

GRYING THE TAPE

Teachers Object to New Merit System.

PLAN IS UNFAIR, THEY SAY

Taxpayers Will Has Been Defeated, Is the Charge.

STATE OF UNREST PREVAILS

Interviews With Many of the City's Teachers Show That Board of Education Has Adopted Unpopular Scheme.

Contention is abroad and mutiny is in the air. The efforts of the good people of Portland to provide for better school instruction for the young Portlandites may end in a complete demoralization of the school system. There is a spirit of unrest that has passed beyond the School Board, the principals and the teachers themselves. It has passed on to the pupils, who have in turn communicated it to their parents, who have wondered at the miscarriage of a scheme intended to work out for the general benefit of the public.

When \$30,000 was voted by the taxpayers for an immediate increase in teachers' salaries, the taxpayers dreamed they were taking a step that would result in the teachers feeling more satisfied and more contented and more interested in their work. It has developed that the voting of the \$30,000 was but the first step, and that the subsequent steps have caused the original project to be buried beneath a multitude of red tape. The teachers are unrelieved, and the prospect they have of relief in the future is marred by the fear that partiality is to be shown, and that, as a body, they are to get much the worst of it.

The merit system is the bone of contention. The teachers feel that when the taxpayers voted \$30,000 to be used in increasing salaries, those taxpayers intended that all instructors in the city should be benefited. On the contrary, they assert, the merit system will result in increased salaries to a few and no relief to the multitude. What the merit system is, no one appears to know exactly. It is supposed to be a species of red-tape process whereby teachers who deem themselves entitled to an increased salary are to make application to a board of four, including the principal, the City Superintendent and the principal of the High School. This board will act on the application, if it sees fit, and do otherwise if it is their will.

The teachers declare it is unfair. In the first place, they contend they will have to have a pull. If the pull is possessed, they will be recommended to the Board of Education for an increase. Then the teacher comes up before another stone wall and finds that she has to stand in with the board, be a pet again, and have another pull. The instructors declare that under this system a few favorites will get an increase, while some of the oldest teachers in service and some of the most meritorious will go without more pay. The teachers feel that the \$30,000 was voted as a fund for the immediate relief of teachers with small salaries, that the taxpayers desired the money to be used on one and desired that all teachers in the city get a share; that they believed if no teacher was worthy an increase, he or she had no business being engaged to teach Portland's young. The board says the case is that even the despised merit system does not go into effect until September; that when it does go into effect it will be many more months before the lucky and favored ones get their increase, and the meritorious teacher who spends her time instructing pupils and earning her salary, instead of cultivating a pull, has a future without a ray of hope, has the cloud minus the customary silver lining.

Few Principals Approve.

Excepting a few, the merit system fails to meet with the approval of the principals in the city. There are many principals who say the teachers are getting too small salaries and that if a teacher is able to fulfill her duties at all she is meritorious enough to get more money. One principal declared yesterday that he would recommend no teacher to the board unless he could recommend all, that he would play the field and no favorites. It is understood that one of the principals on the board says he would recommend one teacher in his building, and that would be his wife, who has charge of one of the rooms in his school. This, the teacher asserts, is the manner in which the merit system will work.

"We want more money, the money the public voted to give us," said a teacher yesterday. "We don't want any foolishness about a so-called merit system. We feel that all salaries ought to be raised, if any are, and we would rather get no rise at all than to have a part of us granted more pay, and the remainder disregarded entirely."

Great flocks of school teachers are congregating in their boardinghouses every evening and discussing the circumstances. All are willing to talk, and all express their deep contempt for the scheme. Instructors throughout the city were interviewed yesterday on the subject, and though they stated that the publication of their names would mean immediate dismissal, they were willing to tell what they thought.

Twelve teachers joined in this statement: "We are opposed to the so-called merit system, for the reason it is liable to result in favoritism. To get a rise of \$5 will require distinguished merit. Two years ago the women got the worst of the rise then made. Superintendent Riegler got an increase of \$500 per annum and he did nothing toward creating public sentiment in favor of the increase. In this last agitation Riegler gets a \$1000 rise as the result of the agitation for increase, and the teachers are to be raised according to 'distinguished merit.' This is all wrong and unjust to the teachers and is causing great dissatisfaction among us. The money provided for increase of salaries was for the teachers, and not for Mr. Riegler."

