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GROWTH OF SCHOOLS.

The ninth biennial report of the state superintendent of public instruction is in the hands of the state printer, and will soon be placed before the public. From the statistics contained therein there is every reason for the state of Oregon to feel proud of the progress achieved in the matter of popular education. Free and universal instruction is the cornerstone of popular government, and the more enlightened are our citizens the more security there is to our popular institutions. Most of the miseries that are known in modern life are the result of depravity born of ignorance and superstition. Our public schools are rapidly depleting jails and pauper houses, and if their influence spreads and extends we may look forward eventually to a state of society as perfect as that represented in Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward."

Since 1880 the cause of free public education has progressed wonderfully. Ten years ago there were 1007 school districts, with a school population of 59,615. This latest report of the superintendent shows 1693 school districts, having a total school population of 99,543, in the education of which 2566 teachers are employed during 170 days of the year. We have now in Oregon 1500 schools valued at nearly \$1,750,000. Not only has there been an increase in the number of districts, pupils, teachers and schools, and an increase in the value of school property, but there has been introduced into the Oregon public school system the latest methods of instruction known to the profession of teaching, until the schools of this state are second to none in the entire country.

What we need here now is a more jealous watch over the disposition of lands set apart for the public educational fund. The school had at its disposal some of the finest lands of the state, which have been in a measure sacrificed to private greed. Individuals have become enriched through disposing of these while the fund itself has suffered. The legislature might do well to look into this matter and see how the educational rights of both present and future generations were being bartered simply for "a mess of pottage." Oregon has just cause for pride in her schools. In every hamlet throughout the state the schoolhouse is the first public building erected, and it is this as much as the state's natural advantages that draws the intelligent settler. The time is not far distant when Oregon, with her manifold glories, will stand ahead among the peerless commonwealths of this great republic and she will owe her proud position there to the excellence and extent of her public school system.—Evening Telegram.

OLIVER DALRYMPLE, the great wheat farmer of the Northwest, makes this statement of his crop to the Fargo Argus: "My wheat is threshing out from eighteen to twenty bushels to the acre, and I have this year 25,000 acres under wheat. At the average of eight-teen bushels to the acre I will have a crop of 450,000 bushels of wheat." From the prices that wheat is selling at just now it seems probable that the boys will admire the figures of the Dalrymple girls this winter.

REPRESENTATIVE HERMANN is on his way home to Oregon. The good work he has performed while at the national capital during the session of congress just closed entitles him to a warm reception from the people of this state.

A PLAN NECESSARY.

If the state of Oregon is to have a creditable exhibition at the world's fair it will be necessary to appropriate a large sum of money for it. No ample collection of the products of nature, art and industry can be made that will not cost money, and a good deal of it. Moreover, to maintain the exhibition throughout the space of one year will not be possible without money. How much money? is a proper subject of inquiry.

Not unlikely it will be difficult to induce the legislature to appropriate a sum sufficiently large to gather and maintain such a collection as the state ought to have at Chicago, and quite certainly it will be impossible to get the legislature to do this, unless a plan somewhat distinct and definite, be formulated in the bill to be presented to the legislature. That is, the scope and extent of the collection that Oregon is to present at the world's fair ought to be outlined; there ought to be an estimate, based on this plan, of the sum of money that will be required; the estimate should be itemized as far as possible, and to this end study ought to be made of the whole subject. This done, there will be a basis for legislative action.

Unless the proposition shall be presented to the legislature in some definite form, or at least in some outline, that body will not know what to do in the premises. The legislature is not likely to appropriate a large lump sum without specifying as nearly as possible the uses to which it is to be devoted; and in order to get an appropriation it will be necessary to formulate a plan, with an estimate of expenses. Who will take this in hand? Perhaps a committee of the State Board of Commerce would be as proper an agent as any other to consider this question, draw up a plan for the exhibit and make an estimate of the cost. The plan should be large enough to do justice to the resources and products of the state.—Oregonian.

