

WANT MORE PAY

Teachers Object to New Wage-Schedule.

DISLIKE MERIT SYSTEM

Instructors Assert Nobody Knows What It Means.

STRONG FIGHT TO BE MADE

Dissatisfaction is General Among Teachers, Who Say Increase Voted by Taxpayers is Not Properly Distributed by Board.

"It was my understanding with some members of the School Board when I introduced the resolution for advancing salaries of teachers at the taxpayers' meeting that about 90 per cent of the money appropriated would go to the grade teachers," said J. N. Teal in an interview last night.

This apparently voices the consensus of opinion relative to the latest developments in the advocacy for increased salaries. Public indignation is expressed over the recent action of the School Board in applying a part of the \$30,000 voted by the taxpayers to increase the salaries of grade teachers to increasing the salaries of the City Superintendent, the principal of the High School and Miss Knox, instructor of drawing.

In so far as the teachers who were supposed to receive the full benefit of the money are granted an increase of only \$20 in a year, amounting in the aggregate to about \$10,000, there is much conjecture as to what is to become of the balance of the money after \$10,000 has been deducted to pay the salaries of Frank Rigler, T. T. Davis and Miss Knox.

What is the Merit List?

Out of the 350-odd teachers in Portland there are only about 100 eligible to the so-called merit list. What this list is no one seems to know, and even the members of the Board who are responsible for it have but a vague idea as to its purpose. In the opinion of teachers it is certainly a merit list, but it seems to contemplate giving certain competent teachers a further increase above the \$20 flat rate.

Concerning the \$10,000 increase granted to Mr. Rigler among the teachers there is no criticism attached to the Board's action, but the method of procedure is bitterly attacked. Why the question of increasing Mr. Rigler's or some one else's salary should be discussed in an executive session of the Board is the occasion for much controversy.

Teachers to Put Up Fight.

With the teachers the question of salary has become a matter of principle, and they are preparing to put up a strong fight for the money which they feel is justly theirs. A committee has been appointed and the teachers are holding various meetings. One member of this committee stated yesterday that the humiliation of asking some man whom she had never seen in her life, if after five years of teaching she is entitled to an increase of a miserable \$5 a month, has incited her to wreak dire vengeance upon the promoters of the merit system.

"After the grade meeting this morning," she said, "the principals who have more than 10 rooms were asked to remain. As I understand it, the commission which is to decide whether or not we are worthy of this miserably small sum is to be appointed by itself. It will consist of Mr. Rigler, Mr. Davis and two principals of grade schools. Why should we go to some man or some body of men and ask if my name may go on the merit list? What do they know about me? It is utterly absurd, but then the Board has been very considerate and we should appreciate it. They have granted us the right of appeal. Liberal, don't you think? If the commission says that we are not worth \$5 cents a day more and we think we are, why we can appeal and have a nice little argument."

Salaries Once Reduced.

"The people of this city have not the most remote idea of what we have to contend with. Just for instance. During the hard times we were reduced in salary \$30 a month. That was a good many years ago. Well, up to this day we are receiving \$5 less than our original salaries. Two years ago we started an agitation for an increase in salary, and they granted us \$5 a month, after much desultory discussion. Last Spring we circulated a second petition for an increase in salary and succeeded in obtaining the signature of the most representative taxpayers in Portland. J. N. Teal, William Ladd and F. C. Barnes were the only three who would not sign the petition, but they assured us that they would not oppose the measure. We presented our petition to the Board, and they made the lame excuse that the taxpayers would not grant the money because the school tax was the highest in the Northwest. That was a deliberate falsehood, because the tax was only 4 1/2 mills. The tax in Salem is 5 mills, and it is just as high in other cities in the state and in Washington. All we could do was to wait for the taxpayers' meeting."

"If you were there you know that all, with the exception of Hermann Wittenberg were our champions. Dan J. Maloney and Mr. Connell fought for us and the placing aside of \$20,000 for increasing our salaries was greatly due to their efforts. Mr. Teal was there and at his suggestion the word 'grade' was eliminated from the resolution. The question of increasing the salaries of the superintendent or the principal of the High School or the High School teachers was not discussed. Mr. Teal said: 'Leave out the word 'grade,' and I can say without fear of contradiction that 90 per cent of the money will be devoted to increasing your salaries.' The balance, he said, would be used to adjust the salaries of three or four principals. Now the Board has given the superintendent \$1000, Mr. Davis \$400, Miss Knox \$400, all the High School teachers \$50, without asking, and gives us who were responsible for the agitation, after five years of teaching, \$5 a month, with the understanding that we may ask to have our names put on the merit list. This must be done before March 1. In September the Commission will take action, and if it decides that we are eligible to the merit list we will receive \$5 more. If they decide against us we must wait another year before we may apply again. The injustice and humiliation of such procedure almost drives me mad."