Following are a few of the opinions, most of which are of a similar nature:

"Unjust Scheme," Say the Teachers.

"The audacity of the thing surprises us. There is no call of justice in it. 'Merit system! Call it a no-merit system!'"

"It is absolutely unjust. It is nothing but a great piece of partiality!"

"We feel that we are wronged, and that the taxpayers are wronged. They voted us the money and expected that it would be used to give us immediate relief. Even the system does not go into effect until September, we now find."

"In order to get more salary you have to have a pull. We haven't time to work for a pull if we do our duties properly."

"There are other frauds besides land frauds."

"The poorest teacher in the city is

entitled to more salary. There is no need to pick out the worthy."

"I do not think the taxpayers intended that \$30,000 to go to a few favorites."

"I may be one of the favorites—I don't know—but even if I am I say the system isn't fair."

"Don't talk to me about it. I am utterly disgusted with the whole disgraceful affair."

"We want more salary, but we want to get it fairly."

"If I got a rise through the merit system and my sister-teachers did not I couldn't look them in the face."

"There is no justice in this scheme."

"If we cultivate the favor of the board we get the salary. If we don't we enjoy our present stipend."

"The merit system has neither system nor merit."

"So far as I can judge, the merit system for the salary increase seems fair and just. I think that the Board of Education has adopted the right course in adopting the merit system."

"The agitation was for the benefit of the grade teachers, and no merit system was thought of. I think it unfair and it would cause more dissatisfaction than anything that could be introduced in the schools."

"I think that the plan proposed by the Board of Education is fair and just. The merit system has been tried elsewhere, and modeled after a successful merit system adopted in an Eastern school."

"The merit system would create jealousy in the school buildings. I am opposed to it."

"It doesn't work in the trades and factories, and it won't work in the school buildings."

"The agitation was for the benefit of the grade teachers, and endorsed by the public meeting of the taxpayers. Not even the principals were to get benefit out of it. The merit system is unjust."

"I am not in favor of the proposed merit system as suggested by the Board of Education. It is contrary to the mandate of the taxpayers' meeting."

"The merit system would be all right, if it could be adjusted, but it cannot be adjusted. It won't work in the schools."

Unfair and Impracticable.

"I am opposed to the proposed merit system as unfair, unjust and impracticable."

"I think that nine-tenths of the grade teachers are opposed to the merit system of increasing salaries. I am very much opposed to it. Teachers talk among themselves, but not for the public, and as far as I can judge they are generally opposed to it."

"I think the plan is wrong and unjust. It will not work harmoniously."

"The system is fair, but it can be made to work, but I doubt whether it can be used with success. It will produce great dissatisfaction among teachers."

"Who would be the judge under the merit system? That would be a serious question. Nobody is infallible, and if the increase of salary is made under the merit system there would be sure to be great wrong done to excellent teachers who do not happen to be as bright as some others."

"I am in favor of the merit system of giving the increase of salary. What could be more fair than that basis of increase, and whom could it harm?"

"If properly handled, I think that the merit system is the right plan, and the teachers now opposing it will come to see it in that light. It will lead to a higher and better standard, and will be a general incentive to better work."

"In my opinion, while the theory of the merit system is all right and correct, it will not work. It is too unpopular among teachers and an unpopular system will not succeed. Teachers generally are averse to it, and they won't take hold of it in the right spirit. Besides, in this particular instance, the reward is too small to operate as a reward or an inducement to teachers."

BUILDINGS IN THE NORTHWEST

Appropriations Proposed for Public Buildings on North Pacific

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 14.—The sundry bill reported today carries the following items:

- Rent of temporary postoffice quarters at Portland, \$34,000.
- Improving Crater Lake Park, \$3000.
- Enlarging and improving Clackamas fish station, \$5000.
- Improving Columbia River quarantine station, \$700.
- Seattle public building, \$75,000.
- Tacoma building, \$75,000.
- Marking Alaska boundary, \$6,000.
- Isolation Hospital, Port Townsend quarantine station, \$500.
- Improving Baker Lake fish station, \$500.

