliage and streamers, under the direction of George W. Wemple.

The programme was strong and subjects carefully chosen, so that interest did not lag at any time. Each topic was assigned a stipulated number of minutes, which was closely adhered to. One proof of interest to the casual observer was the extended use of the note book.

There seems to be a growing tendency among school men to omit the prefix "Professor," which word was heard very little at yesterday's sessions.

The special feature of the day was music under the leadership of Mr. I. D. Boyer, with Miss Carrie Ladd at the piano. Each session was opened with chorus singing—the large attendance securing a full chorus. In the afternoon Mrs. Will Bushong favored the teachers with a soprano solo from Vannah, "When You Are Here, Love," and for encore gave Hugo's "Pops Song." H. Gordon sang "At the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea," repeating it for a merited encore.

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are characteristic of our school. Individual or class instruction. Our teaching develops self-reliant thinkers, who succeed in life as business men and women, steadily gaining in public esteem for 25 years, our graduates find ready employment, as bookkeepers and stenographers, throughout the Pacific Northwest. Students admitted at any time. Send for catalogue, or call at the college, Park and Washington.

A. P. ARMSTRONG, LL. B., PRINCIPAL

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WESTERN ELECTRIC WORKS

305 1/2 WASHINGTON STREET, PORTLAND, OR.

concept to be of most value to primary children.

The afternoon session was opened by Principal Burnham with the subject of "Climate." The greater part of the time was devoted to the seasons and the manner of teaching the same. The energy of the subject was shown by illustration and its wonderful extent pointed out.

Miss Knox continued the subject of drawing, taking "Light and Shade" as the particular topic. Drawing paper had been distributed upon which those in attendance sketched and preserved some valuable suggestions placed upon the board. Flat and cylindrical and group shading were specialized.

President W. C. Hawley, of Willamette University, closed the day with a lecture upon "The Powers of the President, as Defined in the Constitution, and Illustrated by Our History." He pointed out the safeguards mentioned in the Constitution which protected the President from becoming a tool of Congress and political machines, and also those which prevented him from overriding the liberties of the people and Congress. He traced briefly the history of attempts largely to increase the Presidential influence and the attempts to rob him of his just powers, between which extremes the conflict in this country had waged, and resulted in a happy mean.

Today's Programme. The programme for today follows: 9:00 to 9:15—Music. 9:15 to 9:30—Supplemental reading, "The Book," P. L. Campbell. 9:30 to 10:00—"Geography—Climate," J. Burnham. 10:00 to 10:40—Recess. 10:40 to 11:20—"Primary Numbers," Frank Ripper. 11:20 to 12:00—"The Power of the Judiciary, as Defined in the Constitution and Illustrated by Our History," W. C. Hawley.

1:30 to 1:45—Music. 1:45 to 2:25—"Out-Door Sketching," Anna E. Knox. 2:25 to 3:05—"Primary Readings," Frank Ripper. 3:05 to 3:20—Recess. 3:20 to 3:30—Special music. 3:30 to 4:30—Supplemental reading, "Method," P. L. Campbell.

COMING ATTRACTIONS. The Nelli Company's Repertoire. Commencing Monday night, September 16, Mr. James Nelli and the incomparable Nelli company will present the following most excellent repertoire of plays at the Marquam Grand Theatre:

Monday night, Saturday matinee, "The Case of Rebellious Susan," by Henry Arthur Jones; Tuesday and Friday nights, "The Royal Cox," Charles Coughlin's masterpiece; Wednesday matinee and night, "Rosemary," by Louis N. Parker and Murray Cason; Thursday night, "An Ideal Husband," Oscar Wilde's greatest play; Saturday night, "The District Attorney," by George F. Walker and Charles Kline. The advance sale begins at Marquam box-office tomorrow (Friday) morning, September 13, at 10 o'clock.

"Daughter of the Diamond King." The "Daughter of the Diamond King" will be the attraction at Cordray's for one week, beginning Sunday night, September 15. It is from the pen of that well-known playwright, Charles A. Taylor, author of "The King of the Opium Ring," another popular production. The play is built about the life of a New England lassie, both young and handsome, who is destined to be the Queen of the City's most leading diamond merchants. It is presented with appropriate scenery and effects, and with a cast of 20, headed by the charming Miss Gail Laurette and Mr. Taylor's new production has surpassed his greatest hopes.

"Queen of Hayti" at Metropolitan. The attraction at the Metropolitan next week will be "The Queen of Hayti," a musical comedy headed by an all-star cast of colored performers. The stage scene of the comedy consists of a medley of burlesque, vaudeville and opera.

An interesting plot runs throughout the whole performance, in which several good characters are introduced, the principal ones being those of a stranded Hebrew and a tramp. Opportunity is offered by the various situations for the introduction of songs, dances and operatic numbers.

"Cereals" such as wheat and oats, can be cooked long enough and well enough to fit them for human use, but the ordinary way of cooking leaves them in a pasty condition.

A gentleman from Evansville, Ind., whose name can be secured upon application to the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich., says: "My physician advised me to eat Postum cereal, and I was in a bad condition physically, with pronounced dyspepsia. He said the heavy paste was indigestible, but that Grape-Nuts, being a thoroughly cooked food and cooked in such a manner as to change the starch into grape-sugar, could be easily digested. I have become very fond indeed of Grape-Nuts, and all the uncomfortable feelings have disappeared. I have gained nearly twelve pounds in weight, and none of the distressed, full feeling after my meals that I had formerly. Grape-Nut Food has done the work."

PASTY FOOD. Too Commonly Used. A physician says, "Pasty cereals are very indigestible and a bad thing for the stomach, causing a depressed feeling and quite a train of disorders, particularly of the intestines and nerves."