Wittenberg to Blame.

"Mr. Wittenberg is at the bottom of the whole scheme. He insulted us at the taxpayers' meeting repeatedly with his crude remarks. He said that those who were entitled to an increase would get it, but he would venture the assertion that none of us were. Mr. Wittenberg also made this statement at the taxpayers' meeting: 'It does not make any difference what we pay some of these teachers. Those who have charge of the smaller children will soon send them to better teachers and the children will be all right.' As a matter of fact, the highest salaried teachers in any city in the country are the primary teachers."

With the public opinion is materially the same as with the teachers. Dan J. Maloney stated yesterday:

"This \$1000 given to Superintendent Rigler is equivalent to the increase granted to 20 teachers. I do not believe if the taxpayers present at that meeting had surmised that such a sum was to have been granted one man in preference to 20 teachers, that the money would have been voted for."

"Of course, the action at the taxpayers' meeting was only advisory. That is the legal status of it. I championed the cause of the teachers certainly because I did not feel and do not think now that they are receiving sufficient remuneration. The question of increasing the salaries of principals or superintendents was not thought of at all. I am very much disappointed that the Board has applied any of this money to increasing the City Superintendent's salary. I do not mean to infer that Mr. Rigler is not entitled to an increase of salary, but I do say that the teachers should have received something more than the Board has given them."

Mr. Teal Talks.

J. N. Teal, who introduced the resolution at the taxpayers' meeting, stated: "In connection with the tax levy to increase the salaries of teachers at the last school meeting, there were several meetings of taxpayers held prior to the school meeting, at which the matter was discussed. At one of these meetings three school teachers were present. After discussing the matter at length, opinion was unanimous for giving the grade teachers an advance, but at no time during any discussion was the salary of the Superintendent mentioned."

"I am not discussing whether or not his salary should have been raised, but I am simply stating that it was not brought up at the meeting. The only mention of salaries other than those of the grade teachers were those of a few principals who a Director thought were not receiving enough."

"It has been stated on numerous occasions that, if the word 'grade' was not specifically included in the resolutions, the grade teachers would not get what they were entitled to. I introduced the resolution at the request of some of the Directors. It was so drawn that they were given some latitude in stable them to give principals an increase. I was assured by some Directors, however, that about 90 per cent of the fund would go to the grade teachers. It will be remembered that in the report of the Directors it was left to the taxpayers to decide as to the increase in teachers' salaries, and at the taxpayers' meeting it was understood by 98 out of 100 people present that the money voted was for the grade teachers."

"That this money could not have been raised without the taxpayers' consent of raising it was left to the taxpayers, and they raised it for the grade teachers. It would seem that the latter part of it should be devoted to them. I was greatly surprised to see in the papers the application made of the money."

It is now divulged that, as School Clerk Allen did not keep the minutes of the executive session of the board, he will not sign them. It may necessitate a second meeting to see resolution increasing Mr. Zigler's salary.

OUR SEMI-ANNUAL BLACK OR BLUE SERGE OR CHEVIOT SUIT, WITH EXTRA TROUSERS OF SAME OR STRIPED MATERIAL \$25.00 Satisfaction guaranteed in all cases. Garments to order in a day if required. Samples mailed. Garments expressed. Full dress and Tuxedo suits a specialty.

Victrol the Tailor 108 THIRD STREET FIGHT THE FLAMES Firemen Answer 18 Alarms During the Day.

EAST SIDE HOME BURNED New Residence of G. W. Kennedy Completely Destroyed—High Wind Causes Many Small Blazes in Different Parts of City.

YESTERDAY'S FIRES. 1 A. M.—Box 40, Twenty-first and Love. 2 1/2. 7:45 A. M.—Box 328, Sixteenth and Tenth. 1 1/2. 9:25 A. M.—Still, 123 1/2 Fourth street. 10:25 A. M.—Box 28, Front and Columbia. 1 1/2. 10:45 A. M.—Still, 241 Fifteenth street. 11:20 A. M.—Box 134, 265 Taylor street. 12:15 P. M.—Still, 13 North Park street. 12:50 P. M.—Still, East Eighth and Burnside. 12:53 P. M.—Box 255, 24 East Eighth street. 2:20 P. M.—Box 328, 674 Clackamas street. 4:55 P. M.—Box 154, Fifth and Main. 4:57 P. M.—Still, 230 Seventh street. 8:15 P. M.—Still, 780 North Grand avenue. 6:27 P. M.—Still, 215 1/2 Fourth street. 7:16 P. M.—Still, 356 Thirty-second street. 7:16 P. M.—Still, First and Hall. 8 P. M.—Box 527, Meter & Frank's. 8:30 P. M.—Still, Thirteenth and Salmon. Total for the day, 18 alarms. Total for first 11 days of month, 68 alarms.

