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Official Paper of Coos County.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF MARSHFIELD.

THE PEOPLE'S DUTY.

URNABY'S Travels, a work published some one hundred and forty years ago, occurs this paragraph:

"An idea, strange as it is visionary, has entered into the minds of the generality of mankind that empire is traveling westward; and every one is looking forward with eager and impatient expectation to that destined moment when America is to give the law to the rest of the world."

That was before any Republic was dreamed of on this continent. But it is true that empire has traveled westward ever since it started on its march from central Asia. Persia, Assyria, Greece, Rome, western Europe, with only one side step to Egypt (and that civilization may have come from the west) and the United States to and beyond the eastern shore of the Pacific: the natural course has been as steady as the roll of the stars.

And though the United States is a Republic, it might, eventually, dictate the laws to all the world if her people were great enough. But much will have to be done before that can be. There will have to be a new reverence for law and strict obedience to the laws. There will have to be an honest levy and collection of taxes. There will have to be perfect cultivation of the soil. There will have to be exact justice meted out to the poor. There must be equal opportunities opened to poor and rich alike. Every one must be educated to perform some useful thing through which a livelihood can be secured. There must be more character in the people, more devotion to country and a higher patriotism, and better preparations for defense, to command peace. There are many other essentials. And the individual states should each in its place, begin this preparation for a higher life. Think of it! If every township in every state, was placed upon an absolutely just plane, why the nation would be perfect. We must not look to see the general government bring this about; it should be begun in every township. It should be begun in the little white church; and the local school house.

We subscribe money to send missionaries to the heathen. This is all right, but the rich man who draws his check for his pro rata of the cost, ought not to rest with that. His next door neighbor may need the money more than the disinclined citizen in the suburbs of Timbuctoo. He may need something more than money; he may need good advice and kind words, something to kindle his flagging hopes and his shattered self-respect. The selfish man gets rich and has a fine monument placed over him when he dies; but save for the monument he would swiftly be forgotten, and with all his money he lived a barren life. Why should he be remembered?

But there are other duties as high as the duty to the poor. The state claims not only our passive, but our active, earnest fealty. In pursuance of this duty every man should in a way be a politician; he should have

his opinions and should cry out when public wrongs are committed. It will have to be so before our civilization will be anywhere near perfect.

The fathers gave us this government in its purity; gave us the means to preserve it in its purity, and so much as we fall in that, so much are we unworthy of the priceless inheritance.

And the work should be done first in the home, next in the township, then in the county; then in the state; and when perfected in all the states, then would this great empire of ours "give the law to the rest of the world."

SHORT WORDS.

ONE OF the most convincing lectures against the use of big words by amateur writers is contained in a recent issue of Life and the average reader, after laboriously perusing the article, whether or not he is intelligent enough to understand the dissertation, will without doubt be impressed with the advantage in using short words. The sermonette follows:

"Literary aspirants should religiously eschew polysyllabic orthography. The philosophical and philological sub-structure of this principle is ineluctable. Excessively attenuated verbal symbols inevitably induce unnecessary complexity and consequently exaggerate the obfuscation of the mentality of the peruser. Conversely, expressions which are reduced to the farthest minimum of simplification and compactness, besides contributing realistic verisimilitude, constitute a much less onerous handicap to the reader's perspicacity. Observe, for instance, the unmistakable and inescapable expressiveness of onomatopoeic, interjectional, monosyllabic utterances, especially when motivated under strenuous emotional circumstances. How much more appealing is their euphonious pulchritude than the preposterous and pretentious pomposity of elongated verbiage.

BRING SWEETNESS AND LIGHT INTO POLLING PLACES.

HAVING granted the ballot to women, the State of Washington proposes to hand over the suffrage with all the trimmings. The first step to reform the rude men who have been selfishly doing all the voting is to abolish smoking at the polling places. When the "No Smoking" signs are tacked up, with the great seal of the state attached, it will be due notice to those who have cumbered the election stands to move out, and not to sit on the front steps either. Friends of reform are inspired by the hope that Washington will set an example to her sister states. The cut-glass ballot box, resting on its onyx pedestal, would call for silver tongs by which the ballots might be gently lifted and deposited in the receptacle with ease and grace. The party that ties up its tickets with dainty ribbons in the fashionable colors will have a great advantage over cruder opponents. The wise candidate will open tea rooms in convenient places and serve bonbons and chocolate drops all during election day. It may take time to bring reform to its full fruition, but by united action the women of Washington can abolish the horrors

of the old polling booth, and into the regions where vile tobacco smoke and badly dressed politicians now prevail can bring sweetness, joy and light.

SEMI-ANNUAL PROMOTION PLAN OF ADVANCING PUPILS IN MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Editor Times:—

I wish, through the columns of your paper, to say a word with reference to the matter of semi-annual promotions. There seems to be some misunderstanding of the plan and its workings by both teachers and parents. The matter has been explained to our teachers at some of our meetings so that we understand the plan, I believe, and also how matters stand in our own schools. I ask the use of the columns of your paper that the same explanation may be made to the parents of our pupils in order that we may all understand it.

