

# BOARD INCREASES ESSAY CONTEST

## Directors Urge Pupils to Enter Competition for "Ben Hur" Tickets.

### GREAT INTEREST IS SHOWN

#### Committees Will Soon Be Named to Decide Who Will Be Included in The Oregonian's Big Theater Party.

Members of the Portland Board of Education yesterday addressed letters to the Oregonian endorsing the essay contest that this paper has inaugurated among the pupils of the public schools. The directors are unanimous in commending the study of "Ben Hur" to the pupils and advising them to prepare essays to be entered in competition for the 300 seats for the opening performance of "Ben Hur" at the Heilig Theater the night of January 12.

#### Letter From the Chairman.

Both the "Ben Hur" contest will be both instructive and useful training in composition for the pupils in the opinion of the directors. All of them yesterday expressed their approval of the contest and four of the five members have addressed letters on the subject to the Oregonian. The letter of Herman Wittenberg, chairman of the Board, follows:

Portland, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor)—I wish to express my appreciation of the "Ben Hur" contest that has been announced by the Oregonian. It seems to me that this movement is altogether in the interests of good education and I commend it to the pupils of the public schools as an exceptional opportunity to study this great novel. Yours very truly, HERMAN WITTENBERG, Chairman Board of Education.

J. N. Fleischer, another member of the Board, is enthusiastic in his praise of the plan that has been announced by the Oregonian, and mentions especially its educational value to those who enter it. Following is his letter:

Portland, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor)—My attention has been called to the essay competition that the Oregonian is conducting among the pupils of the public schools. I wish to say that this contest meets with my hearty approval. The educational value of General Lew Wallace's novel, "Ben Hur," is well known and I consider it very best and girl who enters the Oregonian's competition will be benefited and the training in composition. Very truly, J. N. FLEISCHER, Member Board of Education.

#### Advices All to Compete.

H. C. Campbell, also a member of the Board of Education, advises every boy and girl who is eligible to enter the competition. He also asks that teachers encourage their pupils in the study of "Ben Hur" in preparation for their essay-writing. Mr. Campbell's letter follows:

Portland, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor)—It gives me pleasure to endorse the Oregonian's contest among the city school children. I believe that every boy and girl who is eligible should accept the Oregonian's invitation to write an essay in competition for one of the tickets that are to be distributed. Whether it is one of the tickets for the boys or the girls, it will be benefited by the study of "Ben Hur." I believe that teachers in the various schools should encourage their pupils in this contest. Very truly, H. C. CAMPBELL, Member Board of Education.

J. V. Beach joins with his fellow-directors in the desire that many of the pupils will enter the contest. He has written the following letter to the Oregonian:

Portland, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor)—As a member of the Board of Education of this district, I have read with much pleasure and satisfaction your offer of 300 complimentary tickets for the first night's performance of "Ben Hur" to the children of the public schools of the city, as prizes for the best short essays on "Ben Hur." I hope and believe that many students in the High School, as well as a large number in the upper grades of the grammar schools, will avail themselves of this opportunity and compete for these prizes. Yours, J. V. BEACH, Member Board of Education.

#### Conditions of the Contest.

It is probable that practically all of the pupils of the Portland schools are now familiar with the conditions governing the Oregonian's "Ben Hur" contest. To keep them clearly in mind they are herewith repeated: All pupils of the High Schools and of the eighth and ninth grades of the grammar schools are invited to write essays of about 150 words on "Ben Hur." These essays should be mailed to the "Ben Hur" Editor, The Oregonian, Portland, Or., and must be in the hands of The Oregonian by January 12. They should be written only on one side of the paper, and on the upper left-hand corner of the first sheet the pupil should place his name, address, school and grade.

These conditions also govern essays to be written by pupils of corresponding grades in the Catholic schools of Portland. Superintendent Rigler will name a committee of judges to pass on essays from the public schools, and Father O'Hara will name a committee to pass on essays from the Catholic schools. For the 300 best essays The Oregonian will give the tickets to the production of "Ben Hur" at the Heilig. The names of the winners will be announced in The Oregonian.

