

SCHOOLS DEFECTIVE IN TEACHING STAFF

Reed College Dean of Men Pleads for Education.

EVILS HELD DESTRUCTIVE

Indifference and Neglect Branded One of Worst Scandals That Confront United States.

TACOMA, Wash., May 12.—(Special)—The teachers of American schools should be the finest body of Americans to be found anywhere, and if we really want good schools we shall have to pay for them," declared Dr. E. O. Sisson, dean of men of Reed college, Portland, in an address at the final session of the convention of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher associations here this evening. Dr. Sisson's address was one of three to be given at this meeting, which concluded the formal programme of the 26th annual convention.

"Three menacing weaknesses beset the teaching staff of the public schools of the United States," Dr. Sisson said: "Immaturity and unprofessionalism, the continual pirating of the best talent by less able but more lucrative callings, and a shocking poverty of the male sex. The first two of these weaknesses are being steadily and hopefully mended; the third shows no signs of improvement, but rather grows worse.

Ideals Backed Up to Wall.
"Until the people of the United States correct these evils, they should cease boasting of their devotion to their schools and instead confess humbly their indifference and neglect. At even at the moment, now that the elation of war spirit is abated, all ideals are backed up to the wall, and the schools most of all. While the war was on, nothing was too good for education, and most of the educators took heart and looked to a new era of interest and generosity toward the cause.

"There are two sovereign remedies for these weaknesses. The first is attention and genuine interest, the second flows from the first and is generous and effective support. So long as these are not given, efficient teaching, so long will inefficiency and waste mark the course of our national education.

"There is one immediate and pressing positive demand. The public must come to place teaching upon the same plane of respect with law, medicine, engineering and the more responsible business positions. Ultimately, teaching must stand above any of these."

Tribute Paid to Teachers.
Dr. Sisson paid high tribute to the women in the teaching profession, but decried the lack of men instructors.

"The actual damage in this thing," he said, "is in the fact that every normal boy needs the hand and voice of a man in his training; nor does the boy's need of a man teacher wait until he enters high school. It begins rather about the fourth grade and probably is most urgent, in fact, in the so-called grammar grades and perhaps the first year of high school.

"The people of the United States as a whole do not consider that professional training is needed for the task of teaching their children, but are willing to trust them to amateurs. Half of the teaching staff of the public schools have had no professional preparation. It is safe to say that many thousands of children receive all their schooling from children slightly older than themselves. At least 2,000,000 pupils are being taught by so-called teachers, 17, 18 or 19 years old.

"Teachers must become more competent, better equipped, more deeply and highly experienced; they must rise to at least equal standing in the public esteem with the lawyers and physicians. If the great United States of America is to hold its course of progress and rise to its ever-widening destiny it must pay the price of this weakness. The task of the teaching profession is the most immediate and imperative duty to these great ends."

Other Addresses Given.
Edmond S. Meaney, professor of history at the University of Washington, gave an address on "Washington, the Evergreen State," and Ralph Swetnam of the Washington Educational association, and the Washington state branch of the Parent-Teacher association, spoke on "Co-operation Between State Parent-Teacher Associations and State Teacher Associations."

This morning's session of the convention was taken up with reports of state presidents, a conference on Parent-Teacher councils, led by Mrs. Victor Malstrom of Tacoma, and a conference of state presidents, led by Mrs. C. Arthur Varnoy of Yakima. This afternoon the entire body of delegates attended, as honor guests, the Stadium day events, where they witnessed 16,000 Tacoma school children in a programme of games and exercises.

National officers and other members of the board will convene tomorrow for a last business session, when a new group of national chairmen will be appointed and the next place of convention chosen.

State Music Convention Ended.
WALLA WALLA, Wash., May 12.—(Special)—State music teachers adjourned this afternoon after a three days' session. They will meet next year at Bellingham. Carl Palge Wood of the University of Washington faculty was re-elected president. The visitors had a basket luncheon and afterwards were taken on an automobile ride through the valley.

High School Rowdies Suspended.
TWIN FALLS, Idaho, May 12.—(Special)—A number of local high school boys have been suspended following a "treat 'em rough" class scrap in which a quartet of noses were broken, as well as an arm or two. The high school principal declared he meant to put a stop to such "unpolished" tactics.

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WOMAN KILLS HERSELF

MRS. A. B. LARABEE SUICIDE AT DAUGHTER'S HOME.

Caldwell, Idaho, Resident Shoots Self During Visit at La Grande; Other Attempts Reported.

LA GRANDE, Or., May 12.—(Special)—Mrs. A. B. Larabee of Caldwell, Idaho, because she was despondent over ill health, shot herself in the left breast this morning, dying several minutes later. Mrs. Larabee was visiting here at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. W. Ruple. This was her third attempt at suicide recently, it was said.

Mrs. Larabee retired Thursday night, apparently slightly despondent. Her daughter and the latter's baby slept in a room in another part of the house.

Mrs. Larabee had gone into a room adjoining her bedroom, had opened a trunk and had taken out a .45-caliber automatic pistol. As it was empty, she had placed one cartridge in the chamber, pulling the trigger as she leaned over the trunk. A trail of blood showed that the wounded woman walked back into her bedroom, where she collapsed.

On another occasion recently, while visiting at the home of another daughter, Mrs. Asa Toney, of Haines, Or., she attempted to end her life by slashing her wrists. Mrs. Toney then intervened in time to save her mother. On another recent occasion Mrs. Larabee was reported to have tried to end her life by taking iodine. There will be no inquest, according to Coroner Bohnenkamp. Mrs. Larabee is survived by her husband, four children,

ONLY ONE ROAD CLOSED

Grays Harbor Development Work Does Not Hamper Traffic.

MONTESSANO, Wash., May 12.—(Special)—The only road in Grays Harbor county that actually is closed to travel, although work is being done in many localities, is the north side road between Malone and Porter and between Porter and Oakville. The south side road is open, so there is no interruption of traffic and no towns are completely cut off.

The whole district between Malone and Oakville will be made a good gravelled road. The bluffs along which the road has always run are being cut down and the sharp curves straightened out.

COOKS, WAITERS STRIKE

Olympia Restaurant Workers Want \$2 a Week Rise.

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 12.—(Special)—The union cooks and waiters walked out of Olympia restaurants at midnight last night in an attempt to enforce a straight \$2 a week rise, which would return the union scale to the figures of 1921. About 20 persons walked out in eight eating places, while five other restaurants signed up to pay the higher scale. The walkout came on the eve of circus day, but the resultant crowds at noon and night were handled without difficulty. Proprietors report an ample supply of emergency help to care for their business and say they will operate on an "open-shop" basis hereafter.

Bank Robber Jury Still Out.

YAKIMA, Wash., May 12.—After being out all night, jurors in the case of the three men, John Morrison, B. L. Porter and John Burke, charged with attempting to rob the White Staffs bank March 16, this morning reported to the Benton county superior court that they were unable to agree. Judge Truax ordered the jurors back to reconsider the case, after giving them further instructions. Sheriff Rolph is using fingerprints instead of the more usual finger marks as the basis for his identification of the trio.



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Men! See Back Page