No appropriation is made for roadbuilding or otherwise improving Rainier National Park.

WILL PASS AT THIS SESSION

Division of Washington into Two Judicial Districts Assured.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 14.—The Senate Judiciary committee today ordered a favorable report on the Jones bill recently passed by the House, dividing the State of Washington into two judicial districts, one east, the other west of the Cascade Mountains. Senator Foster intends to call the bill up within a few days and expects to secure its passage.

New Postmasters and Rural Carriers.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 14.—George E. Wasson has been appointed Postmaster at Alville, Gilliam County, Or., vice John J. Wasson, resigned.

Rural free delivery carriers appointed: Oregon—Sherwood, route 2, Samuel T. Westfall, carrier; Eben Johnson, substitute.

Washington—Washougal, route 1, Charles J. Durcan, carrier; M. L. Lechner, substitute. Wenatchee, route 1, William S. Gamron, carrier; T. G. Hedrick, substitute.

More Money for Public Buildings.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 14.—The omnibus public building bill, reported today, in addition to increasing the limit of cost of the building at Tacoma and Spokane to \$500,000, appropriates \$15,000 for the purchase of a public building site at North Yakima.

Rearrested for Express Robbery.

RENO, Nev., Feb. 14.—George Morris, who is charged with robbing the Wells-Fargo Express safe at Truckee, Cal., was arrested here today and taken to Truckee. Morris, who is 21 years old, was arrested in Truckee several days ago and made a full confession. Morris' mother, who resides in this city, undertook to settle the affair and Morris was released. He came to Reno a few days ago and was today rearrested.

Thilman Goes to Hospital.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14.—United States Senator Thilman of South Carolina, who came here yesterday for treatment, went to the Orthopedic Hospital, where he will remain until the end of the week. Mr. Thilman is suffering from a nervous attack following grip. His condition is not serious.

40c Coffee at 25c Lb.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 14.—Several sharp shocks of earthquake are reported from Olotlan.

If you have small children in your home, you cannot afford to be without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. For coughs, colds and croup it never fails. For sale by all druggists.

The Meier & Frank Store

WEDNESDAY, A "BARGAIN DAY"

Sash Curtains 33c Pair
Dotted and striped Swiss Sash Curtains, 1 1/2 yards long, all ready to put up; greatest value ever offered, today only at the low price of, pair.....**33c**

Bedspreads \$1.02 Each
300 colored Bedspreads, large size, fringed, best patterns and colors; grand values for today only at this low price, **\$1.02**

Huck Towels 8c Each
50 dozen heavy cotton Huck Towels, size 18x36 inches; greatest value ever offered at the exceptionally low price of, each.....**8c**

\$1.25 Drawers 49c Pr.
Odd lot of women's cambrie and nainsook Drawers, trimmed in lace, embroidery, tucks and insertions; 85c to \$1.25 values on sale today at, pair **49c**

Hemmed Sheets 46c Ea.
Hemmed Bed Sheets, of good, heavy muslin, size 81x90 inches; the best value of the season for today at the low price of, each.....**46c**

Pillow Cases 12c Each
100 dozen Hemstitched Pillow Cases of good, heavy cotton, size 45x36 inches; exceptional bargain for today only at the low price of, each.....**12c**

Infants' Wear Reduced
Infants' Lawn Pillow Covers, trimmed with fine embroidery insertions, tucks and lace, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50 values.....**75c**
Odd lot Baby's Moccasins, black only; 35c val., pr. **12c**

White Petticoats 77c
50 dozen women's white Petticoats of good quality cambrie, embroidery trimmed. The styles sold all around town at \$1.50 each; your choice today only at, each.....**77c**

\$1.75 Trimmings 63c
Special lot of Persian Dress Trimmings, Bands and Appliques in blue, brown and Oriental designs; values up to \$1.75 a yard on sale for **63c**

\$1.50 Trimmings 79c
Heavily embroidered silk trimmings, raised rose effects, in yellow, pale blue, red, dark blue, black, old rose, gray; values \$1.50 yard, on sale today at, yard.....**79c**

Table Covers \$1.15 Ea.
Tapestry Table Covers, double faced, 2 yards square with fringe all around; best designs and colorings; our regular \$1.85 values, each.....**\$1.15**

