

CONDITION OF THE CITY SCHOOLS IS BEST IN YEARS

Annual Report of Board Shows Most Gratifying State of Affairs Generally.

NEW BUILDINGS ARE RELIEVING CONGESTION

Plans for Next Year Include Expenditure of Eighty Thousand Dollars for New Structures for Pupils in Suburban Districts.

Portland's public schools are in a better condition than they have been for years, according to the annual report of the school directors which will be submitted to the taxpayers at the annual meeting Wednesday night.

The directors met yesterday afternoon and fixed the special tax levy at 2.5 mills and recommended the expenditure of \$50,000 for new buildings the coming year. The amount raised by the special levy, together with the state and county school funds, will be sufficient to carry the exact amount which can be raised from all sources is not known it will be somewhat in excess of the amount expended the past year.

Many More Teachers. The amount to be expended for new buildings next year will not be as large as \$50,000 as that expended this year, the increased revenue will be necessary owing to the fact that the teachers' salaries have been raised and at least 25 additional teachers will have to be employed on account of the rapid increase in the number of pupils and the equipment of the new east side high school. It is estimated that the attendance in the schools next year will exceed the present attendance by at least 1,000. Several innovations are planned by the board which will incur a nominal expense, but which are necessary to keep the Portland schools abreast of the times. The report follows:

To the taxpayers of school district No. 1:

The board of directors present to you at this time a report of what has been done during the fiscal year now ending together with their recommendations for the coming year.

It will be recalled that at the last annual meeting mention was made of the crowded conditions of the several schools in the northeastern part of the city. To relieve that situation a tract of ground in Irvington was purchased of Mrs. Elizabeth Ryan at a cost of \$8,000. A building of eight rooms has been erected on this block which will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the next school term. Besides this one new building, six rooms have been added to the Highland school, six rooms and an assembly hall to each of the Shaver, Oakley Green and Sellwood schools. The sum total of the building contracts for the year aside from the High school amounts to \$120,000.32. The basement of the east side High school is under construction and work will be pushed upon the building so that it may be ready for the opening of the schools in September.

In the way of repairs the largest expenditure has been for new plumbing. Several buildings have been painted. These and other improvements with some needed alterations have placed the school property in a better condition than it has been for years.

New Training Center. An additional manual training center has been established at the Atkinson and one at the Highland school during the year. The interest in this branch of work is steadily increasing and proves the wisdom of its introduction.

In order to give the girls an equal opportunity with the boys, classes in sewing have been formed during the present term, and although the work is in its beginning, it is believed that the results will be as satisfactory as those of manual training.

Music, which has been omitted from the school course of study for several years, has again been introduced in the primary grades, and if deemed advisable will be extended through the grammar course.

The bonded indebtedness of the district is the same as at the last report. The schools of our city presented an excellent exhibit at the recent Lewis and Clark fair, which attracted the attention of prominent educators and was the subject of most favorable comment. Too much praise cannot be given to pupils and teachers for their part in Oregon's successful exhibition. Three gold medals were awarded this work.

FRUIT AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE

Nature Provides Its Own Remedies Which, If Used Judiciously, Insure Perfect Health at All Times.

Aside from the pleasure of eating reasonable fruits before beginning the first meal of the day, this custom has undoubtedly arisen from the well-known fact that nearly all fruit and more particularly prunes contain natural laxative principles which act directly on the stomach and bowels.

Constipation, that dread and troublesome complaint which is undoubtedly the basic cause of nine tenths of the dyspepsia, indigestion, biliousness, etc., so prevalent among our people today, and which, if neglected, surely leads to more complicated and serious organic diseases, can surely be prevented, and when not too far advanced can be absolutely cured by the judicious use of the modern laxative and cathartic California Prune Waters.

They are not a patent medicine in the ordinary sense of the word, being compounded from fresh California Prunes, which every intelligent person knows is truly nature's laxative.

A dainty little wafer, always the same,

FRUIT IS NATURE'S LAXATIVE

California Prune Waters

A Natural Dissolvent and Cure for Biliousness, Constipation, Dyspepsia and all Bowel Troubles Far Better Than Pill or Purge

100 WAFERS, 25 CENTS
S. G. SKIDMORE & CO., Druggists, 151 Third St., Sole Agents for Portland, Oregon.

DEPARTMENT HAS MODEL SHOP

New East Side Plant for Repair of Fire Apparatus Very Complete.