#### The Chariot Race

Ben-Hur early discovered that Messala, the friend of his boyhood, had become his personal enemy. He learned, too, by chance that it was Messala who stood at the ear of Valerius Gratus and prompted the procurator to send Ben-Hur to the galleys, to imprison his mother and sister in a hidden prison and to attempt the confiscation of the property of the Prince of Jews. The latter plan indeed being thwarted by Simonides.

It was Ben-Hur's first cherished wish to humble his enemy, Messala, before all the world. The opportunity came at Antioch at the celebration of the Roman games where Messala had challenged all the world to meet him in the chariot race.

Ben-Hur, as the adopted son of Quintus Arrius, in Rome had been trained in all the fashionable sports of the Roman world. His skill as a chariot driver made him the superior of all in the Eternal City. At Antioch chance enabled him to obtain from Iderim, a sheik of the desert, four Arabian horses of royal lineage—horses unmatched for speed and endurance in

all the world. These horses under the skill of Ben-Hur convinced him he could defeat any four the Romans could bring to Antioch.

The prize for the winner of the race was 1000 sesteria—a ransom for a King—but Ben-Hur sought revenge on Messala. To make his revenge more complete he sent Simonides, the friend of Simonides, to the Roman Club, where the witty Jew succeeded in taunting Messala to wager six talents of gold—his entire fortune—against 26 talents wagered by Ben-Hur.

The day of the race came, and Ben-Hur's revenge was complete. He not only won the race, but he repaid all of Messala's treachery with fearful odds.

Never was there such a chariot race in Antioch. Round after round the six chariots plunged in maddest speed. Ben-Hur had calculated his revenge to the nicety of a second. He waited till the chariots were in the last round of the track. He had permitted Messala to lead, knowing that the Arabians of the Sheik Iderim could easily pass the Roman whenever he chose. At the beginning of the last round the race is thus described:

"Messala's spirit was high. Only 600 feet away were fame, increase of fortune, promotions, and a triumph incontestably sweetened by hate, all in store for him! That moment Malluch, in the gallery, saw Ben-Hur lean forward over his Arabs, and give them the signal. Out flew the mare-folded lash in his hand; over the backs of the startled steeds it writhed and hissed, and hissed and writhed again and again; and though he felt all in these words, both sting and menace in its quick report; and as the man passed thus from quiet to restless action, his face suffused, his eyes gleaming along the reins he seemed to dash his will; and instantly not one, but the four as one, answered with a leap that landed them alongside the Roman's car. Messala, on the perilous edge of the lead, heard, but dared not look to see what the awakening portended. From the people he received no sign. Above the noises of the race there was one voice, and that was Ben-Hur's. In the old Arabic, as the sheik himself, he called to the Arabs:

"On, Atair! On, Rigel! What, Antares! dost thou linger now? Good horse—oh, Aldebaran! I hear them singing in the tent. I hear the children singing and the women singing. Aldebaran, victory! and the song will never end. Well done! Home tomorrow, under the black tent—home! On, Antares! The tribe is waiting! 'Tis done! and the master is waiting! 'Tis done! 'tis done! Ha, ha! We have overthrown the proud. The hand that smote us is in the dust. Ours will glory! Ha, ha!—steady! The work is done—soho! Rest!"

"There had never been anything of the kind more simple; seldom anything so instantaneous. At the moment chosen for the dash, Messala was moving in a circle around the goal. To pass him, Ben-Hur had to cross the crack, and good strategy required the movement to be in a forward direction; that is, on a like circle limited to the least possible increase. The thousands on the stand, who stood it all; they saw the signal given—the magnificent response; the four close outside Messala's outer wheel, Ben-Hur's inner wheel behind the other's car. All this he saw and felt. Then they heard a crash loud enough to send a thrill through the circus, and quicker than thought, out over the course a spray of shining white, and a flash of fire. Down on its right side toppled the bed of the Roman's chariot. There was a rebound as of the another; then the car went to pieces; and Messala, entangled in the reins, pitched forward headlong.

"To increase the horror of the sight by making death more certain, the Siondian, who had the wall next behind, could not stop or turn out. Into the wreck full speed he drove; then over the Roman, and into the latter's four all mad with fear. Presently, out of the turmoil, the fighting of horses, the rebound of blows, the murky cloud of dust and sand, he crawled in time to see the Corinthian and Byzantine go down the course after Ben-Hur, who had not been an instant delayed.

