

### CONVENTION VISITS HOME OF WARDS

Superintendent Gardner, of Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, Fetes County Heads.

### MORE SUPPORT IS ASKED

Judge Cleeton Asks Conferees to Indorse Convict-Labor Bills, but Sanction Is Delayed—State Forester Makes Appeal.

The County Judges and Commissioners of the state visited the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, at East Twenty-ninth and Irving streets, yesterday, being entertained by Superintendent Gardner at lunch, and holding a convention session afterwards. W. P. Woodward, a member of the board of directors, advocated more facilities in the manual training department. He said it is desired to add plumbing and blacksmithing to the carpentry and shoe-making now taught. It is also desired to have the Board of Education of School District No. 1 co-operate by sending a manual training instructor to teach at the institution.

Superintendent Gardner said that although there are 24 counties in the state, and any one of them may send children to the society, only 18 are supporting the institution, each contributing \$15 a month. Judge Moses said that while, heretofore, the money for the support of this institution has been raised by subscription, he thought the society ought hereafter to be supported by the state.

The institution has 650 wards in private homes under its supervision, and has 48 in its institution. There are accommodations for 80.

John Teuscher told of the caution necessary on the part of those employed by the society to investigate reports of ill treatment or neglect of children.

**Cleeton for Convict Labor.** After leaving the society the Judges and Commissioners reassembled at the Commercial Club convention hall. Judge Cleeton, chairman, suggested that the convention indorse the two convict labor bills presented at a previous session. This was met with the objection that some of the judges had left, making the delegation too small to show the actual wishes of the convention, and that the judges had not had an opportunity to examine the bills.

E. R. Ayers, highway engineer employed by the Oregon Agricultural College, spoke on "Road Location and Drainage," saying the amount of traffic and the weight of the traffic going over roads should determine the character of the improvement to be made. He said this ought to be checked up, making before macadam or hard surface is determined upon. He said that in cases where a good road disappears in the mud before the wheels of a truck, it ought to be looked for and drained. He said it is useless to put on more gravel or crushed rock in a case of that kind, without the drainage.

"With clay soils you want a road well crowned, but not so much so as to have water run off the sides. On sandy soils you want exactly the opposite, for you want as much water on it as you can get," said Mr. Ayers.

**Care of Bridges Advised.** E. N. Basford urged that more care be used in building bridges. He spoke of the evils of dishonest contractors or workmen, telling of supposed cement foundations, discovered to be sand and gravel with only a thin coating of cement to bind them together. He also urged that the steel be obtained at a factory sufficiently equipped to turn out a good product.

"Bridges 15 feet wide ought to be able to support a 20-ton traction engine," he said, "and bridges wider than 20 feet ought to support two 20-ton traction engines abreast. Highway bridges of today are required to be as heavy as any railroad bridge built 20 years ago."

All work ought to be inspected as it progresses. The inspector need not be an engineer, but should be a man of broad mind and sound common sense."

A. T. Sprague pleaded that the County Courts take more interest in the protection of the state's timber. He said twice as much timber in Oregon has been burned as has been cut into lumber.

**State Forester Heard.** State Forester Elliott followed, saying it is a question among timbermen whether burning out the brush every few years does not do more harm to the timber than good. All the young timber and some of the merchantable timber are destroyed. He urged the burning of ridges where there is no timber, however, under proper supervision.

Speaking of burning slashings without permits, he said that of 450 slashings burned this year where permits were granted, only one did any damage. There were more than 40 slashings burned without permits. He reported, where the fire got away from those in charge. He also urged that the fire law be better supported by the county officials, saying that of 2 arrests in Washington, 48 convictions were obtained, while of 15 arrests in Oregon only one conviction followed, and in that case the fine was remitted. He told of one instance in which the man arrested wanted to plead guilty and pay his fine, but the County Judge refused to accept the plea, preferring to turn his case over to the grand jury with the result that he was not indicted.

It was voted to hold the next convention in Portland January 14, 1912. Judge Cleeton and Commissioners Lightner and Hart were appointed as the program committee. All ex-judges and commissioners were voted members of the association. Officials attending the convention will visit the county institutions today.

**HOLIDAY RUSH AT HEIGHT** Business at Stores Thursday Reported Biggest Yet.

Assigned by crowds, every store yesterday reported that the day's business had been the biggest of the Christmas season.

drivers, delivery wagons and packers from being overworked more than already is the case. It is generally admitted that the shop assistants and cash girls in all the stores, as well as the customers themselves, are gainers by a large proportion of purchases being made as early in the day as possible.