\$3 Couch Covers \$2.15
Double-faced Tapestry Couch Covers, 60 inches wide by 3 yards long, fringed all around, red, green and tan; regular \$3.00 values for.....**\$2.15**

Drug Sundries
Swansdown Face Powder, today only at, box.....**9c**
La Blanche Face Powder, today only at, box.....**9c**
Eastman's Taleum Powder, violet or crushed rose, can **12c**

40c Flannels 19c Yard
1000 yards of light-weight Scotch Flannels in stripes only, good colorings, 36 inches wide; regular 35c and 40c quality on sale today at **19c**

Graves' Tooth Powder
1000 cans of Dr. Graves' famous Tooth Powder, on sale all day today at low price of can **9c**
Drug Department.
Celluloid Dressing Combs **16c**

40c Coffee at 25c Lb.
Meier & Frank's famous Mocha and Java Coffee, equal to the best 40c mixture sold anywhere; during the February grocery sale we are offering it at the low price of, lb., **25c**

\$3.50 Shoes \$1.75
Broken lines of women's \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50 Shoes, in the very best models and leathers; phenomenal values today at the low price of, pr.....**\$1.75**

35c Stationery 15c Box
Odd lot of Eaton Hurlburt fancy Box Papers, white and tints; best 35c values on sale all day today at, box.....**15c**

50c Hosiery 29c Pair
50 dozen women's black cotton Hose, double sole, high spliced heel, all sizes; best 50c values on sale all day today at, pair.....**29c**

15c Flannelettes 7c Yd
9000 yards of Flannelettes in the best patterns and colors, clean-up of our entire Winter stock today at, yard.....**7c**

25c Tooth Brushes 11c
Choose all day today from our entire stock of 25c Tooth-brushes at the wonderfully low price of, each.....**11c**

15c Silklines 8c Yard
200 pieces of Silklines in Oriental and floral designs, best colorings; marvelous value all day today at, yard.....**8c**

Corsets 19c Pair
Odds and ends in Corsets, good models, sizes 18 to 22; values \$1.00 to \$2.50 each, while they last today at, pair.....**19c**
Second Floor.

Men's 50c Ties 19c
20 dozen men's Silk Four-in-Hands in a big assortment of good patterns and colorings; your choice today, each **19c**

New Linen Waists \$2.75 to \$25.00

The Meier & Frank Store will show today a magnificent variety of 1905 Linen Waists, exquisite imported and American novelties in exclusive styles—The display is the largest and handsomest Portland will see this season and comprises beautiful creations in French hand-embroidered linens, English embroidered linens, Irish linens, silk linens and heavy linens—Superb assortment of styles in tailor-made effects, plain, tucks, and side plaits, white, blue, tan and brown—This announcement has been eagerly awaited by hundreds of Portland's best dressers who have been inquiring daily when we would show the new linen waists—Come today, whether to look or buy, you will be accorded proper attention—Second Floor



"Rajah" and "Burlap" Silks

"Rajah" Silk is in all respects a counterpart of true native Asiatic hand-loom fabric, has all the elements of durability and usefulness which are so requisite, adapted for street and house gowns, costumes, blouses, shirtwaist suits, 30 inches wide, yard.....**\$1.25**

"Burlingham," a silky and beautiful hand-weave, similar to Burlap, a rich, serviceable material for shirtwaist suits, traveling and automobile coats, 27 inches wide, at the very low price of, yard.....**\$2.00**

Printed Crepe de Chine, 79c

Great special offering of 550 yards of Printed Silk Crepe de Chine in Dresden effects, for waists and costumes; fine quality, handsome material; pink, green, violet, blue and cardinal; exceptional \$1.00 value; this lot, while it lasts at the low price of, yard.....**79c**

Women's Shoes

Women's patent colt and vic kid, Blucher style Shoes, also kid lace, patent tip, heavy or light soles, all sizes and widths; all new, desirable footwear, the equal of the best \$3.50 advertised Shoes on the market. Every pair Johnson Bros.' famous make. An opportunity to supply your Spring and Summer footwear needs **\$1.98** at a big saving, pr.