"The people arose and leaped upon the benches and shouted and screamed. Those who looked that way caught glimpses of Messala now under the trampling of the four, now under the abandoned car. He was still; they thought him dead; but far the greater number followed Ben-Hur in his career. They had not seen the cunning touch of the reins by which, turning a little to the left, he caught Messala's wheel with the iron-shod point of his axle and crushed it; but they had seen the transformation of the man, and themselves felt the heat and glow of his spirit, the heroic resolution, the mad-dancing energy of action with which by look, word and gesture he so suddenly inspired his Arabs. And such running it was rather the long leaping of lions in harness; but for the lumbering chariot, it seemed the four were flying.

"And so the race was won."

After the race word was brought to Ben-Hur that Messala would not die but that he would never walk again. Ben-Hur looked up to heaven. He had a vision of Messala, chair-bound like Simonides, and, like him, going abroad on the shoulders of his servants. Ben-Hur was content.

#### RUNAWAY BOYS SOUGHT

Three Rainer Lads Leave Home With but Little Money.

C. M. Brooks, a carpenter living at Rainer, reported to the police yesterday that his son, Marion Brooks, 14 years old, together with Arthur Silva, 16 years old, and James Muckle, 16, ran away from home Monday. The anxious father gave the police a description of the boys.

All three of the boys started for school as usual Monday morning, and their disappearance was not noted until nightfall. One of the boys had a watch, and the other two had money.

Monday night the parents of the runaway lads spent the greater part of the night searching for them. But the boys had kept the secret of their going away from home to themselves. Yesterday morning Mr. Brooks came to Portland and, in spite of the blizzard, searched the streets in hope of finding his son. Mr. Brooks is hopeful, now that the storm is on, that the lads will get discouraged and return home.

#### JANCIGAJ GIVEN REPRIEVE

Convicted Oregon City Murderer Not to Hang January 29.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special)—The Supreme Court today granted a stay of execution in the case of Math Jancigaj, the Clackamas County murderer, who was under sentence to hang here January 29. Attorney J. U. Campbell today filed his abstract on appeal, and the execution is, therefore, stayed pending the appeal.

#### TAKE NOTICE.

Owing to yesterday's storm many of our customers could not take advantage of the bargains advertised in Monday's Telegram. The same prices will be in force today. McAllen & McDonnell, Third and Morrison streets.



# JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

## At The Meier & Frank Store Today

The January business is by far the greatest we have ever experienced—In every department the response has been far beyond all expectations—There's only one reason for this remarkable January selling—Our ability to offer at all times the best merchandise, the most dependable merchandise, in assortments three times greater than other stores and every article priced at the lowest point consistent with good quality—A January clearance at this store means something more than a handsome, large newspaper advertisement with empty shelves to back it up—Mail orders filled—Complete stock of sleds on Second Floor

### Sale of Blankets, Comforters

500 pairs of Light Gray Wool Blankets, with fancy borders; regular \$4.00 values, at the pair, **\$3.35**  
300 pairs of full-size Mottled Oregon Gray Heavy Wool Blankets; \$5.50 val.; on sale at, pr. **\$4.37**  
Four great special lots of Comforters, silklike covered; best patterns and colorings and filled with pure laminated cotton. Don't fail to supply your Comforter wants at these prices:  
72x72-inch for only **\$1.13**—72x80-inch for only **\$1.81**  
72x78-inch for only **\$1.23**—72x84-inch for only **\$2.50**

### Clearance Sale Drug Sundries

Cuticura Soap—Buy all you want at the price, cake... **17c**  
Woodbury Facial Soap on sale at the special price, cake **16c**  
"4711" White Rose Glycerine Soap, at special price... **12c**  
Regular 75c Violet Toilet Water on sale at the bottle... **59c**  
Dree's Sweet Violet Talcum, on special sale at, per can... **11c**  
Dr. Graves' Tooth Powder, on sale at this low price... **12c**  
Mme. Yale's Toilet Preparations at cut prices. See them.