EVERY possible exertion is apparently being made by almost every citizen of Washington, while the live men of Oregon appear to be few and far between. As a result, Washington is growing with great rapidity, towns are springing up, railroads are being extended in every direction and universal activity and progress are visible everywhere. Oregon, however, cannot show anything like such a degree of activity, and yet our natural advantages are fully equal if not superior to those of our sister state. The lesson is obvious. Men, not location and natural advantages are what build up cities and states, and the locality which is lacking in energetic men, will not advance very rapidly, no matter how much it may be blessed by nature.—Astorian.

A BILL recently passed the United States senate which, though of considerable importance, has hardly been noticed. It is a bill subjecting U. S. and national bank notes to state taxation. The bill provides "that all circulating notes of national banking associations and all United States legal tender notes and certificates of the United States payable on demand and circulating as currency, shall not be exempt from taxation under the authority of any state or territory. Provided, that any such taxation shall be exercised in the same manner and at the same rate that any such state or territory shall tax other money within its jurisdiction." The bill is now in the hands of the house committee on banking and currency, where it is likely to stay until next session.—Vindicator.

The bounty offered to promote the production of beet sugar may result in making the United States independent of the rest of the world for its supply of that necessary commodity. If it does the sugar bounty will prove the crowning glory of the republican policy of protection.—Herald.

McKINLEY'S DISTRICT.

The issue in the campaign which is attracting the greatest amount of attention in every part of the Union is that of the election of Major McKinley in Ohio. Mr. McKinley, is with the exceptions of Reed and Blaine, the foremost Republican in the country at this time. He has been particularly serviceable to his party and particularly annoying to the democrats, and the latter, in order to revenge themselves, have resorted to one of the shabbiest tricks of American politics. The county in which Mr. McKinley lives and all the counties which under a fair apportionment could be joined to it are Republican in politics and favorable to a protective tariff by large majorities. Under such circumstances his re-election to Congress in a district made up of these counties was a foregone conclusion. To defeat him the democrats have fashioned for him a district by joining counties together in a way which will give it a democratic majority of 2000 votes. To do this they have had to construct the district in such a way that the unfairness of the apportionment is manifest to every one. The republicans have had the shape of the district printed upon their campaign badges as a symbol of the wrong they have to overcome and defeat at the polls in November, and with this badge worn upon their breasts they are now working like heroes and with every prospect of success. Indeed it is hardly likely that such a barefaced trick should be successful in any American community. The very meanness of it will defeat it. Americans have often broken down party lines to rebuke the selfishness of men who have endeavored unfairly to defeat a political rival, and it is quite probable that the better class of democrats will themselves join with the republicans and independents in voting for McKinley in order that the reputation of American politics may not be shamed by the triumph of such a trick as this.—San Jose Mercury.

The recognition of the Pacific Coast Board of Commerce has become general as well as its utility as the best medium for concentrating the force of public opinion upon vital questions in which all of the Pacific states are interested. This united influence has already been felt in the progress of measures pending in congress and before the departments of the government. The voice of the Pacific coast is no longer unheard in Oregon and the northern states now stand on an equal footing with California at the national capital. At the late meeting of the states of California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Montana and Washington were represented, and many important matters were acted upon, those of national interest being the indorsement of the subsidies to ship builders and mail carriers, and the opposition to a divided site for the world's fair.—Times-Mountaineer.

ORIGINAL packages seem to be prospering in prohibition states. Drinkers care but little how they obtain their liquor, by the wholesale or retail. In fact many of them would prefer to secure a large amount at a time. It is cheaper and they get more of it.—Telegram.

The citizens of Pendleton are enforcing the Sunday law in relation to saloon-keepers, and these keep open their places of business and pay their fines. Perhaps it is more profitable than keeping closed houses. This illustrates the efficiency of Sunday laws.—Times-Mountaineer.

The log cabin in which Lincoln lived as a boy has been bought for \$1,000, and will be on exhibition at the World's Fair in Chicago.

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