NEW SCHOOLHOUSES

Director Wittenberg Says Many Are Needed.

URGES 2½ MILLS FOR BUILDINGS

This Over and Above the Ordinary School Expenses, Which Must Be Also Provided For—He Sets Forth His Reasons.

School Director H. Wittenberg has addressed an open letter to the taxpayers of school district No. 1, in which he strongly advocates the levying of a tax of 2½ mills, the proceeds of which shall be devoted entirely to the erection of more school houses. The letter is as follows:

Portland, Jan. 10.—To the taxpayers of School District No. 1: As the annual meeting of the taxpayers of the above district draws nigh, I feel, as a member of the board, that in justice to the taxpayers as well as the board (at least to myself), a review of the situation should be presented to the taxpayers in a little different form than the usual stereotyped report defines, which is usually published just previous to the meeting. I believe that if the taxpayers thoroughly understand the situation there will be less friction and obstruction than is usually found during annual meetings. I believe that the taxpayers of Portland take pride in their public schools and desire to see them at least equal, if not superior, to those of other cities, and I am satisfied that, unless they do understand the situation thoroughly, errors will be made which will be difficult to remedy and which will work a hardship in the near future.

I have noticed in the daily papers the agitation that is going on in the different parts of the city, with the object of petitioning the board to increase school facilities in different localities, and the movement referred to is one of my greatest reasons for inflicting this article on the public. And I am positive if hearty co-operation is not given the board they will only be able to carry out a small part of the work that will be demanded of them.

As the matter now stands, to the best of my knowledge and information, the plan of the board for the coming year is to build a 12-room building at Highland, with an assembly hall, and an eight-room addition to the Stephens school. This is to be the whole amount of buildings that, as I understand the matter, will be attempted. And I desire to state that it is absolutely necessary that the above mentioned buildings should be built at the the two places mentioned, as there is greater need at those points than any other places in the city. The cost of the buildings mentioned will be fully $65,000, based on the cost during the past year.

Other Points Need More Room.

I do not believe that we should restrict ourselves to those two places. There are other points that are also in need of additional room. Brooklyn should have at least four rooms. South Portland the same, a four-room building is needed either at North Central or at some point east of that building to accommodate the rapidly-increasing population. Four rooms should be built adjacent to Albina Central; something must be done at the Couch school; Chapman school is overflowing; also Failing school, and each year that the matter of building is postponed will make it just so much worse. Atkinson school is a very old building, the first part having been built 35 years ago, and it should be replaced by a modern building at the earliest possible moment. The sanitation is not good and the heating is simply old stoves located in each room, which, in my opinion, may possibly cause a serious loss of life by fire, caused by possible panic among the children, which, I am sure, the taxpayers are desirous of avoiding at all times. And if such conditions are permitted to continue, in my opinion, it can only be considered criminal negligence on the part of the taxpayers.

The position that I take in this matter of buildings and furnishing facilities for the children of this community, is as follows:

You have elected a board of directors, whose duty it is to submit existing conditions in such a manner as to enable you to act intelligently. They should, also, submit to you what they believe is necessary in the way of finances to carry out the work of the district. This I consider their duty. Then it is the duty of the taxpayers to furnish sufficient funds for the board to carry out the work. Should the taxpayers refuse to do so and only furnish one-half, two-thirds, or three-fourths of what is actually needed, then the fault, and neglect of duty, lies with the taxpayers, and not with the board of directors, and they will certainly pay a penalty for such neglect. The board of directors can only expend the funds furnished them. They have no choice in the premises, so the taxpayers should consider this matter very thoroughly and act accordingly.

Directors Should Levy Tax.

I believe that there is a defect in our laws in so far as giving the directors power to handle the affairs of the district. In my opinion, the law should be amended in such a way as to give the board of directors the power to levy the school tax for the district, as they really are the only ones who are sufficiently familiar with the wants of the schools. Certainly they have a better understanding than the taxpayers, who only hear once a year, through the annual statement, how matters stand; and if the taxpayers lack confidence in their board of directors they should immediately correct their error by electing other members. It is to be regretted that the taxpayers of the district do not take greater interest in visiting the different schools. I would like to ask some of them to visit Atkinson School, Couch School, Brooklyn School, South Portland School, Clinton Kelly School and also Albina Central and Highland. If they will only do so I have no fear but at the coming annual meeting they will be prepared to say that an improvement is absolutely necessary.