### A Great Sale of Toilet Paper

Leader Toilet Paper, doz. rolls **33c**, per hundred **\$2.69**  
Large Okeyed Rolls, per dozen **63c**, per hundred **\$5.29**  
Large Kreech Rolls, per dozen **89c**, per hundred **\$6.49**  
Imperial Packages, per dozen **47c**, per hundred **\$3.49**  
Large Knickerbocker Rolls, doz. **98c**, per hundred **\$6.98**  
Richmond Rolls, per dozen **\$1.23**. These are great values. Entire stock Women's Suits, Coats, Furs, Costumes, Wraps, Waists, Petticoats, Sweaters, etc., on sale at clearance prices.

### Sale Men's Winter Underwear

Men's best quality fleeceline Underwear, all sizes; 39c  
shirts and drawers, natural color; great values at...  
Men's Australian wool Underwear; finest quality; all sizes, shirts and drawers; reg. \$1.75 val. **\$1.29**  
Men's Norfolk and New Brunswick vienna wool Underwear; all sizes; shirts, drawers; \$1.75 val. **\$1.45**  
Dr. Wright's fleeceline Underwear, shirts and drawers in all sizes; regular \$1 values, garment... **69c**  
Men's wool ribbed Underwear; pink, blue, gray; all sizes; shirts and drawers; \$1.50 val., each. **\$1.15**  
Broken lines of men's woolen Underwear; values up to \$2 a garment; at low price of, each... **75c**  
Men's worsted ribbed Underwear; pink, blue and gray; \$1.25 values, at low price of only, per garment. **89c**  
Men's heavy natural wool Underwear, all sizes; shirts and drawers; \$1.00 values, low price, garment. **63c**  
Men's natural wool Underwear; the \$1.50 values, at exceptionally low price of, per garment. **\$1.15**

### Clearance Women's Underwear

Women's heavyweight fleeceline cotton Vests and Pants, cream color, all sizes; 25c values, on sale at, each. **12 1/2c**  
Women's heavyweight mixed wool Union Suits; high neck, long sleeves, ankle length; good, warm Winter weight, cream and gray; regular \$1.25 values, each. **63c**  
Women's heavyweight mixed wool Union Suits; high neck, long sleeves, ankle length; cream and gray; regular \$1.50 values; on sale at the special, per garment. **75c**  
Broken lines Women's Underwear at low clearance prices. Children's Underwear during this sale at very low prices.

### Clearance of Silverware, Cut Glass, China, Etc., in Basement

Our entire stock of gold Bohemian Glassware in all style pieces; beautiful assortment; values ranging 1/3 Off from \$1.25 to \$15.00, on sale, great reduction... **\$3.60**  
\$4.25 Carving Sets, on sale at low price of only, set **\$3.60**  
\$6.00 Carving Sets, on sale at low price of only, set **\$5.20**  
\$7.50 Carving Sets, on sale at low price of only, set **\$6.00**  
\$5.00 Chafing Dishes, on sale at low price of only **\$4.00**  
\$9.00 Chafing Dishes, on sale at low price of only **\$7.20**  
\$10.00 Chafing Dishes, on sale at low price of only **\$8.00**  
\$12.00 Coffee Percolators, on sale at low price of **\$9.60**  
\$13.50 Coffee Percolators, on sale at low price of **\$12.00**  
\$11.50 Coffee Percolators, on sale at low price of **\$8.80**  
\$13.50 Coffee Percolators, on sale at low price of **\$10.80**  
\$3.75 Five o'Clock Teas, on sale at low price of only **\$3.00**  
\$5.00 Five o'Clock Teas, on sale at low price of only **\$4.00**  
\$7.50 Five o'Clock Teas, on sale at low price of only **\$6.00**

### One-Third Off on Fancy China

Celery Trays, Spoon Trays, Bread Trays, Relish Dishes, Bon Bons, an immense assortment, in French China, Haviland China, Austrian China, etc. Handsome patterns and colorings. 25c values for only **16c** | 50c values, low price **34c**  
60c values for only **40c** | 75c values, low price **50c**  
90c values for only **60c** | \$1.00 values, for only **67c**  
\$1.50 values for only **\$1.00** | \$2.00 values for only **\$1.34**  
\$3.00 values for only **\$2.00** | In the Basement—See them.  
3000 fancy China Plates, in assorted decorations; 15c  
20c and 25c values, on sale at low price of only, each.



