

# TRADES SCHOOL STUDENTS DOING EFFICIENT WORK

### Boys and Girls Taught Useful Knowledge; Graduates Are Holding Good Positions; Engineers to Visit the School.

By J. W. Hill.

A few boys have made members of the Oregon Society of Engineers and the Portland Trades club sit up and take notice. These boys, former students at the Portland School of Trades, are employed in architects' offices, in machine and plumbing shops, as foremen of bridge and construction crews—all making good to a degree that recently divided the Engineers' society and the Trades club to visit the school and become better acquainted with its methods and needs. These men already know something about the school's product. The visit has been arranged for next Tuesday.

When the school of trades was organized in 1908 the general idea was that it would be useful in handling the delinquent boy. The girls' department was added the following year with somewhat the same idea as to girls. But a visitor to the school should abandon the delinquent boy and girl theory unless he wishes a cool reception from the students.

**School Not a Reformatory.** There are no delinquents in the school, and they are ticklish to the suggestion that their school has any "reform" characteristics. The dignity of skilled labor and the advantages of character are held in high regard. The boys and girls are so much in earnest that school government has become practically automatic. Instructors are busy teaching rather than disciplining.

A trip through the building during school hours illustrated the attitude of the student to his work. Forty or fifty boys were busy in the drawing room, and of that number not more than two or three looked up for even a casual glance. The rest were too busy at their desks.

When this year's class of 35 boys and girls is graduated the total number of graduates will approximate 55, to which number should be added many not able to complete full courses.

Good jobs await the boys; the arrangement with employers being that any boy recommended by the school shall start at not less than \$2 a day. As a matter of fact, no boy sent to a job from the

trades school has started work at less than \$2.75 a day. A boy who graduated two years ago is now earning \$6 a day as a tool maker; another is getting \$4 as foreman of a bridge crew; a third is earning \$14.50 at The Dalles; another has a good job as foreman at Keno, while many of last year's graduates are getting \$3, \$3.25 and \$3.50 a day, secure in their jobs because they are equipped for their work. The school is yet too young to show graduates in executive positions commanding large salaries.

#### Given Thorough Shop Training.

Portland's school of trades has its counterpart in only three other cities, New York, Philadelphia and Milwaukee. It takes boys and girls of 14 years who have finished grammar school work and attempts to save them from many disadvantages of the apprentice shop system. The boy is taught the broader phases of his work; he is given thorough shop training and academic instruction that equips him as a skilled workman and opens a future in his trade to him. The general aim of the school may be easily understood, but one is apt to be overwhelmed by inspection of things the boys, some of them yet in knee trousers, have done.

Perhaps their most ambitious undertaking is a 70 horsepower gasoline engine now being built. The engine is to be supplemented by a 30 kilowatt generator, engine and generator to be completed in time for use at the San Francisco exposition. The plan is to furnish all power used in Portland's school exhibit from an electric plant made by pupils.

The boys say that when the exhibition is closed their power plant may be available for use in a new school of trades building. Engine and generator from first drawings to varnish, everything except castings, will be made by the boys, and they would not except the castings if the school was equipped with a foundry.

#### To Use Big Cranes.

Three powerful cranes for use in the schools are nearing completion. These cranes are for actual use—not playthings—and in building them the boys are saving something like \$600 to the taxpayers. Much of the machinery used in the school was made by the boys, and the machines are standing up under their work. A five horsepower steam engine is well under way, a small gasoline engine is being assembled, and the tool room is well supplied with dies, taps, standard gauges and other tools, some listing in the catalogues as high as \$10 apiece, all made by the boys.

The school's courses include carpentry, cabinet making, pattern making, machine shop work, electrical construction, plumbing and gas fitting, architectural and mechanical drawing for boys, and cooking, sewing and millinery for girls.

"We try to make the boys see the picture," said John Gaul, instructor in plumbing. He explained that the purpose is to equip the plumber so that when he is called to a house to repair a broken pipe he can take measurements and make a diagram, if necessary, so

that one trip to the shop for tools and material will be enough.