Portland is now a rapidly growing city, and the next few years will see a large increase in her population. The proportion of increase each year will, therefore, be greater, and unless the district keeps its work up with such increase you can readily understand that when the day of settlement does come, and you are brought face to face with the facts that your old school buildings are falling down and that you have got a large number of portable buildings tacked on to these older ones like a lot of village tents, the fact will stare you in the face that something must be done at once. I personally recommend to the taxpayers of this district that they vote a tax of not less than 2½ mills for the sole purpose of building new buildings, and I sincerely trust that such will be the result of the meeting.

Let us, in years of prosperity, in a reasonable way prepare for the future. The people of Portland can, possibly, afford today to handle this matter better than they can at a later period. Let us do the work in hand at the present, and I am sure that our successors will be thankful that we have done so. Kindly understand that the above-mentioned 2½ mills is for buildings only, and does not include the levy necessary to carry on the schools for the current year.

H. WITTENBERG.

Two Fire Alarms.

Two fire alarms were turned in last night between 5 and 7 o'clock, but in both cases the flames were checked before they did any considerable damage. Shortly after 5 the first alarm came in. A Chinese laundry had caught fire near Second and Davis. The Celestials were wild with excitement, and thought their plant was to be destroyed, but the firemen soon arrived and extinguished the flames without even having to use any water. The second alarm was about 7 o'clock, and was turned in from the box at Twenty-fourth and Johnson. A closet, which was filled with old clothes, had caught fire. This was also extinguished without having to tap a hydrant. The house was between Twenty-second and Twenty-third streets, on Lovejoy.

YOUTHFUL BURGLARS.

Three Boys Confess to Committing Many Recent Robberies.

The bold gang of burglars who have been giving the police so much trouble for the past few weeks is broken up and at least part of the number have been brought to justice. Charles Burton, Harry Wilkens and Charles Hayes, three youths of less than 18 years of age, were yesterday arrested by Detectives Snow and Kerrigan and confessed that they had committed a number of the small robberies that have been reported.

The large 44-caliber revolver that was taken from the Log Cabin window a few days ago was in the possession of Hayes, and he admitted having broken the window and stolen it. During their confession the boys admitted having robbed a tamale store on East Burnside street three times, a grocery store on Eleventh and Washington streets, the White Front Clothing store at Second and Yamhill, a meat market on First street, and of having taken an overcoat from a dummy in front of a second-hand store near the St. Charles Hotel. Upon being searched each boy was found to be equipped with a more or less complete set of burglar tools. A pair of pincers, skeleton keys, a special device for turning keys in doors, so that they can be pushed out, and a number of other questionable articles were found on each boy.

The clew which led to their capture came to the police station two days ago, and the detectives have been vigorously working on the case since. Yesterday afternoon they went to the East Side, where the boys are accustomed to hang about. One of them has rooms at the Chicago Hotel. Hayes has a home on the East Side, and the other boy sleeps wherever he thinks is the most convenient place at the time he is ready. The three youthful burglars were waiting at the East Side Depot for the train to come along to carry them over to the city. It seems to have been their custom to take the train over to the city during the afternoon and then, when night came, to commit whatever robberies they had planned, and go back to the East Side and sleep during the day. Before the detectives saw them, they commenced to run, but could not get away. Hayes had the big gun stuck down the leg of his pantaloons, and presented the appearance of a real Jesse James. The other boys readily submitted after their leader was caught, and the trio was taken to the station. A bolder and more daring set of boys would be hard to find, and they continued to joke over the situation as they were being searched, and declared that there must have been some traitor in their gang, or they would never have been caught.

FAVORED BY THE MAYOR

Will Sign Ordinances Granting Blanket Franchises.

Mayor Williams said yesterday that he would approve the ordinances granting a blanket franchise of 30 years to the City & Suburban Railway Company and extending the life of the Portland Railway Company's franchise five years, so that both ordinances will terminate on the same date. Further than this the Mayor would say nothing about the ordinances, which will now go before the Board of Public Works for approval. If the ordinances should be approved by the board, it is pretty generally understood that the two companies will file their acceptances at once.

Under the ordinance as passed the city will receive from the City & Suburban Railway Company about $205,000 as compensation, besides the costs of repairs to streets. Under the ordinances as originally proposed the company would have paid $127,500 for a 25-year franchise, and $182,500 for 30 years. Under the Sigler amendment it will pay $145,000 for 25 years and $205,000 for 30 years. The greatest increase is during the last five years. The compensation had been agreed upon at the rate of $11,000 a year, but the amendment increased it to $12,000.

