

FIND COST IS TOO MUCH TO BUILD SCHOOL HOUSES

Civic Council President and Architect Gauntt Say Others Put Up as Good Buildings at Half Portland's Expense.

Facts and figures to show why the cost of school buildings increases the school tax in Portland have been presented by John H. Gauntt, president of the Civic Council. With Mr. Haak was Newton C. Gauntt, an architect, who has planned 22 schools in the west.

"I want Portland people to know why our taxes are so high; why the cost for the education of one scholar has increased from \$84 to \$100 a year," said Mr. Haak.

"Hundreds of thousands of dollars could be saved this school district if an economical system of construction were adopted," said Mr. Gauntt. "A few days' investigation has proven this to me. I have just completed a high school in La Grande. It was of the same construction as the Jefferson High school. It cost less than 7 cents a cubic foot, including power house and heating plant. The cost of the Jefferson High school, I am told, was 17 cents a cubic foot. The heating plant in the building, making much more danger from fire. The heating plant in the La Grande High school is outside the building and connected by tunnel. The cost of the building was \$25,000, furniture \$3000 extra. The cost at 17 cents a cubic foot, the cost of the Jefferson High school, would have been more than \$125,000.

12 Cents a Cubic Foot Normal.

"The cost of a mill construction school building in Portland should not be more than 12 cents a cubic foot. Any additional cost is a waste of taxpayers' money. A fire proof building can be built for 17 cents a cubic foot and I can guarantee that the cost will not be higher, although I notice that the cost for the new high school is to be 24 cents a cubic foot if fireproofed. The people outside of Portland who pay less for their school buildings have to pay extra freight charges in obtaining material. It stands to reason that the local costs are not represented by values received."

"In a preliminary investigation," said Mr. Haak, "we have learned that the school board lets contracts for fuel, not to the lowest, but the highest bidder. Contracts for furniture are let to the highest bidder. I sought a statement of comparative costs of teaching, school maintenance and janitor service from the school board. I wished the Civic Council to be able to compare the cost of running one school with the cost of running the others, and the cost of maintaining one room compared to others, and to figure it down until the exact cost of education for every pupil would be learned. I have to conduct my own business in this way. I thought such a system would be used by the school board, but I found that it was not. The Civic Council must learn these facts for itself in preparing for revision of the school laws."

Low Cost of Other Schools.

Mr. Gauntt detailed costs of other school buildings he has planned in the west. In North Yakima a school house, which he says has been named the finest high school west of the Mississippi, with even better construction than the Jefferson High school, cost a little more than 5 cents a cubic foot, compared with the Jefferson High school cost of 17 cents a cubic foot. The Pasco High school, constructed of the same material as Jefferson High, cost 10 cents a cubic foot. Mr. Gauntt has built 31 schools in one Illinois county and his eight room plans were exhibited as models at the St. Louis fair.

Mr. Haak said that H. Courcy Richards of Philadelphia, and Charles J. Itiner of St. Louis, both of whom are acknowledged leading school architects of the nation, have both said that school buildings in the west should not cost more than 12 cents a cubic foot, and that 17 cents for mill construction buildings and 24 cents for fire proof buildings.

SILVERTON PIONEER DIES AT AGE OF 69



G. A. Webb, who died Sunday at Silverton.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Silverton, Or., Jan. 12.—G. A. Webb, the pioneer real estate dealer of this part of the state, died at his home in this city Sunday, heart trouble being the direct cause of his death. George Allen Webb was born at Farmington, N. Y., April 6, 1842. When four years old he moved with his parents to Clinton county, Michigan, which place he made his home until August, 1851, when he enlisted in the Fifth Michigan Infantry and served 18 months in the war of the rebellion. At the battle of Fredericksburg he lost an arm and after spending six months in the hospital he was discharged from the service on account of disability. In 1855 he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Elizabeth Nicholl, and to this union five children were born, four of whom with the widow survive him: Mrs. Minerva Stevenson of Seattle, Mrs. Blanche Stanton of Jefferson, Or., Dr. J. E. Webb of Mount Angel, Or., and Charles F. Webb of Silverton.

Mr. Webb came to Silverton about 25 years ago and since that time had been actively engaged in the real estate business. He had been the direct cause of more people locating in Silverton than any other one man or group of men. He was a firm believer in advertising the resources of his community and spent much time and money in sending literature east. A few years ago he spent much time in Portland seeking immigrants, many of whom he located to their entire satisfaction. It is conservatively estimated that he had successfully negotiated more real estate deals than any other man in this part of the state.

He was possessed of a wonderful physique and it was not until his recent illness that he was rendered unfit for active work, notwithstanding the loss of an arm. Funeral services were held at the residence yesterday at 11 a. m., conducted by the G. A. R. of this city, of which deceased was an active member.

structed buildings and 24 cents for fire proof buildings, both to be built by the city. Mr. Haak announced yesterday that the Civic Council was striving to learn why the school census in Portland cost \$11,300, or between 25 and 30 cents for each name recorded, when the government census cost only about 3 cents a name.

The tables of costs with comparative statements as made by Mr. Gauntt will be used in preparing the bills to revise the school board's organization and to place it on a more business-like basis.

BUTTEVILLE BRIDGE GETS MUCH SUPPORT

Success seems in prospect for the proposed tri-county bridge to connect Marion, Clackamas and Yamhill over the Willamette river at Butteville. W. E. Purdy, president of the Tri-County Push club of Newberg, Yamhill county, leader in the move to secure the Butteville bridge at the joint expense of the three counties, has been assured of the support of many influential people in each county. At a meeting of the Marion county delegation all the members went on record as favoring construction without delay, the cost to be divided. Thomas F. Ryan, former county judge of Clackamas county, has written Mr. Purdy congratulating the club on its efforts to secure the Butteville bridge and promising his support. Charles V. Galloway of Salem has written Mr. Purdy saying the Butteville site is the most desirable and that the plan to build the bridge by tax levies covering a period of two years on the taxable property of the three counties is, in his judgment, both feasible and equitable.