Nurses' and Old Ladies' Shoes and Slippers, Dongola Oxfords, rubber heels, Dongola lace, rubber heels, glove kid, lace or congress; \$1.75 and **\$1.35** \$2.00 values, pair.....

New Lace Hosiery Great Values 25c a Pair

We place on sale today 2500 pairs of Women's real lisle boot Hosiery; every pair new Spring stock; a great special purchase made from a prominent foreign manufacturer—colors include black, navy, red, tan, white and champagne; all sizes; the grandest Hosiery bargain Portland women have had the opportunity to share in for many months; the economical will anticipate their Summer needs; all sizes; phenomenal value

At 25c a Pair

Portland's Cloak Store New Spring Apparel

Women's 1905 Walking Suits, in etamines, chevots, cashmeres and mannish mixtures; blue, black, brown, grays and tans, in jacket styles, blouse effects, with Peplin and Norfolk; very attractive models in splendid variety, **\$20, \$22.50, \$26 and \$28** each.

200 new 1905 Walking Skirts, in alpaca, homespuns, cashmeres, chevots, broadcloths, tweeds, serges and fancy worsteds; made with plain flare, box plaits and kilt effects; blue, black, grays, browns, tans, light and dark mixtures, **\$8, \$9, \$10, \$12 up to \$20**.

Women's new Dress Skirts in voiles, etamines and melrose, black only; with or without silk drop-skirts; exceptional values at **\$12.50 up to \$32.00**.

Tan Covert Jackets in large variety.

Shirtwaist Suits

An unusually large showing of new Shirtwaist Suits for so early in the season. Plain taffeta silks, checked and plaid silks, wool shirtwaist suits, alpaca shirtwaist suits, all the newest tailored effects—also fancy styles—blues, browns, blacks, greens, reds, tans and fancy mixtures—

Prices run \$9, \$12, \$16.50, \$18, \$20, \$22.50, \$25, \$36 and up to \$42 a Suit

Handsome new White Alpaca and Sicilian Skirts, late arrivals, **\$10.00 and \$12.50**.

\$4.50 Spring Hats \$2.95

We offer today a special purchase of 100 women's new Spring Hats in turbans, toques, "Charlotte Cordays," in fancy braids, chiffons and lace, all the newest shades and effects, every hat the latest Spring style and worth \$4.50—Our millinery manager writes us to place them on sale at once for the low price of **\$2.95**

New Flower Hats Just Received by Express--2d Floor

Cups, Saucers, 90c Doz.
White German China Teacups and Saucers; extraordinary value all day today at the low price of, dozen.....**90c**
Basement.

Haviland Dinner Set
100-piece Haviland China Dinner Set, pink floral decorations, gold on knobs and handles, open-stock patterns; great value today.....**\$19.55**

Men's Underwear 76c
Wright's Health Underwear, fleeced Shirts and Drawers, all sizes; sold everywhere at \$1 a garment, today.....**76c**

"Peninsular" Range
"Peninsular" planished steel Range, asbestos lined, steel over rack, ventilated oven, handsome nickel trimming, 10 years' guarantee; great bargain today at.....**\$26.00**

Basement Specials
13-inch round nickel Trays; great value today.....**27c**
7-inch white German China Plates; wonderful value today at, dozen.....**90c**
Basement.

Fountain Syringe 89c
"Challenge" rapid-flow Fountain Syringe, hard rubber pipes, 2-quart size; a guaranteed Syringe on sale today at.....**89c**

35c Side Combs 18c

200 pairs Side Combs in the best styles; 35c val., pr. **18c**
10 dozen celluloid Dressing Combs, spec. today, each **16c**

Rubber Goods Specials

Indian brand Hot Water Bottles, 3-quart full guaranteed; great value.....**\$1.19**
Buetian Hot Water Bottles, 2-quart, made of pure gum rubber.....**93c**
"Yale" Hot Water Bottles, each.....**69c**

Men's \$1.25 Sox 43c Pr.

Broken lines of men's 76c, \$1, and \$1.25 fancy Sox, stripes and plaids, all sizes; marvelous values all day today at **43c**

Merino Sox 19c Pair

Men's all wool merino Sox, black, brown, Oxford, gray and camelhair, all sizes; great special values today, pr. **19c**