Under the 25-year franchise the Portland Railway Company was to pay $75,000, not including the construction of the bridge over the Jefferson-street canyon, and which is expected to cost $30,000. This bridge must be maintained by the company for 25 years at an estimated cost of $50,000, and is to be used as a city street. By the extension of five years the company will have to pay $60,000 additional to the treasury, at the rate of $12,000 a year, from 1928 to 1932, making a total of $135,000.

LADIES' COATS, JACKETS

Every day we turn out some nice ones; as you know we make all our own ready-to-wear stock. This is a great advantage—always new styles, late designs. We don't have to send thousands of miles to get a few new coats; we make them. Soon as a new design appears, we make up a few. You can come in any day in the week and you will see some new coat in style, color or finish. Saturday we finished a small lot of blouse skirted jackets in black and blue; also a slot-seamed coat—a dandy; the same cannot be seen in any establishment in this city until they can have a few weeks' time to send to New York and get them made. All our goods are made from our regular tailor cloth, which is in itself a guarantee of good quality.

THE J. M. ACHESON CO.,
Fifth and Alder streets.

LIFE INSURANCE APPOINTMENT.

Mr. Frank McFarland, the well-known and successful life insurance worker, has accepted the position of agency director with the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York. Mr. McFarland has been long and favorably known all over the state as an unusually successful life insurance man, and brings to his new position the highest executive ability and the widest experience. He will have personal charge of organizing an efficient corps of agents for the Provident Savings Life. He is prepared to offer good contracts to capable men. Address care Provident Savings Life office, 711-712 Marquam Building, Portland, Oregon.

DAMAGED CLOTHING SALE

$10,000 worth of fine suits and overcoats, slightly damaged by smoke and water, have been placed on sale by the Salem Woolen Mills Store, 85-87 Third street. These goods are absolutely new in style, make and finish, having been manufactured expressly for this Winter's wear. 100 of the very finest tweed and cassimere suits, which formerly sold for $12.50 and $15, will be closed out between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. Monday for $6 per suit. 300 yards cloth, suitable for ladies' dress patterns, at reductions of 10, 15 and 25 per cent.

TURN HALLE CAFE.

Direct importers of Rhein and Moselle wines. Finest cold lunches and sandwiches again served as formerly. Southeast corner of Fourth and Yamhill streets. Kirchner & Hanno.

Meier & Frank Company | **Meier & Frank Company** | **Meier & Frank Company**

Children's high-class Novelty garments marked far below cost.
Odd pairs of Lace Curtains, 1, 2, 3-pair lots, best styles at ⅓ off regular prices
Picture Framing at clearance sale prices—Best moldings—Second floor.

All mail orders filled promptly and at clearance sale prices.
Clearance sale prices on all Stoves and Sewing Machines.
Trunks and Traveling Bags—Suit Cases—Extraordinarily low priced.

Clearance Sale--Third Week

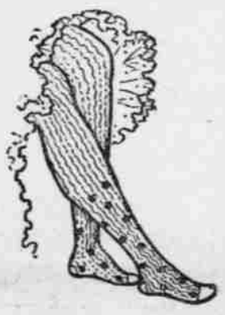
When the resourcefulness of this store is fully comprehended there is no room for doubt concerning our perfect ability to outvalue and undersell all competition. We occupy a unique position among Portland merchants. Our buying facilities are unequaled. Our outlet immense. We buy for cash---take advantage of every discount money commands---and sell on a margin of profit other stores cannot afford to consider. With these facts pointed out, you can readily understand why our prices for goods of every description average lowest of any store in Portland. The power of your money here commands the best at the lowest price. The proof is in the unapproachable offerings of our Great Annual Clearance Sale.

Glove Clean-Up

Something unusual doing in the Glove Store tomorrow. The great selling of the holiday season and the first two weeks of the clearance sale has broken up many lines of our best Gloves: "Perrin's" La Rosa 2-clasp; "Perrin's" Waldorf 3-clasp; 2-clasp P. K.—A splendid assortment of sizes and leading shades—About 500 pairs all told—Early coming is advisable if you want to share in this great bargain—$1.50 values at

89c Pair

Hosiery Bargains



3000 pairs of ladies' Hosiery at a fraction of their real worth—Fancies and black lace effects by the hundreds—Leading styles and colors, values up to 50c a pair—Hosiery bargains the greatest we have ever offered—Choose tomorrow at the extraordinary low price of

3 Pairs 50c

Our entire regular stock of ladies' and children's Hosiery marked at clearance sale prices.