# The Lingerie Event

Entire Stock Muslin Underwear at Matchless Low Prices

Portland Agents for Nemo Corsets and Gossard Corsets

## \$100,000 Worth of Undermuslins

At prices that are of the greatest importance to the shrewd buyer; all new, dainty lingerie—best product of the best underwear mills in the land. Beautiful gowns, corset covers, drawers, skirts and combination garments, in grand array. Every piece new and fresh, and the prices are the lowest ever quoted by us or any other Portland store. Magnificent white Petticoats in lawns and cambrics, trimmed in the best quality lace and embroideries, clusters of tucks and insertions; separate dust ruffles; great variety; matchless values, at 97c to \$50.00. New Chemise, in fine nainsooks, lawns and dimities, trimmed in dainty laces and embroideries, insertions and ribbons, from 33c to \$6.98 each. Short white Underskirts, in nainsook and cambric and trimmed in lace and embroidery. These garments are on sale at from 49c to \$4.98. COMBINATION GARMENTS—In a very large showing of styles and qualities; two and three-piece garments, made of fine lawns, cambrics, crossbar dimities and embroidery, trimmed in dainty laces and embroideries, beading and ribbons; on sale at low price of 98c to \$20.00.

Entire stock Paris Underwear selling at greatly reduced prices. Children's and infants' white Dresses on sale at special low prices. See them and take advantage. Women's cambric, nainsook, muslin and dimity Nightgowns, made low, round and square neck, with tucks, insertion, beading and ribbon; all new, pretty undermuslins, and extraordinary values, on sale at a very special reduction, at prices ranging from 79c to \$25.00 each. Take advantage of this sale. Thousands and thousands of pretty Drawers, made of fine muslins, cambrics and nainsook, trimmed in lace and embroideries, tucks and insertion, dainty beading and ribbons; made wide umbrella and regulation style, open and closed. Grand variety, on sale at the low prices of 25c to \$10.00 a pair. See them. Corset Covers in beautiful styles and endless assortment; of fine nainsooks, lawns and dimity; blouse or tight-fitting styles; trimmed in dainty lace and embroidery, clusters of tucks, insertion, beading and ribbon. Great values—take advantage. On sale at prices ranging from 25c to \$4.98 each. See them.

Women's imported tan Russia calf and patent cold dress and street Shoes; button, blucher and plain lace styles; high-class footwear; Cuban heels, welt soles; **\$3.85** sizes 3 to 7; regular \$5.00 values, for, the pair...  
Women's gunmetal calf, tan Russia calf and oxford Shoes, in this season's very best styles; high cottage **\$2.85**, medium and swing shapes, all sizes, \$3.50 val...  
Women's patent calf, gunmetal calf and viel kid Footwear, in button, blucher and lace styles—all good, **\$1.98** standard \$3.00 footwear, on sale for, the pair...  
1000 pairs women's fur-trimmed Felt Romeos, pair. **\$1.15**  
A great clearance of women's fine Shoes and Oxfords. Great clearance Men's Footwear. Take advantage of sale. A great clearance sale of all broken lines of Footwear.

### Embroidery Clearance

Allover Embroideries for waist frontings—Swiss and nainsook allover for waisting and yokes; all new, handsome styles in large variety; great values at the following low prices: **\$2.00** values, the yard, **98c**—\$3.00 values, the yard, **\$1.19**  
Match Sets of Embroidery in batiste, swiss, cambric and nainsook, for lingerie gowns, waists, women's and children's wear; 1 to 18 inches wide; great values at these low prices: 40c values, the yard, **19c**—\$1.75 values, the yard, **39c**  
\$1.25 values, the yard, **25c**—\$4.00 values, the yard, **98c**  
Swiss and Batiste Flouncing, 12 to 18 inches wide; eyelet and filet designs; values up to \$3.50 a yard; on sale at the remarkably low price, the yard... **69c**  
20,000 yards of Swiss, Nainsook and Cambric Edges and Insertion; best patterns, in a grand variety at these prices: 25c values at, the yard, **10c**—40c values at, the yard, **15c**

### Fine Table Linens

72-inch all-linen double Table Damask, best quality and patterns; reg. \$1.35 value, at, yard... **\$1.00**  
70-inch all-linen double Table Damask in the best patterns; reg. \$1 quality, on sale at this price, yard... **75c**  
60-inch all-linen Table Damask, cream color, best patterns; best reg. 65c value, on sale at, the yard... **50c**  
60-inch Mercerized Damask, best patterns, 7/8c val., yd. **50c**  
16-inch all-linen Crash, reg. 10c value, on sale for, yd. **6 1/2c**  
16-inch all-linen Glass Crash, checked, 12 1/2c value, yd. **9c**  
Broken lines Tablecloths, Napkins and Linen Sets, low-priced.

