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Must Attend School.

State Superintendent Irwin has had a circular letter prepared and printed to be forwarded to the various county school superintendents and school boards, calling the attention of those officials to the law prescribing compulsory education for children of a certain school age, which law is so heedlessly violated in every part of the state. Following is the letter in full:

"The attention of the county superintendents, and through them, the attention of the boards of school directors, is called to the following law pertaining to compulsory education:

"Section 65. Every parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control or charge of a child or children between the ages of 8 and 14 years, shall be required to send such child or children to a public school at least 12 weeks in every year at least eight weeks school (shall) be consecutive unless the bodily or mental condition of such child or children has been as to prevent his or her or their attendance at school or application to study for the period required, or unless such child or children are taught in a private school, or at home in such branches as are usually taught in primary schools, or have already required the ordinary branches of learning taught in the public schools; provided, in case a school shall not be taught for the period of 12 weeks or any part thereof, during the year, within two miles by the nearest traveled road of the residence of any person within the school district, he or she shall not be liable to the provisions of this act.

"Sec. 66. Any parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child or children failing to comply with the provisions of this act shall be liable to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$25 for the first offense, nor less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for the second, and each subsequent offense, besides the cost of the prosecution.

"Sec. 67. It shall be the duty of the directors and clerk of each school district to make diligent effort to see that this law is enforced in their respective districts.

"Sec. 68. Justices of the peace shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in all prosecutions under this act."

This office has become aware that but little or no attention is paid to the law compelling children to attend school at least 12 weeks during the year. To look over the statistics one is impressed that there must be many children of school age who do not attend our public schools. This law was enacted for a purpose, and it is apparent that the purpose contemplated was to have the children attend the public schools in order that illiteracy and ignorance may be reduced to a minimum.

The safety and welfare of the country depend upon the efficiency of our public schools, wherein not only knowledge of books and literature is considered, but where good government, loyalty and love of country are inculcated.

The law is on the statute book, and should not remain a dead letter. The duty of seeing it enforced rests with the boards of school directors, and the clerks of the several school districts.

The clerks of the several districts having the number of pupils in the statistical roll, and the teacher or teachers of the district having the ages and number enrolled as in attendance at school, some knowledge may be gained as to how nearly this law of school attendance is observed.

This is also one of the duties of the county superintendent, that he should acquaint himself with the

attendance at school and give direction to the board of school directors in regard to the matter of school attendance.

Bring this law before the people, acquaint them with its requirements and penalties, and it is believed there will not be so many children of the age included by the law, who do not and will not attend the public school. The state does not get near the value it deserves for support of the common schools, because of the fact that so many do not avail themselves of the privilege. The state cannot afford to allow this neglect and indifference of the public schools to exist, but must, in some way, see that the children have some education."

The steamer Homer had a wild trip down the coast last week. She left Coos bay Friday, when the bar was so rough that the Czarina and other vessels did not dare attempt to put out to sea, and the Czarina is still bar-bound. The Homer had 10 cabin and three steerage passengers. They did not get a wink of sleep on the entire trip and landed at San Francisco more dead than alive. Captain Benson says the weather down the coast was the roughest he ever met with. Seas broke over the vessel so strong that part of the rail was torn away, and the cabins were all flooded, many of the doors being broken in. Some of the berths were still soaked when the steamer docked.

Governor Lord has given his message that he prepared and never delivered last winter to the public. The message is very long, but outside of that it is only ordinary. It is devoid of any practical suggestions as to needed reforms. Some of his suggestions to the legislature is amusing, as viewed in light of the expensive holdup of that body last winter.

Gov. Lord has forwarded a new certificate of appointment to H. W. Corbett, at Washington. It seems as though the one the governor carried so carefully to Portland and delivered in person was defective, inasmuch as it did not state that the appointment only held until the legislature met. Therefore a new certificate was forwarded at once. Gov. Lord trusted this one to the mails.

The question that puzzles not a few people is this, to-wit: How is prosperity to be restored, and how is the country to be enriched, by a policy that is intended to take \$100,000,000 more each year from the people, and thus give the treasury what is called "ample revenue," to be paid out to office-holders, pap-suckers and crib-feeders at the treasury?—Oregonian.

Since the change of the administration over 80,000 applications for postoffices have been filed at the postoffice department. Up to the close of business last Saturday, the appointment division of the interior department has recorded 1,000 applications for presidential positions under the interior department.

There can be no permanence in a schedule of excessive tariff duties. When duties are high, special interests are favored, at the cost of the general consumers, and the policy never will be tolerated long. Only a moderate tariff can be a permanent tariff.—Oregonian.

Just how we are to get increased revenue from importations and shut out the importations for the benefit of the home producers nobody deigns to explain.—Oregonian.

A sale of yearling sheep, for \$1.95 a head, to be delivered April 20, has been made in Umatilla county. The same grade sold last year for from 90 cents to \$1.10.