"We expect our boys to avoid much of the criticism now heaped upon plumbers for wasting time traveling back and forth between job and shop," he said. "Making the boys see the picture, that is, prepare working plans and work to the plans, runs through the entire school. Some of the pictures are on display in the drawing department. A 16 sheet house plan probably excels most architects' plans for completeness of detail. Elaborate plans for a new trades school building are on file ready for use when Portland provides the money."

#### Designed by Boy.

Hanging on the wall is a colored interior view of the living room of a house designed by a 16-year-old boy. The picture impresses the casual observer as a pretty piece of color work, good enough for framing if you like that sort of thing. But the sketch is worth closer inspection.

A fireplace at one end of the room is surmounted by a mirror, the point of view being from an opposite corner of the room. Not only are all the details of finish and decoration directly visible shown true to scale and color, but the picture in the mirror is there just as it should be. Figuring out angles of reflection and making the proper reduction in scale, this boy put in all details of the mirror's picture just as you would see it if room and mirror were actualities.

Tacked to a drawing board is the detail of a roof truss, made by one of the boys, and in the university. Dead, wind and live loads had been determined by the graphic method, and the stress diagrams were there to prove the lad's work.

"Our boys are not tied down to a hard and fast course of study; we teach them all they are able to learn up to our ability to teach," said Mr. Brandon, principal of the school.

In a shed like room a number of boys were building a small house according to plans drawn in the school. The carpenters were on the job, and following them will come the electricians and plumbers. No house in Portland will be wired more scientifically or provided with a better plumbing job than that small affair in a shed room.

#### Girls Busy Also.

The girls were busy in their department, apparently alive to the idea that home making is something to be learned just as a trade is learned. Their cooking instruction includes a study of the human body and its needs, a study of food values, the relation of cooking to digestion and nutrition, encouragement of simple standards of living, high home ideals and the art of getting your money's worth in buying.

"The sewing course fits girls for making their own clothes and for buying the material. In the millinery department girls are taught how to make their own hats, something that many a housewife would like to know. Cooking, sewing and millinery are not taught as trades. The instruction is practical, making the girls efficient in earn-

ing their own living if necessary, and equally efficient in making homes.

Portland's school of trades is apparently meeting the criticism directed against schools in general that they have practically no relation to the lives and needs of individual boys and girls.

## REGISTERED VOTERS ALL MAY VOTE ON COMMISSION CHARTER

Any registered voter may vote on the commission charter May 2.

This statement is made in answer to many queries, especially from women.

The fear that some might be barred from vote, on the new charter is caused by the fact that the primary for the nomination of candidates under the old system is also to be held May 2. This is the regular nominating election. Only those who have registered as Republicans or Democrats have the right to vote at the regular nominating election.

But the vote on the commission charter is called as a special election. It is held on the same day as the regular primary as a matter of convenience and economy.

If the commission charter is approved by the people May 2, nominations at the primary election the same day will be void. Candidates for mayor, commissioners and auditor must announce themselves and be voted on June 2.

## SOLD \$50,000 WORTH OF STOLEN DRESS GOODS

(United Press Leased Wire.) New York, April 21.—After having operated with an organized office force a business disposing of great quantities of dress goods, silks, hosiery and underwears, Louis J. Sherman is in the Tombs prison awaiting trial. Sherman made a complete confession of how he conducted his business with a net profit of about \$100 a week. He had a handsome suite of offices and a corps of stenographers and clerks, and was supposed to be a prosperous man of legitimate business.

In his confession he explained how the drivers of trucks in the wholesale district changed addresses on packages and boxes on their trucks and delivered the goods to his office. He disposed of more than \$50,000 worth of goods in 100 weeks. One truck driver has already gone to Sing Sing prison, and two others are awaiting trial. More arrests are expected.

A new French hand mirror has a small electric lamp mounted in the top, fed by a storage battery or a house lighting circuit.

