

OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

"The Corvallis GAZETTE is making a very commendable fight for the building of a wagon road over the mountains from the Oregon Pacific front to Prineville by means of state aid. This project is a very feasible and just one, but cannot be accomplished, for the reason that it is too local in character."

The foregoing is taken from the Lincoln Leader. While the item is complimentary to the GAZETTE, it attempts to pour cold water on an enterprise that would be of quite as much benefit to the people of Lincoln county, as it would to residents of old Benton. By keeping everlastingly at it, we can succeed. We need the wagon road; need it badly, and are going to have it. Already, the GAZETTE has positive assurance from several members of the next legislature that they will work for the measure, and secure its passage if such a thing is possible. Instead of trying to kill the plan, the Leader should come out square-toed, and advocate, in vigorous language, the necessity of an appropriation of \$20,000 for building the road. The papers of Linn, Lane, Marion, Polk, Crook, Harney, Malheur and Lake counties ought also to assist in impressing upon the public mind the urgent necessity for a state road to connect Eastern and Western Oregon. A number of papers have seen the importance of this matter, and are giving the laudable enterprise their support.

In a former issue, the GAZETTE pointed out the difference between a local or special road, and one connecting two great sections of the state. No one can rightfully contend that the appropriation of funds for the construction of a road to connect Eastern and Western Oregon would be unconstitutional. Any enterprise that will further the interests of at least one-fourth the population of a state, and enhance the value of millions of dollars' worth of property, is in no sense local, but general in its operation, and, therefore, constitutional. Of course, it would be unconstitutional for the legislature to appropriate money for the construction of a highway leading from Corvallis to Philomath, because such a road would benefit only a small number of people, and be entirely local in its operation. But the plan proposed by the GAZETTE directly or indirectly effects nearly every citizen of the state, and according to the opinion of leading Corvallis attorneys, this fact would leave the bill appropriating the necessary funds barren of any unconstitutional feature.

If no sale of the Oregon Pacific is had before the next legislature convenes, the people of Eastern and Western Oregon are going to demand a \$20,000 appropriation for the purpose of constructing a wagon road from the present end of track to the other side of the mountains. This demand will be made first, last and all the time; and it will be granted, too. If the Leader does not wish to assist in freeing the people of the Inland Empire from their present oppressed condition, and by so doing, increase the trade and commercial advantages of Lincolnton, it should not attempt to kill the efforts of a paper that is working in the interests of all concerned.

COLLEGE CONTESTS.

With a reassembling of students at the college comes a reorganization of the foot ball team. This is as it should be. In all institutions of note athletics are encouraged, for it is recognized that without ample physical training the mind is incapable of full development. Foot ball, however, ought not to be the only contest which students should be encouraged to enter. The Agricultural College is one of the few institutions of the state, where military tactics are thoroughly and scientifically taught. This feature attracts many students to the institution each year. The department is in charge of a competent federal officer, who is capable of attaining the best possible results in military evolutions with a company of boys who will give the necessary time and attention to the work. By going to the matter with a will and a determination to succeed, a crack drill company of twenty-four men could be had by early spring. A challenge should be sent to one of the foremost companies of the state for a competitive drill, to take place at the First Regiment armory in Portland. Such a plan would meet with the approval of every patron of the school. The discipline and military training would be of lasting benefit to students entering the contest, besides affording them plenty of healthful exercise and recreation. In this connection, it might be well to suggest that the O. A. C. should be represented in all intercollegiate literary contests. While it is true that the agricultural college course pertains more to scientific than to literary work, there is, nevertheless, a deal of timber from which an excellent contestant might be selected. At such contests in the future it is to be hoped that the institution will not be conspicuous for its absence.

THE real democratic economy—of there is such a thing—seems to lie in cutting down the expenses of living in the homes of workingmen to meet the changed conditions incident to loss of jobs and lower wages.

SCHEME OF RIVAL PUBLISHERS.