### Sale Women's Shoes

Women's imported tan Russia calf and patent cold dress and street Shoes; button, blucher and plain lace styles; high-class footwear; Cuban heels, welt soles; **\$3.85** sizes 3 to 7; regular \$5.00 values, for, the pair...  
Women's gunmetal calf, tan Russia calf and oxford Shoes, in this season's very best styles; high cottage **\$2.85**, medium and swing shapes, all sizes, \$3.50 val...  
Women's patent calf, gunmetal calf and viel kid Footwear, in button, blucher and lace styles—all good, **\$1.98** standard \$3.00 footwear, on sale for, the pair...  
1000 pairs women's fur-trimmed Felt Romeos, pair. **\$1.15**  
A great clearance of women's fine Shoes and Oxfords. Great clearance Men's Footwear. Take advantage of sale. A great clearance sale of all broken lines of Footwear.

### Jewelry and Stationery

Our entire stock of Jewelry, including watches, fancy clocks, purses, bags, necklaces, cuff links, brooches, watch fobs, collar pins, belt pins, etc. Prettiest styles; matchless—**1/4 Off** assortments, all on sale one-fourth off reg. price.  
Special lot of fancy Back Combs, mounted and hand-carved designs. Broken lines, in various grades, **One-Half** to be closed out at one-half regular prices.  
Odds and ends in Solid Gold Brooches on sale at half price.  
An assortment of 1909 Diaries, in all sizes and **1/4 Off** rulings; great special values, at one-fourth off...  
Great sale of fine Box Papers—Eaton's, Crane's, **19c**  
Berlin's and Whiting's finest linen paper, 35c val...  
Regular 65c Stationery, in above makes, sale at, box **39c**  
Entire stock of Desk Supplies—ink stands, blot-**1/4 Off** ters, paper cutters, all best novelties, on sale at, **1/4 Off**  
Scissors and Shears, all sizes, reg. 50c val., at, pair. **23c**

### 50c Flannels 29c Yard

2500 yards of high-grade Waisting Flannels, in light and dark plaids and stripes; very best designs and colorings; **29c** 27 ins. wide; regular 50c values, on sale at, the yard.  
2500 yards of Bath Robe Flannels desirable patterns and colorings; 40c values, at the low price, yd. **25c**

### Clearance Wash Goods

5000 yards of new and pretty fancy White Goods, **12 1/2c** regular 25c values, on sale at the low price, yard.  
Long Cloth, in 12-yard pieces, on sale at, the piece **\$1.00**  
50,000 yards of the best quality Prints; best patterns and colorings; great special value at, the yard... **5c**  
Beautiful new French Percales, in the most de-**12 1/2c** sirable patterns and colorings; 25c values, yard.  
5000 yds of Cotton Voiles, in new styles; the best regular 20c values, on sale at the special price, yd. **10c**  
Odd lots Plain and Fancy White Goods, at clearance prices.

### Clearance Lace Curtains

5000 pairs of high-grade Lace Curtains—Cluny, Renaissance, Marie Antoinette, Irish Points, Brussels and Novelty Lace Curtains—all new patterns and all grades. These extraordinary values on sale at the following special low prices: **\$3.50** Curtains for **\$1.95**—**\$6.50** Curtains for **\$4.35**  
**\$5.00** Curtains for **\$3.65**—**\$8.50** Curtains for **\$5.95**  
New Bangalow Nets, in white, ivory and ecru, 50 inches wide, all the new filed designs; 50c val., yard. **38c**  
500 patterns of Cotton Taffetas and Cretonnes, light and dark grounds, with floral and Oriental designs in **26c** all colors; 36 inches wide; 35c and 40c values, yard.  
10,000 yards of white and colored Swiss, in dots, figures, checks and stripes, 36-inch, special value, at, the yard. **11c**  
Clearance bargains in Portieres and in Drapery Materials.