Cloaks--Furs--Greatly Reduced

There's an echo of warm January days in this morning's store news—Days which should have called for warm furs, but instead merely courted a light wrap if any at all. In face of such conditions the cloak store has done a splendid business, which speaks well for the quality and style of garments offered, the values presented. Many choice garments remaining. We forget former prices during the clearance sale.

Fur Scarfs

Best styles—Best qualities—Entire stock included.

$2.50 scarfs now.....$1.55
$3.00 scarfs now.....$1.85
$3.50 scarfs now.....$2.25
$4.50 scarfs now.....$2.80
$5.00 scarfs now.....$3.55
$6.00 scarfs now.....$4.40
$9.00 scarfs now.....$6.75
$12.50 scarfs now.....$9.50
$14.00 scarfs now.....$11.25
$16.00 scarfs now.....$12.25
$18.00 scarfs now.....$14.00
Special lot of $7.50 scarfs.....$3.95

Fur Coats

$20.00 fur coats.....$15.00
$28.00 fur coats.....$22.50
$38.00 fur coats.....$28.25
$60.00 fur coats.....$42.00
$95.00 fur coats.....$75.00
$125.00 fur coats.....$95.00

Silk Waists

Entire stock of fine silk waists, Taffeta, Crepe Silk, Peau de Cygne, in this season's handsomest styles.

$3.75 waists reduced to.....$2.67
$4.50 waists reduced to.....$3.55
$5.00 waists reduced to.....$3.85
$5.50 waists reduced to.....$4.25
$6.00 waists reduced to.....$4.55
$6.50 waists reduced to.....$4.75
$7.50 waists reduced to.....$5.25
$8.00 waists.....$5.75, etc., etc.

Jackets

The entire stock of Ladies' Jackets in all this season's leading styles and fabrics.

$5.00 values now.....$3.58
$6.50 to $7.50 values now.....$4.52
$10.00 to $12.50 values now.....$6.90
$30.00 to $32.00 values now.....$19.85

Ladies' Suits

Hundreds of them from America's best tailors—leading styles and fabrics at these reductions:

$11.00 to $12.00 suits now.....$5.90
$15.00 to $16.00 suits now.....$9.90
$18.00 to $20.00 suits now.....$12.90
$22.00 to $22.50 suits now.....$14.90
$24.00 to $26.00 suits now.....$16.90
$28.00 to $30.00 suits now.....$19.90
$35.00 to $38.00 suits now.....$24.90
Suits up to $150 all reduced.

Walking Suits all reduced.
Walking Skirts all reduced.
Dress Skirts greatly reduced.
Flannel Waists marked way down.
Wrappers at very little prices.
Dressing Jackets and Gowns.
Silk Petticoats below cost.

Children's Coats

Our entire stock of children's garments at prices no economical parents can afford to pass by.—Second Floor.

Carpets 3d Floor

Carpets, Lace Curtains, Rugs, Curtain Materials, Pillows, Blankets, Comforters, Brass and Iron Beds, Mattings, Shades, etc. — All at clearance prices during our great January clearance sale.—Third floor.

Boys' Clothing

Boys' Suits, Overcoats, Pants, Waists—Choose from our entire stock at the lowest prices of the entire year—Styles and materials the best—Bargains no economical parent can overlook.

Linens-Cottons-Flannels

Wide-awake discerning housewives will recognize in this January clearance sale of Linens, Cottons, Flannels, Washgoods, etc., an exceptionally fine opportunity to lay in liberal supplies—By planning and arranging for this sale many months ago, and by carefully and diligently watching the markets, we have been enabled to make a number of signally fortunate purchases—As the result of so doing "Meier & Frank's" Linen Section is filled to overflowing with rare bargains—Extra money's worth to every purchaser.

Table Damask

Bleached Table Damask—Best patterns and qualities.
62-in. at 44c yard 72-in. at 87c yard
66-in. at 66c yard 72-in. at $1.04 yard
72-in at 78c yard 72-in. at $1.26 yard
Unbleached Table Damask—64-in. at 58c yard—68-in. at 66c yard—72-in. at 76c yard.

Napkins

All-linen bleached Napkins, best designs and qualities.
21x21-in. at $1.21 doz. 22x22-in. at $1.54 doz.
22x22-in. at $1.89 doz. 22x22-in. at $2.14 doz.
Table Sets Reduced.