Consistency is a virtue that the Oregonian can no longer assume. Posing for years in the interest of economy, it now departs from its beaten path to advocate a change in school books, which will cost the school patrons of Oregon not less than \$250,000. An unholy alliance has been formed among rival publishing firms to down the American Book Company at all hazards. To this plot against the people of Oregon, whose burdens are already oppressive, the services of the morning daily are secured. The alliance pushes the button, the Oregonian does the rest.

The public expect, and rightly too, that the press will energetically advocate all matters of local importance in the interest of economy. Papers that are opposing a change of text books are doing exactly what the public expect them to do. The American Book Company's publications have been in exclusive use in Oregon for several years, and have given satisfaction. No complaint has been heard until just now, when a new contract is to be let. All of a sudden, we hear proclaimed from the house tops that these books "bristle with mistakes and inaccuracies," and that they are the poorest books the company publishes. These reports are circulated by representatives of rival publishing houses, who are now visiting every school district in the state, intent upon poisoning the public mind against the American Book Company, in the hope that it will be unable to renew its contract, in which event they expect to be successful. These rival concerns dare not meet the American Book Company in an open and fair competition for business, but seek to down their rival by the most unscrupulous methods. To do this, they have secured the services of a self constituted committee of one hundred antiquated, unprogressive, barnacle-covered Portland mossbacks, and with the Oregonian to forward the nefarious plot against the citizens of the state, it expects to wipe the American Book Company out of existence. But the scheme will never succeed. The public will not be bunched in any such manner. The school superintendents and members of the board of education are men of sense and integrity, and will not be induced to deliberately hold up the school patrons of Oregon to the tune of \$250,000, even though the scheme would receive the sanction of the honorable Committee of One Hundred, and the approval of every newspaper in Oregon whose policy has been to barter editorial space to every illegitimate scheme that comes along and has the price.

WILL SHE ASSIST?

The people of Eastern Oregon want a railroad. They have wanted it for years. Yet at this time they have no greater assurance of such a thing coming to pass than they had ten years ago. By united effort, an appropriation for a wagon road can be secured from the next legislature. It would connect the Inland Empire with the Oregon Pacific; save sixty or seventy-five miles of hauling; open a better market for their products; afford cheaper and better transportation facilities; hasten the delivery of mail matter at least forty-eight hours, and benefit them in many other ways. Besides these advantages, it will bring Eastern and Western Oregon in touch, and open up a desirable trade for valley merchants, by exchanging flour, fruit and other commodities for wool and such products of Eastern Oregon.

Salem has already talked of building a railroad to connect with the O. P. at, or near, Munkers. With a good wagon road over the mountains, and the increased trade it would afford, there is every reason to believe that the people of Marion county would complete the rail line at an early date. By putting a small, fast steamer on the river, to run between Salem and Portland in conjunction with the railroad, residents of Eastern Oregon would be given the advantage of cheaper freight rates from the metropolis than ever before enjoyed. Citizens of Eugene and Corvallis would probably unite in constructing a railroad between the two cities. Both of these lines could be operated by the Oregon Pacific in conjunction with its trains at a nominal cost. We have waited in vain for an extension of the Oregon Pacific. No assurance is had that it will ever be completed. We must do something ourselves; all that is necessary for the success of the enterprise is to make a bold, solid stand. An united effort will crown our labors with success. Western Oregon may be depended upon to use every honorable means to secure the appropriation. Will Eastern Oregon do as much?

MANY newspaper men are wondering what motive actuated Jerry Nunan, of the Grants Pass Courier, to make such an unwarranted attack on the Oregon Press Association in his last issue. It seems, that with the assistance of a young lady, Jerry gets the paper out alone. He was unwilling to leave his assistance in charge of the office while he was on a jaunt to Pendleton, and, because he was compelled to forego the pleasure of the trip, he is jealous of the boys who were more fortunately situated.