### UNIT BIDS ARE REGULAR

Grant Rules in Regard to Broadway Bridge Superstructure.

Unit bids, as submitted by contractors for the Broadway bridge superstructure, were regular, declares City Attorney Grant in a written opinion read by the bridge committee of the Executive Board yesterday.

Several of the bidders complained recently that the specifications as arranged by Engineer Modjeski called for bids on a lump sum basis and that the bids of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, which were lowest, were on a unit basis. City Attorney Grant, after an investigation, declares the specifications call for bids on a unit basis.

The claim of Robert Wakefield that \$11,000 is due him for the erection of the Hawthorne-avenue bridge, will be investigated at a special meeting December 28 of the bridge committee of the Executive Board and the ways and means committee of the City Council.

### SOIL EXPERT WILL SPEAK

Professor H. V. Tartar Will Address Orchardists at Y. M. C. A.

"Soils and Fertilizers" will be the subject of the weekly address for apple-growers in the auditorium of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association tomorrow night at 8 o'clock. The speaker will be Professor H. V. Tartar, of the department of chemistry of the Oregon Agricultural College.

Professor Tartar and other members of the Agricultural College faculty have devoted much time to the study of soil chemistry, believing the selection of the best soil should be a subject of serious study by the prospective horticulturist. Professor Tartar will have many interesting facts concerning Oregon soils to present, with which the average layman is unfamiliar. The meeting is free and open to both men and women.

### AUTO REPAIR BILL HEAVY

Police Machine Costs \$290 for November—Drivers to Be Secured.

A bill for \$290 for the repair of the police automobile in November was the direct cause of the adoption yesterday by the police committee of the Executive Board of a measure providing for three drivers to handle the new auto patrol, which will be in service by January 1.

From the looks of the bills submitted to the committee by a Portland repair shop, every part of the old auto patrol has been broken and replaced several times in the last month and a half. Danger of the new machine meeting the same fate led to the committee's asking the Civil Service Commission to hold an examination for chauffeurs at once.

Chinese Baby Show, Saturday afternoon. Food Show, auditorium.

### FARM CHARMS TOLD

Bankers to Aid Promotion of Teaching in Schools.

### EXHIBIT PRIZES PLANNED

President of Agricultural College Cites Success of Yamhill in Directing Efforts of Pupils to Productivity of Land.

Oregon bankers have initiated a movement having for its purpose the introduction of an agricultural course in the public schools of the state. The idea of the campaign is to educate the boys to remain on the farm and become producers, instead of moving at an early date and joining the already too large army of consumers.

Another object of the proposed instruction in the schools is to make farm life more attractive and show the agriculturist how to increase his production.

Having this purpose in mind, the Oregon Bankers' Association at its annual meeting last June appointed an "agricultural committee," consisting of Emery Olmstead, of Portland, chairman; J. H. Booth, of Hood River; J. H. Albert, of Salem; C. A. Dobell, of Corvallis, and T. J. Mahoney, of Heppner. The committee held its first meeting at the Commercial Club yesterday.

**Farm Work Is Outlined.** Messrs. Albert and Mahoney were not present, but others attending the conference were W. J. Kerr, president of the Oregon Agricultural College; P. L. Campbell, president of the University of Oregon; J. L. Hartman, secretary of the State Bankers' Association; L. R. Alderman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Lydell Baker.

President Kerr, of the State Agricultural College, outlined what was being done at the Corvallis institution towards disseminating agricultural instruction and information among the farmers of the state.

Superintendent Alderman suggested that arrangements be made for competitive exhibits of agricultural products by the pupils of the public schools at county and district fairs. As evidence of the interest in such a plan and the valuable results that attend such exhibitions, the speaker referred to a recent exhibition of these products by the pupils of the Yamhill County schools.

**Plan Proves Merits.** With a school population in the county of 4500, there were 1700 participants. He strongly urged this plan as the most direct and effective way for imparting agricultural information among the young people.

The practicability of the plan suggested by Superintendent Alderman was recognized by the members of the committee who assured him that they would co-operate in every possible way in introducing the experiment in this state.

The plan as outlined by Superintendent Alderman contemplates the employment of a competent man who will visit the various counties in the state, enlist the assistance of the County School Superintendents for the double purpose of introducing agricultural studies in the public schools and also holding competitive exhibits



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