SCHOOL FIRE MAKES MT. TABORITES ANGRY

The burning of the Mount Tabor school Tuesday morning has aroused the indignation of residents of that suburb, who charge the mayor and chief of the fire department with dilatory tactics. According to residents of Mount Tabor, despite the fact that the fire engine house at Sixty-third and Stark streets, about three blocks from the school, has been ready for equipment for more than three months and all the apparatus is on hand, no notice has been given to give fire protection. Engine, hose cart and all apparatus has been ready to be sent to the station for months, according to the complainants. Those residents assert that had there been a properly equipped station the structure would undoubtedly have been saved.

Spokane Improvements Held Up.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 12.—Mayor Pratt and the board of public works have decided not to award any more contracts without consulting the corporation counsel in each case. This action was the result of the opinion recently rendered by Corporation Counsel F. B. Morrill that there is some question as to the authority of the board, now that the new charter has been adopted. This decision will hold up improvements of the value of \$500,000.

EX-WEATHER MAN OUT AFTER SCALP OF CHIEF MOORE

James Berry Alleges Neglect of Duty and Improper Employment of Forces, and Funds; Fight in Congress.

By John E. Lathrop.

Washington, Jan. 12.—James Berry, whose resignation as chief of division, weather bureau, was accepted September 2, 1910, by Secretary Wilson, makes formal charges against Willis L. Moore, chief of the weather bureau, alleging mismanagement, the waste of \$100,000 a year, and irregularities in the conduct of the affairs of the bureau. Berry had served 32 years continuously. Berry has laid before President Taft these specific charges: That Mr. Moore is the author of a book, "Descriptive Meteorology," for which the data were compiled and manuscript prepared by himself and other bureau employees in government time; that the addresses of 3500 cooperative weather observers, whose names appear in the mailing lists of the bureau, were furnished, at Moore's direction, by bureau employees to the publishers for use in disseminating notices to promote the sale of the book to Moore's personal advantage; that the book was supplied to weather bureau stations throughout the country and that Moore issued orders making it the official text book of the bureau to his own personal financial profit.

Six Months on the Farm.

Berry also charges that Moore spends about six months of the year on his farm near Rockville, Maryland, requiring several clerks of high grade, messengers and others, to travel back and forth between the weather bureau and the farm in the transaction of public business, to the delay and detriment of the latter. Berry also makes other charges. He asserts that Secretary Wilson has paid no heed to his charges, and Mr. Moore, in an interview, stated:

"No one familiar with this affair will take the charges seriously. There is no shadow of truth in them. For good and sufficient reasons I relieved James Berry from charge of an important division. Never by letter or word of mouth, to my knowledge, did he ever discover anything wrong with my administration of the weather bureau until I displaced him."

This, Mr. Berry answers by showing that his letter of resignation, which pending for 30 days, contained serious reflections on Mr. Moore.

Berry Busy With Congress.

Berry has taken up the matter with congress and laid on the desk of every senator and representative copies of his formal charges, with a request that they be investigated. He claims that during four months which have elapsed since his resignation was accepted, he has been unable to induce the president to look into the matter, and that when he inquired of the president's secretary, Mr. Norton, what was the status of the case, he was informed that the president had referred it to Secretary Wilson.

There is some interest in the case because Mr. Moore, as chief of the weather service, has published a treatise attacking conservation officials for claiming that forests have an influence on stream flow.

SEVERAL SHEEPMEN MAY RETURN TO LIVE

So pleased were a number of the wealthy sheep and wool men with Portland's climate and progressive spirit when here last week attending the annual convention of the National Wool Growers' association, that they said they would bring their families to Portland to live so soon as they could settle their affairs at home.

George W. Walker, who for five years had been secretary of the association, but who retired at the close of this meeting, told friends that he planned making Portland his permanent home, and retiring President Fred W. Gooding, too, is said to have told friends that he would in all probability make this his permanent home before long. Mr. Gooding is one of the wealthiest men in the state of Idaho. Frank J. Hagbarth, another prominent Idaho wool man, is said to have fallen in love with Portland and its climate. Three Arizona men, U. Campbell, T. E. Pollock and Mr. Gossney, of Gossney & Perkins, are said to have remarked that Portland would be the place for them when they turned over their interests to others in Arizona.

Toledo's New Council Meets.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Toledo, Or., Jan. 12.—At an adjourned session of the council Monday evening the new city officials took the oath of office. The new officials are: Mayor, L. R. Wishart; councilmen, J. J. Gaither, George W. Hoffelns, C. P. Merrill and F. W. Carson; treasurer, R. A. Arnold; recorder, F. N. Hayden; Marshal, E. C. Patne. With the exception of Councilman F. W. Carson these officials were elected for two-year terms.



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We are placing on sale for Friday only a special lot of Granite Art Squares in three sizes at remarkably reduced prices.

\$9 Art Squares 9x12 Feet, for .. \$4.95

These are 9x12 feet in size, all colors and many patterns, 2-3 wool; will wear well and look well.

6x9 and 7.6x9 Art Squares \$1.75

These are of the same material, in all colors and a great variety of patterns; will be closed out Friday

\$3.50 Values, Choice for only \$1.75



Curtain Specials Heating Stoves



Two fine specials for Friday only. Supply is limited, so come early if you would share in these bargains.

\$1.25 Curtains Only, Per Pair 55c

These are 2 3/4 yards long and 40 inches wide, in ecru.

\$2.50 Curtains Special \$1.25

These are in ecru also, 3 yards long, 50 inches wide.

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