Now that the Philomath College case is finally adjudicated, it is to be hoped that the contention and ill feeling, which has existed between members of the rival factions for several years, will speedily be settled, and that they will unite in making the Philomath College what it was destined to be—one of Oregon's foremost institutions of learning.

TOM REED is to invade the solid south, and make three speeches to the sugar planters of Louisiana.

A good many people have learned by experience that in the bright lexicon of "green goods" and other kindred speculations there is nothing so uncertain as a sure thing.

Teachers' Column.

Edited by - - - R. F. HOLM.

All communications intended for this department should be handed to the editor on Monday morning.

Nearly all the schools in the county are now in session. Every parent should see to it that his children enjoy the advantages of this school session.

The teachers of Linn county are adopting a course of study similar to the revised course of study now employed in the schools of Illinois. We congratulate them, and trust that ere long Benton county may enjoy the same advantages.

The Benton County Teachers' Association will convene in the office of the county school superintendent on Saturday, Oct. 20th. All teachers are cordially invited to attend these meetings, and assist in the advancement of teachers' interest in this county.

A movement is on foot to secure a lecture, by Dr. Thorndyke Rice, to be delivered in Albany some time in the near future. Dr. Rice is the gentleman who visited the schools of New York city, and had the courage to go away and tell the truth about the "school ring," and the consequent poor teaching which he found in his visits. Should his services be procured, Benton county teachers could, doubtless, profit by patronizing the lecture.

It is a lamentable fact that, in most of the rural schools, there is what is termed a "fall term," and a "spring term," with a summer vacation of three months, and a winter suspension of hostilities, so to speak, of about the same duration. This makes up the school year. To make matters worse, one teacher is employed for the spring term, and another teacher for the fall term. The first teacher is not re-engaged, because she spanked "somebody's darling," or, because all the little darlings who needed spanking were not spanked, or for a hundred other trivial reasons that an intelligent school board would never countenance. A new teacher is engaged, possibly, because she is a relative of some member of the school board, or she has promised not to make Johnny study mental arithmetic, or that she will have "speaking" every Friday evening, so that some little Sarah Jane may recite, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," or some other foolish promise that is utterly valueless to the school.

What is the result of such business? methods? People are shunning the district schools by moving to town to educate their children in the common school course. If our higher institutions of learning permitted it, their preparatory departments would constantly be filled to overflowing by students who have not completed the common schools. The country schools are losing the confidence of patrons every day, and there is a consequent lack of interest on the part of teachers and pupils.