ROCKPILE PRISONER ESCAPES Investigation to Be Made by Deputy City Attorney Fitzgerald. Ben Darwin, under sentence to serve six months on the city rockpile, escaped from Guards Mallett and Hulme yesterday afternoon, and is still at large.

Eighteen alarms answered, the complete destruction of two buildings, with a total loss of \$500, all records for a single day broken, and all records for a single month, was the score of the Portland Fire Department from 1 o'clock yesterday morning until shortly after 8 o'clock last evening. The greatest loss was caused by the fire at the home of G. W. Kennedy, at 674 Clackamas street, which was completely destroyed with all its contents, save one trunk, which was dragged from the ruins after the fire had burned out. The total loss was \$500, with only \$200 insurance.

Although the firemen fought the flames with all possible endeavor, they could not get them under control on account of lack of pressure in the water mains, and the new homes, which had been occupied but three months, was burned to the ground. The Fire Department had to make a long run to reach the scene, and the flames great headway. The fire started in the basement, presumably from an overheated furnace. Mr. Kennedy and the children were home alone, and so quickly did the flames spread that they had but time to escape with their lives from the doomed structure. It being freezing weather, all taps of the surrounding buildings had been turned on, which lowered the pressure, and the firemen could use only two lines of hose, while under ordinary circumstances four streams should have been thrown. Assistant Chief Holden said the house stood on high land, thus giving another cause for low pressure.

A violent wind was blowing at the time, and sparks were carried in every direction, lighting four other buildings. To keep the other homes from destruction, the firemen had one of the hardest fights of the year. Considerable damage was done to the home of J. E. Atchison, which stands on an adjoining lot. Robert West, a member of Truck Company No. 4, was severely injured by having a rusty nail run completely through his foot. He had to be taken to his home. The loss on the building was \$400, and on the contents \$100, with insurance of \$300 on building and contents. Nearly all of the other fires during the day were chimney fires, there being no damage whatever. While Truck No. 4 was answering an alarm for a chimney fire at East Eighth and Burnside streets, "Ned," a white horse which had been in the department for the past 14 years, dropped dead. Rus Heath, an old employee of the department, was driving. The animal was a great favorite with all the members of the department, and his loss is greatly felt. The team had been driven to many fires during the day, and each was a long run. The work was too much for the old animal. Frank Zellner, one of the three firemen injured in the collapse of the walls of the burning barn at Twenty-first and Lovejoy streets, early yesterday morning, is still confined in Good Samaritan Hospital. He will be unable to resume work for two weeks. The attending physician says his injuries may be permanent. Captain Boarden and Hoseman Arthur Pollan, of Hose No. 4, are rapidly improving. It is thought to be certain the barn was fired by incendiaries. It was completely destroyed, being a loss of \$100. Property stored inside, and which was lost, was valued at \$200. There was \$500 insurance. The heavy wind which blew steadily all day was the cause for so many alarms. Two or three were roof fires, caused by sparks blowing from chimneys. The most peculiar instance occurred in connection with the fire at 265 Taylor street, which was burning rubbish beneath a house. The fire occurred directly beneath a lead water pipe. The pipe was melted by the heat, the water poured forth and extinguished the fire before any damage was done.

Treaty With Japan Signed. WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Secretary Hay today signed with M. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, an arbitration treaty between the United States and Japan, identical with those signed with the other nations.

NEW BUILDING PLANNED FOR FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME

IF PRESENT plans reach maturity, the Florence Crittenton Refuge Home will within the year occupy a handsome and commodious new building. Plans for the proposed structure have been drawn by a well-known architect and a portion of the \$15,000 necessary to do the work is now at hand. The board of managers has \$2000 immediately available, and Charles T. Crittenton, the founder, has promised his check for \$1000. A strong effort is being made to secure an appropriation from the present Legislature, and the balance will be raised by subscription. The new home will be a handsome, modern building, containing 35 rooms, and will afford accommodations for about 40 girls. It will occupy practically the site of the present building, which will be torn down.



PERSPECTIVE PLANS OF THE NEW FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME.

A. E. Massey, chairman of the board of managers, was in Salem last week, working in the interest of a liberal appropriation from the Legislature, and is quite confident that proper assistance will be given. No more worthy charity could command the attention of benevolently inclined people. The new building is a crying need, for the present home is a shabby old home, almost a ruin. It is entirely too small and contains almost no conveniences. Miss Mary L. Mullen, the matron, and her assistants have done everything possible to make the place habitable, but it is a poor makeshift. There are at present 18 unfortunate girls and 30 babies under the shelter of the home, and this is its extreme capacity under present conditions. The proposed new building will more than double this capacity, and will be the means of greatly increasing the effectiveness of the institutions, which, even under present adverse conditions, is doing a great and noble work.