In the first place the semi-annual promotion plan is not new nor radical; it is as old as the yearly promotion plan. All larger public schools have this plan of promotion or something similar just as soon as their teaching force is large enough to permit it, and this condition is reached as soon as the school has one or more teachers in every grade. In the second place, the semi-annual promotion does not mean that pupils are to pass their grades in half a year. In this sense the word semi-annual is a misnomer. There are promotions twice each year but as far as each individual pupil is concerned, he is promoted but once. In other words there are two annual systems running side by side—one consisting of pupils who began their school work in first grade in September and the other of pupils who began their work in February. Pupils who entered the first grade in September, if they make their grades regularly, will be promoted in June regularly, while pupils who entered first grade in February, if they make their grades regularly will be promoted in February regularly. Of course, pupils may drop behind and so change the time of their promotions, or again, pupils may at times be set ahead if in the judgment of the proper teachers' committee and the child's parents, it seems advisable. But if pupils advance regularly they will be promoted in June or in February according to the time they entered school.

When the system is working naturally, there are two divisions in every room—an "A" division and a "B" division, the "A" division being four and one-half months ahead of the "B."

The semi-annual promotion plan has several things to recommend it: In the first place it comes about naturally from our custom of admitting new pupils into the first grade in September and in February as far as possible; in the second place, it facilitates promotion in that a pupil may often be advanced a half-year when he could not possibly be advanced an entire year; in the third place, it helps the pupil who fails to pass his grade by setting him back a half year instead of a whole year; fourthly, it facilitates closer grading and enables us to place pupils, who come to us from outside cities, more nearly where they belong. This is

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a decided advantage in our city because so many pupils are constantly coming to us from outside cities where the semi-annual promotion plan or something similar to it is in use; these pupils sometimes lose a half year because it is not possible to enter them satisfactorily in our grades; fifth, it would enable us to articulate better with the February and June State Examinations. The semi-annual promotion plan is feasible for our schools. With two exceptions, every teacher in our system has the pupils of the same grade; that is, there are not pupils of two or more grades in the same room. There can be, therefore, two divisions in every room. The two exceptions mentioned above are rooms 2 and 5 in the South Marshfield school, the former containing pupils of the fourth and fifth grades and the latter pupils of the sixth and seventh grades. Here is an apparent difficulty for it is impractical for one teacher to have four divisions in her room as would be the case were each grade divided. The difficulty is only apparent however, for if these two rooms are kept for "B" division pupils only there is no difficulty. In that case the "A" division pupils of grades four, five, six and seven will be at the Central school and if this be very large, some "B" division pupils living near the South Marshfield school who are now attending the Central school may occasionally be under the necessity of changing schools. Some little transferring of pupils from one building to the other may be necessary at times, at the beginning of a semester or half-year, but not many pupils will be affected and, anyway, the probability is that in every short time our schools will be large enough to necessitate separate rooms for all grades and then the difficulty will be entirely removed.

It is sometimes objected that pupils finishing eighth grade in February cannot enter high school until the following September and so lose a half year. This difficulty will not appear for we shall start some new classes in February in the High School and pupils can begin earning credits as soon as they finish eighth grade.

There are now in our schools some fifty pupils, who having been promoted last February are expecting promotion this coming February.

There are some others who having failed their grades are in some cases capable of doing advanced division work. The proper committee will decide these cases.

One thing should be definitely understood by us all; it is this, that pupils of one division will not be permitted to take the examination of another division except on recommendation of the proper committee. This is the best way to keep things straight. At present, pupils do not understand this. In order to get the plan started two years ago some pupils made their grades in half a year by passing a certain examination, but now that the plan is underway, that practice is discontinued. Parents will need to place this much confidence in the teachers' committee, which will consist of the pupil's teacher, the principal of his department, and the superintendent of schools.

In the schools of Portland, if I understand their system, a pupil is placed in certain divisions according

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to his ability and whether he shall be in one division that is covering three parts of work in the time that others are covering four parts, is dependent upon the judgment of the teachers, based, of course, on his work as shown in class and tests. It must be so in our schools. The committee of teachers must be trusted to work for the best interests of the pupil. Pupils will not, therefore, be permitted to write on examinations except those for their own division unless, in the judgment of the proper committee, the pupil is qualified to take such examination. Questions that may arise about the matter of promotion or about those interested in other matters will be willingly answered if will call up the High School by hours 8:30-9:00, 3:30-4:30.

F. A. TIEDGEN,
Superintendent.

NEWS OF BANDON.

Briefs of City-By-the-Sea As Told By The Recorder.

Bandon-by-the-sea still continues to forge ahead in a good steady manner, as is indicated by the school census just completed by Clerk J. W. Mast. It was announced in Tuesday's Recorder that the school pop-

ulation would approximate 670, but on summing up, Mr. Mast finds that it falls a little short of that figure, the exact number being 649, but this is a substantial increase over last year when it was 589, making an increase of 60, or about 10 per cent for the district. Figuring on the usual basis of 5 people for every school child this would indicate a population for the school district of 3,245, then again deducting 20 per cent from this figure for pupils living in the district, but outside the corporate limits of Bandon, which is allowing a good margin for outside pupils, we would have 2,596 people living within the corporate limits of the city.

A House in the Air.
In 1863 a balloon of 200,000 cubic feet capacity was constructed at Paris. It was named the Gault and was intended to show the great possibilities of the air. The car attached consisted of a small two story house, fitted with every modern comfort, lavatories, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, parlor, etc. Thirteen passengers made the first ascent, but the journey was of only four hours' duration. The last ascent was for seventeen hours and was abruptly terminated by a high wind, which, when the balloon descended, dragged the little house bumping over the ground. The remains of this giant of the air was for a long time exhibited in the Crystal Palace in London.