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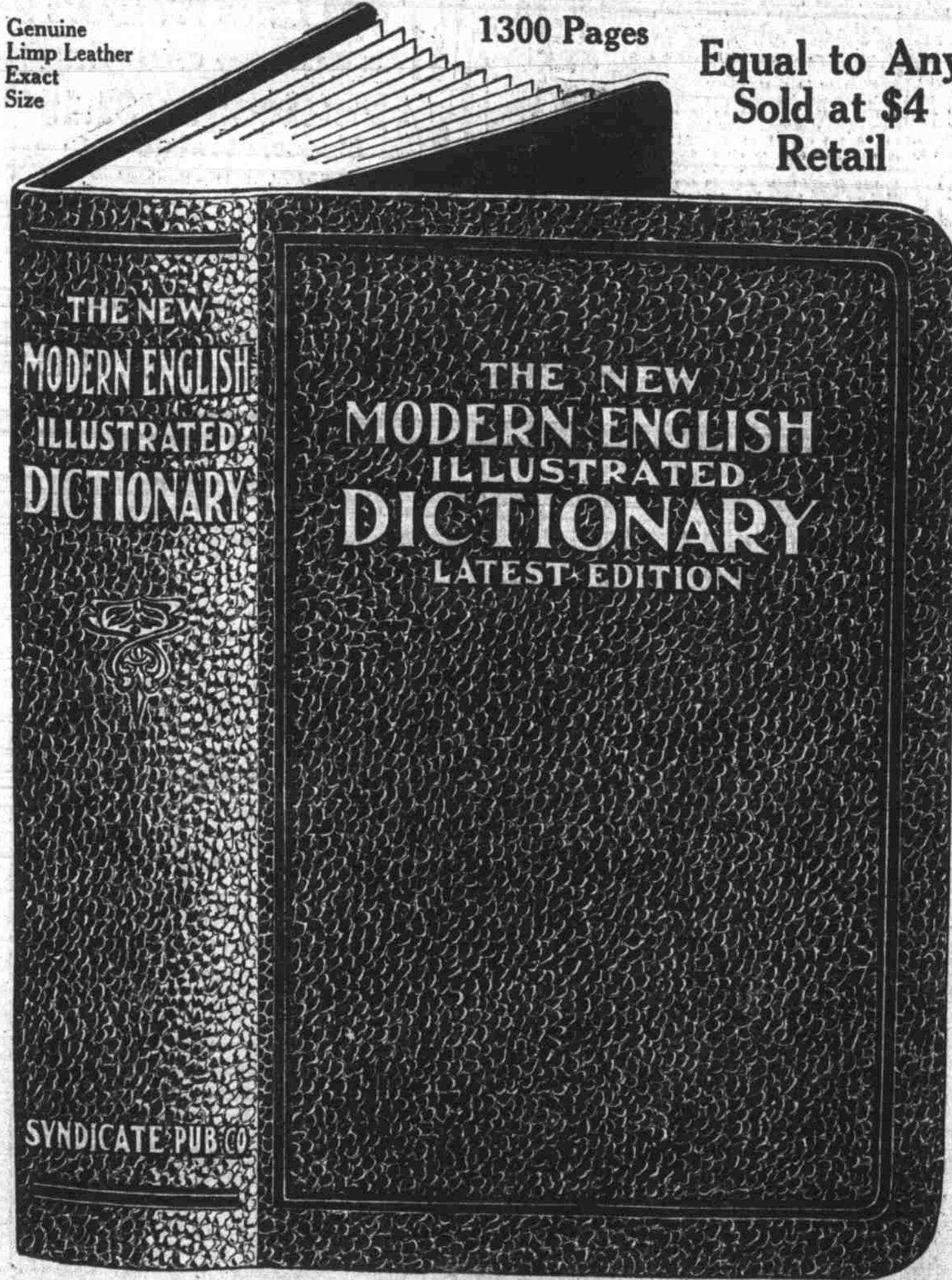
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