IS SAVING THOUSANDS YEARLY FOR TAXPAYERS

Skilled Mechanics in Various Companies Give Their Services and Jobs of Best Class Are Turned Out—Big Lathe Needed.

The east side office of The Journal is in the store of J. M. C. Miller, 250 East Morrison street. Telephone East 374.

All the repair and construction work of the fire department is being centered at the new east side shop and for the first time in the history of the Portland department many rooms have been secured and some of the machines and tools most needed have been installed and are saving thousands of dollars in repair bills.

The wide platform extending along the south side of the fireboat house has been converted into a well lighted, neither of which conditions prevailed at the old west side shop. Three or four skilled mechanics are being kept busy with repair work and the apparatus of the department is being placed in better condition than it has been for years, the new shop and machinery enabling extensive alterations and improvements to be made on wagons, trucks and engines.

Engine No. 4, an extra first class engine purchased for the west side depot house, which failed to materialize, is at the shop at present and is undergoing some extensive repairs. Truck No. 2, which has long been in service, is also in the house and is being painted, overhauled and undergoing much new work. The entire list of trucks, engines, carts and wagons will be gone over carefully and the entire lot will be put through the hands of the repair workers and kept in the best of condition.

In the department are several men who are skilled machinists; several professional painters; half a dozen good mechanics and some iron and steel workers. These men are giving the advantage of their skill and experience and the shop is turning out as high grade work as any city in the state, but little greater than that of the materials. A fairly good outfit of machinery is installed, but a big lathe is needed and if purchased would save its cost in a year, as it would enable the firm to handle jobs that at present are beyond the capacity of the shop and very expensive when done by outside mechanics. The power is supplied by a five horsepower electric motor.

One of the additional plants that will be favored as soon as some of the new east side stations are established and the necessity for increased appropriations is lessened, is a blacksmith shop. It is estimated that the yearly shoeing, casting and metal molding bills at present given outside firms amount to a sum much more than the cost of a good shop equipped to do every class of work and that the saving that would be made if the department had such a plant would more than pay for the outfit in a very few years. Should the shop be established in connection with the present plant the utility of each would be increased.

MULTNOMAH CAMP GROWS

Its Membership Now Over Eleven Hundred and Still Increasing.

Fourteen members joined Multnomah camp, Woodmen of the World, at its session this week and 14 joined a week ago. These additions make the camp more than 1,200 strong and is a long way toward its goal of the largest membership in the jurisdiction.

At the last meeting of the lodge two turkeys were donated to members holding tickets and both were won by members of the drill team. The practice of giving prizes each meeting night, which originated with the camp officers of Multnomah, has been adopted by the majority of other east side camps and has resulted in the attendance being greatly increased, more than a hundred coming to the Multnomah session each Friday night.

The promotion committee of the order in the city has about rounded up for the first time all the lodges and will meet with Multnomah camp Friday evening.

One of the most important fraternal functions given this season will be held Saturday night in the form of a masked ball in Multnomah hall under the auspices of the field team of Mount Hood circle. Prizes will be given for the most comical and most original costumes worn by couples.

MAY CLOSE RESORT

Devout Annoyed by Billiard Balls' Click and May Enforce Sunday Law.

Singing praises to the accompaniment of clicking billiard balls and ribald mirth does not appeal to the Congregational church members of St. Johns, who meet Sunday afternoons above the town billiard hall and endeavor to drown out the noise below. It is averred by the members that when the singing begins the noise below increases in volume and that strange remarks float up about the time the pastor preaches his peroration; that the exhortation to be good is frequently so mixed up that the casual hearer is liable to think that if you are real good, you will not miss the "blank-blanked" ball every other shot.

Because private exhortation has not succeeded in lessening the racket of the billiard room and because there appears to be a disposition to outshout the preacher on the part of the men and boys below, the leading members have decided to start a campaign against the Sunday opening of pleasure resorts in St. Johns and to secure the enforcement of the state law.

EAST ALDER IMPROVED

Central District Soon to Be Given One Outlet of a Model Sort.

East Alder is going to be one of the very few streets on the east side in the central district that can stand heavy traffic and that affords a well improved highway between the river wholesale district and the suburbs. The street is being improved from Union avenue to East Tenth street, most of the way a macadam pavement being put down, but for three blocks across the Hawthorne gulch an elevated roadway is being built. The first block of the macadam, that between Union and Grand avenues, has been completed and opened to traffic, and under the strain of heavy traf-

We Will Give You a Pair of Trousers Free

For \$22.50 we will make a suit to your measure and give you an extra pair of trousers made to your measure without any extra expense.