What can we do to inspire the confidence of patrons and enthrone our teachers with interest? Firstly, we can dispense with one of the vacations, and unite both terms in one. In a vacation of from six to twelve weeks duration the pupil meets with so many circumstances that are entirely foreign to his school work, that when the next term of school begins, it is necessary for him to review the work that he has completed in the previous term, thus wasting a goodly part of his school life that might be improved in the study of some new subject. The teacher generally employs the last few weeks of school in reviews, so that the time actually spent in the study of new things is very short indeed. The school room is distasteful to many boys and girls, because they are, term after term, kept going over and over the same ground. Country school life becomes as monotonous to the average boy, as the trip to church was to that legendary old deacon, who, every time he made one step forward, slipped backward twice the distance. The school rarely gets into good working order before teacher and pupil are reminded that it is time to sign a truce to advancement, and begin to garrison and provision and otherwise fortify the points already gained, against the common enemy, forgetfulness. By uniting the two terms it is possible for us profitably to employ much of the time now wasted in reviews at the term beginning and the term ending. It is possible for us to interest the pupils and make their work pleasant as well as profitable, and it is possible to secure the confidence and co-operation of parents, without which any school is necessarily a failure. Secondly, we can employ one teacher for the united terms. We have said that it is possible to increase the efficiency of our school by uniting the fragmentary terms; but this possibility can never be more than a mere possibility so long as there is a change of teachers every three months. Every teacher who enters a new school room must, of necessity, waste more or less time in acquainting himself with her new environment, and in getting the pupils into the spirit of her methods, which are almost invariably different from those of the preceding teacher. We occasionally find a school that is fulfilling its intended mission. If we search for the important factor in the success of such a school, we shall surely find it in the retention of teachers so long as the general tone of the work done is in harmony with the spirit of advancement. The teacher in the city schools generally understands that, so long as legitimate and common sense methods are employed, she will be permitted to retain her position. As a result, she puts herself to the great task of self improvement. She broadens her view of the text. She studies that she may employ the rational methods of teaching and government. She acquires a professional spirit. In short, she becomes more valuable as a teacher, and lends dignity to the profession, through the incentive furnished by the assurance which she feels in the permanency of her position. Take this assurance from her, and you have taken the rudder from the ship. She now employs her spare hours in the cultivation of the good will of the school board and the most influential patrons. Instead of spending her vacation in improvement in the art of teaching, her time is employed in shrewd political maneuvers, by which she hopes to secure a position. The position once gained, she feels herself so obligated to friends who have helped her to secure the school, that she permits them to dictate to her the means of government and the methods in teaching which she must employ. Frequently these ex officio teachers advise her to do things which her common sense and her own conscience tell her are wrong; but she ignores the warnings of common sense, hushes the voice of conscience, and does as she is bid. The result is inevitable failure. The teacher must be free to draw her own conclusions, and follow their dictation. Taking it all in all, there is so little to encourage the teacher, or to merit the sympathy of patrons, that the wonder is that our schools are so efficient as they are. But, as we purpose later on to devote some attention to the methods of hiring teachers, we close by inviting the patrons and school boards of this county to give some consideration to the following propositions: First—school districts should unite the fragmentary and separate school terms of the year into a common school year with no vacation. Second—a teacher should be retained in the same school as long as fairly good results are attained.

Report of District No. 93.

NAMES.	HEAD.	MAKES.	DEFECT.
Frank Smith.....	8	97	
Ivy Smith.....	11	94	
Lester Smith.....	8	94	
Eddie Smith.....	12	95	
Gretta Harrington.....	1	93	
Myrtle Harrington.....	1	95	
Julia Fuller.....	1	93	
Ella Fuller.....	7	94	
Lizzie Leadbetter.....	1	94	
Geo. Leadbetter.....	1	91	
Chas. Witham.....	1	94	
Geo. Witham.....	1	94	
Anna Witham.....	1	95	
James French.....	1	95	
Chas. Brown.....	11	96	
Chas. French.....	1	96	
Henry French.....	1	95	

G. W. DENMAN, Teacher.

Lobster School Report.

Below is given a tabular report, for the month ending Oct. 8th, of the Lobster school, taught by Miss May Oglesby.

NAMES OF PUPILS.	DAYS PRESENT.	DAYS ABSENT.	DEFECT.
Annie Jenkins.....	20	1	85
Zoe Jenkins.....	19	1	90
Emma Brattain.....	20	1	85
Clinton Nye.....	20	1	85
Bird Tucker.....	20	1	85
Ruby Tucker.....	15	5	85
Willie Tucker.....	15	5	90
Lora Jenkins.....	15	5	95
Theresa Gage.....	13	7	90
Ella Young.....	5	10	85
Lila Tucker.....	11	4	80
Odessa Ball.....	8	2	80
Earl Tucker.....	10	7	75
Frank Hughes.....	10	7	70
Healy Nye.....	9	4	70
Frank Gage.....	4	3	90

BLODGETT VALLEY.

The silver-tongued orator, S. M. Wood. Miss Davis, our school mother, is a capital secretary beside being a good orator. Miss Rena Morton and Miss Nora Brown start to school this week at Lewisville, Polk county.

Warren Norton thinks the timber claim is none the less valuable by moving toward the land office. Gellatly's hay-baler starts this week with a full crew. Baling will be done for R. B. Blodgett, Walt Brown, and W. A. Gellatly, with D. B. Cotton as boss.