Individual purse strings should be loosened in the good cause. The following are the officers of the home: President, Mrs. C. M. Wood; first vice-president, Mrs. R. H. Stein; second vice-president, Mrs. Baldwin; treasurer, Charles E. Ladd; recording secretary, Mrs. Cleveland Rockwell; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. E. Bristol; members of the board, A. E. Massey, O. P. M.

Jameson, W. I. Johnston, Miss Carrie Hefner, Mrs. G. O. Harley, Mrs. J. D. Lee; auditing committee, Mrs. C. Rockwell, Miss C. Holbrook, A. B. Manly; matron, Miss Mary L. Mullen; staff of physicians, Dr. Estlin C. Pohl, Dr. Mac H. Caldwell, Dr. Gertrude E. French, Dr. Edna D. Timms, Dr. Amelia Ziegler, Dr. Sarah Whiteside, Dr. Kittie P. Gray.

WILL BE UNIQUE Carnival of Venice to Be Shown at Exposition. TO BE SITUATED ON TRAIL Building Holding Concession Will Be Erected on Piers, and Gondolas Will Carry Guests and Visitors to and From Show.

Among the most marvelous features of these festivities is the illuminations, and the beauty of the city, with all the palaces reflected in the water, the gondolas and the boats illuminated and hung with lamps, torchlight processions, pageants and diversions, making the picture dream-like and so magnificent that once seen it can never be forgotten. In addition there will be some fine choruses, specially composed for this grand production, and in St. Mark's Church, which, with the recently destroyed Campanile will be reproduced in faithful likeness, a grand composition of the "Ave Maria" will be sung by a mass of people, the "Bridal Chorus" and other appropriate vocal gems forming a rare treat to lovers of good music. The chimes on the cathedral will ring to entrance the festival, the sound of original Venetian songs will be heard from the gondolas while gliding to and fro, and Italian mandolins and guitarists will be employed to make the scene more realistic and to impress the incidents with the utmost reality.

The Carnival of Venice chorus and ballet will be found to be one of the merriest. Clowns of all kinds, Pierrots, Folies, Harlequins, Columbines, Punch and Judy, etc., are combined in this beautiful revelry. The famous rattles that attracted tremendous attention last year will be featured.

GOOD DAY TO STAY HOME And Read the Ads. The W. J. Walsh Co. wish you may read theirs. Are you in need of gas and electric chandeliers and lighting supplies? If so see us at our salesrooms, 35 Washington street, corner Seventh. We have a complete line. You should see them.

FOR RENT. The best six-room house in Multnomah County is for rent. Bath, furnace, gas and modern in every respect. One block from river, finest view on East Side, 225 Broadway, corner Larrabee, Take I. car.

Return Engagement PACHMANN ALL CHOPIN PROGRAMME Wednesday Afternoon at 4 P. M. MARQUAM GRAND Direction: LOIS STEERS WYNN COMAN Prices \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c and 50c.

VALENTINES FOR YOUR SWEETHEART Mechanical, each 1c Fancy Comic, each 1c to 25c Embossed Hearts, each 1c Lace Valentines, each 1c Valentine Postal Cards, two for 5c Pull Valentines, each 10c to \$1.50 Fancy Cards, each 2c to 5c Hand-Painted Sachet, each 15c Celluloid, each 20c to \$3.00 Heart Strings, each 10c Box Valentines, each 20c to \$1.50 Valentine Letters, each 5c to 10c D. M. AVERILL & CO. 331 MORRISON STREET. OPEN EVENINGS.

Return Engagement PACHMANN ALL CHOPIN PROGRAMME Wednesday Afternoon at 4 P. M. MARQUAM GRAND Direction: LOIS STEERS WYNN COMAN Prices \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c and 50c.

\$1.00 A DAY In our windows, to be reduced \$1.00 a day till sold, is a Mission 8-Day Clock and a Turkish Rocker. The clock frame is six feet high and solid oak; price \$15.00. The Rocker is big and comfortable, made of "leatherlike" will last forever; price \$34.00. The 17th of this month will be the third anniversary of our business career. We feel that we are making some headway in the right direction. We haven't a dissatisfied customer. Our store harbors only honest values. The prices are the most reasonable.

OREGON OPTICAL CO. Fourth and Yamhill, Y. M. C. A. Bldg. Headquarters for Shur-On Eye Glasses and Toric Lenses.

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