Tray Cloths

Hemstitched Damask Tray Cloths—17x23-in. at 21c each—20x28-in. at 31c each.

Tea Cloths

36x36-in. each .....88c 45x45-in. each $1.29

Hemmed Linen Huck Towels

17x32-in. each.....9c 19x39-in. each 18c

Knotted Fringe Linen Damask Towels

19x40-in. each .... 14c 21x45-in. each 18c

Sheetings all reduced—Waist Flannels at very low prices—All Toweling reduced—Bargains in Bath Towels.

25,000 Pieces Muslin Underwear

It is not merely a caprice which moves us to display for immediate sale 25,000 pieces of new muslin underwear—Portland and the Northwest look to us to have an immense assortment at this season of the year, and by contracting on the scale we do and at the time we do, we are enabled to supply all wants and save every purchaser money—As for the character of the garments, words fail to give an adequate description of the splendid-made and dainty pieces, every piece of which carries the Consumers' League label, a guarantee that it was made in a clean sanitary factory.

Night Gowns

Thousands of them in lace and tucked yokes—Lace, embroidery and ribbon-trimmed, high, round or square-neck styles—Handsomely made—Big full sizes—Extraordinary values at 38c, 48c, 87c, 98c, $1.08, $1.29, $1.39 up to $22.00 each.

White Skirts

Lace and embroidery-trimmed Skirts all cut in the proper style, wide flounce, dust ruffle, etc., best material and sewing—Extraordinary values at 98c, $1.23, $1.68, $1.98, $2.48 up to $30.00 each.

Short White Skirts from 48c to $3.98 each.

French Underwear

Our 1903 display of French Lingerie is by far the most complete and beautiful ever shown on the Pacific coast, including as it does the representative pieces from the leading French makers—Gowns, Corset Covers, Skirts, Chemises and sets—Magnificent pieces that can't be matched in the far West—All at clearance-sale prices.

Corset Covers

In superb variety and styles—Prettily made and trimmed—Prices to suit every purse.
Second Floor.

Neckwear

Odds and ends in Stocks, Croats and Novelty Ties for women — Silk or cotton material — Good styles, some slightly soiled, 75c to $1.50 values

19c each

Odd lot of 25c to 50c Neckwear in good styles, large variety to choose from

9c each

Great reductions on our entire stock of high-class Neckwear and Silk Ruffs.

Ostrich Boas at reduced prices.

Novelty silk Neckwear all reduced

Ribbon Bargains

Two remarkable ribbon bargains for tomorrow in addition in the great reductions on the entire stock for the Great Annual Clearance Sale.

Lot 1—3000 yds Fancy Satin Taffeta Ribbons—4 and 5 inch—dots and stripes in the leading shades—magnificent value at

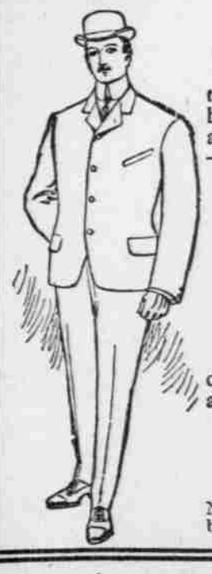
19c yard

Lot 2—Plain Taffeta Ribbons in light shades, 4 inches wide, best colors—Regular 25 cent value at

15c yard

All Velvet Ribbons at greatly reduced prices.
Bargains in Veilings—plain and fancy.

Men's Clothing



Just the plain facts regarding the reductions on our immense stock of men's and boys' Clothing—Most satisfactory styles and materials—Suits, Overcoats, Trousers—Everything included.

$8.00 values now.....$6.65
$10.00 values now.....$8.65
$15.00 values now.....$13.35
$20.00-$21.00 values now.....$16.65
$25.00 values now.....$21.85
$17.50 Cravenettes.....$14.95
$9.00 values now.....$7.65
$12.50 values now.....$9.80
$17.50 values now.....$14.65
$22.50 values now.....$19.85
$12.50 Cravenettes.....$10.85
$25.00 Cravenettes.....$22.50

Men's white and fancy Vests—Men's full-dress Suits—Men's separate Trousers—All at clearance-sale prices.

Men's Furnishings

Shirts, Neckwear, Hosiery, Hats, Handkerchiefs, Night Shirts, etc. The greatest bargains in town are being offered during the annual clearance sale.

Meier & Frank Company | **Meier & Frank Company** | **Meier & Frank Company** | **Meier & Frank Company** | **Meier & Frank Company**