A vendor of tooth-ache cure, corn-extractor, Portable dentist and all-round physician, pays periodical visits to our valley, and gathers nickels from almost every house.

It has been reported to "ye scribe" that Miss Lizzie Wood and Miss Rena Wood are to be married today respectively to Cricket Bayans and Gene Ward. At this rate second-growth timber is liable to become scarce.

The Times man got the animus of the Pete Abbey disaster by Mr. Abbey, instead of going to Wrens, was kindly cared for at Mr. Moore's, at Blodgett Station, until the down train came and conveyed him to Yaguna.

A lively debate occurred last Saturday night at our literary. The question, "Resolved, That the government should own and operate the railroads and telegraph lines," was discussed, the affirmative gaining the victory, and now the old thing can't get control too soon.

Amos Wood has demonstrated that diversified farming pays. He planted a hop yard last spring, and between the rows he cultivated beans and potatoes. No more cultivation was necessary for the three crops than the hops alone would have required. He has been pulling and hauling beans for the past week, and will have three or four hundred bushels of potatoes.

The opinion seems to prevail that the skull found by Billy Minton belonged to an Indian squaw. The beads are the kind used in decorating moccasins. A knife and a thimble were found with the articles mentioned in the GAZETTE last week, also a tin-type, once a picture, but, because of time and fire, only a faint delineation of a woman's face remained, showing the hair parted in the middle.

Mr. W. M. Terry, who has been in the drug business in Elton, Ky., for the past twelve years, says: "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy gives better satisfaction than any other cough medicine I ever sold." There is good reason for this. No other will cure a cold so quickly; no other is so certain a preventive and cure for croup; no other affords so much relief in cases of whooping cough. For sale by Graham & Wells.

NEWSY COLLEGE NOTES.

There are some important experiments now being carried on in the experiment station building. They consist of analyses of soils and fertilizers. More than 200 different fertilizers have already been analyzed, with more to follow. The experiments are to determine which are the best fertilizers for Oregon soils.

The following is the classified number of students now in school: Fourth Year, Mech. 7, Post Grad. 5-12; Third Year, H. E. 26, Ag. 15, Mech. 13-54; Second Year, H. E. 22, Ag. 12, Mech. 22-56; First Year, H. E. 26, Ag. 13, Mech. 41-80; Prep. 13. Summary: Ag. 40, Mech. 83, H. E. 74, Post Grad. 5, Prep. 13-215.

We are informed that the foot ball entertainment, spoken of recently, will come off a week from next Friday. It will consist of exhibition club swinging; instrumental and vocal solos; foot ball, and other tableaux; guitar and mandolin solos; an original magic lantern exhibition, and a foot ball chorus. The proceeds are to be devoted to improving the foot ball ground, and purchasing some suits.

The college team is now a member of the Oregon Inter-Collegiate Foot Ball Association. The meeting held last Saturday, at Albany, was attended by members from five of the leading colleges, and resulted in the above named association. The only important modification of the American Association was, that two members of the faculty or alumni will be allowed to play on the teams for this year. Mr. A. S. Addison is the permanent secretary of the association, and a member from Forest Grove is the president. The schedule of games is as follows:

October 27, Portland University vs. Pacific University, at Forest Grove.
November 3, State University vs. Oregon Agricultural College, at Corvallis.
November 17, State University vs. Pacific University, at Portland.
November 17, Oregon Agricultural College vs. Oregon State Normal School, at Monmouth.
November 29, Oregon Agricultural College vs. Portland University, at Corvallis.
November 29, State University vs. Pacific University, at Eugene.
December 8, Oregon State Normal School vs. Portland University, at Portland.
December 15, Oregon State Normal School vs. State University, at Eugene.
December 15, Oregon Agricultural College vs. Pacific University, at Forest Grove.
The Willamette University, at Salem, applied too late to enter, but will play exhibition games, probably, with the association teams.

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