You may have the suit of an all wool chevrot—a fine twilled Thibet or a blue serge.

The extra pair of trousers will be made from the same cloth as the suit or you may select a different pattern altogether.

These are NOT old styles that have accumulated on our shelves, but are brand new fabrics, fresh from the loom. They are the latest patterns and are guaranteed to be all wool.

Remember—the suit will be made to your measure, right here in our shops. Every garment will be hand padded—hand sewed and lined with imported Venetian cloth or wool serge.

\$22.50

THE BLUE SERGE arrived from the mills last week. It comes in both wide and narrow twill. This is as fine a piece of goods as was ever shown in Portland. Blue Serge is always in style and is always neat. You may have an extra pair of trousers free—REMEMBER. That practically gives you two suits as a Blue Serge Coat and Vest goes nicely either with trousers of the same cloth or a neat stripe. The price on fabrics has gone up very materially since we contracted for these Serges. No tailor on the Pacific coast can buy the same Serge we are offering and make it to your measure for less than \$30, to say nothing of the extra pair of trousers free.

THE BLACK THIBET is the same as our famous \$26 Thibet only a shade lighter in weight. It has the same close weave. Will not become rough or shiny and is a splendid wearer. Lined with an all wool serge.


Made to your measure and an extra pair of trousers free—from the same cloth or a different pattern. Practically a two-suit proposition: as one coat and vest will ordinarily outwear two pairs of trousers.

THE CHEVIOT—Also contracted for before the rise in prices—is a fine grade of cloth—all wool—and represents about a half dozen patterns never shown in Portland before. An extra pair of trousers free.

Fit, Finish and Fabric guaranteed.

The price will suit and The suit will fit.

We handle No Ready-Made Clothing, but make your Clothes to your order at from \$20 to \$45 the suit.



COLUMBIA

WOOLEN MILLS CO.

TAILORS

Elks B'd'g 7th & Stark

Remember, these are not shop worn goods but are all brand new—fresh from the loom. If you take advantage of this offer you practically get two tailor made suits for \$22.50.

The Store That Makes Handsome Presents to Its Customers

No. 7,673
WAS GIVEN THE
HANDSOME BEDROOM SET

Don't fail to get in on our Fifth Grand Advertising Award. A most elegant LIBRARY SET, consisting of a gorgeous CURLED OAK, QUARTER SAWED LIBRARY TABLE and SHADED STUDENT'S LAMP.

A beautiful COLONIAL TURKISH LEATHER COUCH and a massive RUSSIAN LEATHER QUEEN VICTORIA ROCKER.

Telephone or mail us an order and we will deliver your coupons with the goods.

OUT OF TOWN TRADE—We prepay all express charges and send you Four (4) Big, Full Quarts of Six (6) Year Old STUBBLE RYE for \$3.25.

Send us a trial order. Your MONEY back if you are not satisfied.

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Phone Main 380 195 Third Street

PRESENTS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MADE TO
D. J. CASWELL 698 IRVING ST.
JOHN MAIR 291 ELEVENTH ST.
REV. GEO. E. JACKSON 455 MAIN ST.

FOUND DEAD IN BED BY HIS YOUNG SONS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Eugene, Or., Dec. 23.—W. L. Connett, a single-maker of McKenzie's Bridge, 55 miles east of Eugene, was found dead in his bed yesterday morning by his two young sons. The old man retired the night before in apparent good health. Heart trouble was the cause of death. The body will arrive in Eugene tomorrow and at once be sent to Oregon City for burial.

INDEPENDENCE'S NEW CITIZEN.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Independence, Or., Dec. 23.—Hon. B. F. Jones, formerly of Toledo and Yacoma, has this week moved his law office to this city and will make his future home here. Mr. Jones is known as a hustler for Yaquina bay and Independence is congratulating itself on securing him as a future citizen.

THE IOWA JEWELER

WE WISH OUR MANY FRIENDS AND PATRONS
A Merry Christmas and a Bright and Happy New Year

We wish to thank those who have made this one of the most prosperous years in our business career.

A. N. WRIGHT
293 MORRISON ST.