

PORTLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING

CREDITS ARE GIVEN TO PUPILS FOR WORK DONE AT THEIR HOMES

Incentive to Youngsters Is Proving Highly Acceptable to Parents.

By Marshall N. Dana.

It has been hitherto told that the school board rented a cottage to be used as a text in teaching boys to be home builders, and girls to be home makers, their combined practice to include the fashioning of furniture, the sewing of garments and the cooking of food.

More than casual reference has also been made to the opportunity afforded by our interesting school system for young men to become farmers or foremen of iron, and young women to acquire the art of millinery and the science of food chemistry.

Now comes a still more startling revelation. It is known that if Bobby at home minds the baby for another he may get credits on his grade card that will increase both his general average and his standing in the study he has most trouble with.

We of a slightly earlier generation have no memory of school credits being given for this or any other kind of home service, and this change may be further proof that the "world do move."

Credits for Home Work.
Into several Portland schools has been introduced the novel method of giving credit at school for work done at home.

"Care of the baby" is No. 13 on a long list formally printed, which is used by Miss Abbie Wright of room 15 at Sunnyside school. Miss Wright was first to introduce the system at Sunnyside school, and one of the first in Portland. Seven other rooms of the same school have now taken it up. Its success is one of its most conspicuous features.

But to continue reference to "care of the baby," frankness forces the confession that on none of a large heap of "home work records" does it appear that any boy or girl of Sunnyside school engaged in this occupation. It would, of course, be hinting at a long list of names to suggest that its No. 13 on the list has not been taken up. The cards that are set down upon the card for which credit may be given are as follows: Work in garden, splitting kindling, bringing in fuel, milking cow, care of horses, preparing meals, washing dishes, sweeping, dusting, bedroom work, washing, ironing, care of baby.

Then follow six blank lines on which may be written other services not listed. Here are the most interesting admissions. One youngster has written in bold hand that he did "mow lawn" one hour of the seven days. He is also very devout, for on the Sabbath he studied his Sunday school lesson one hour, Monday 30 minutes, Tuesday 25 minutes, Wednesday one hour, Thursday 30 minutes, and Friday one hour.

Reports Are Signed.
He is also careful of personal care, for in a list printed below the other items, he gives assurance by the repetition of "yes" that every day he brushed his teeth, on Saturday he spent half an hour in his bath, he sat with the windows open, and he attended church and Sunday school two hours each on Friday and Saturday.

He also admits that he went to bed before 9 o'clock each of the seven evenings, and then apparently some bit of a doubt seems to creep in, for he interposes, "more or less."

This is, of course, just a type report. It is signed in each instance by parent or guardian, and this is the evidence required by Miss Wright that the work has been done.

Memory failed one boy after he had added "erands" and "cutting lawn" to his list, so he also writes for "other things" a total of 40 minutes.

The cards indicate quite interestingly that the good old custom of the Saturday night bath has not been in vogue handed down from parents to children through many generations.

Some of the reports, however, claim credit for complete abstinence undertaken also on other days.

Credit on Regular Report.
Understand that credit on the regular report is given for this work. The plan delights the parents, for it gives children incentive for home work. It helps the children, for they learn how to do things that are useful. Also, as was said, it raises their grade in the study in which they are weakest. Sometimes they indicate on the card the study they desire to be helped in. If will not be surprising that one very young lady wanted her credit to be applied to "spelling," and another to arithmetic.

care for the chickens, set the table, knead bread, make dresses, and there is one little fellow who faithfully adds, "this day I done my best."

Other things for which credit may be given are for table manners, care of clothing and courtesy to parents. One little boy sets it down that on each of 7 days he combed his hair for five minutes, which in itself, we will remember is a considerable sacrifice.

Some appreciative expressions have come from parents.

"The home record cards not only offer the child a desire to raise his school record, but it gives the teachers an insight into what the child is doing when not in school," writes a mother. "In looking over some of the cards I find that the child soon learns to do his regular chores in less time each week that he may have more time for other work or play, and he fill out his record card. This is a great help to the parents."

Another mother whose little girl is exceedingly active in home work said, "I think in a splendid system. The only disadvantage that has occurred to me is that when credits are measured in time spent rather than amount done, the children are inclined to 'dilly dally a little.'"

But in the main the plan of giving school credit for home work stimulates habits of usefulness, encourages industry, affords opportunity to discover individual capabilities, and more closely ties together the home and the school.

Hadley Introduced Home Work Credits

Principal of Hawthorne Grammar Got Idea From Superintendent Alderman; System Has Gained Popularity.
E. J. Hadley, principal of Hawthorne school, was among the first to introduce here the plan of giving school credit for home work.

"I got the idea from Superintendent Alderman about two years ago when he was head of the state department of public instruction," said Principal Hadley.

"At first I went from room to room telling of the plan and there was an immediate and good response. The idea grew and increased in favor. Last year 218 of the boys and girls in Hawthorne school were given credit for work done at home."

"This credit isn't based on the doing of the things they ought to do. For instance, I do not believe a girl should be given credit for helping her mother wash the dishes. I think that is something she ought to do."

"But when a girl makes a dress or an apron, or bakes a cake or a loaf of bread or makes especially good candy, I she thinks she merits credit for school, especially if she is a little girl who is just learning to do these exceptions."

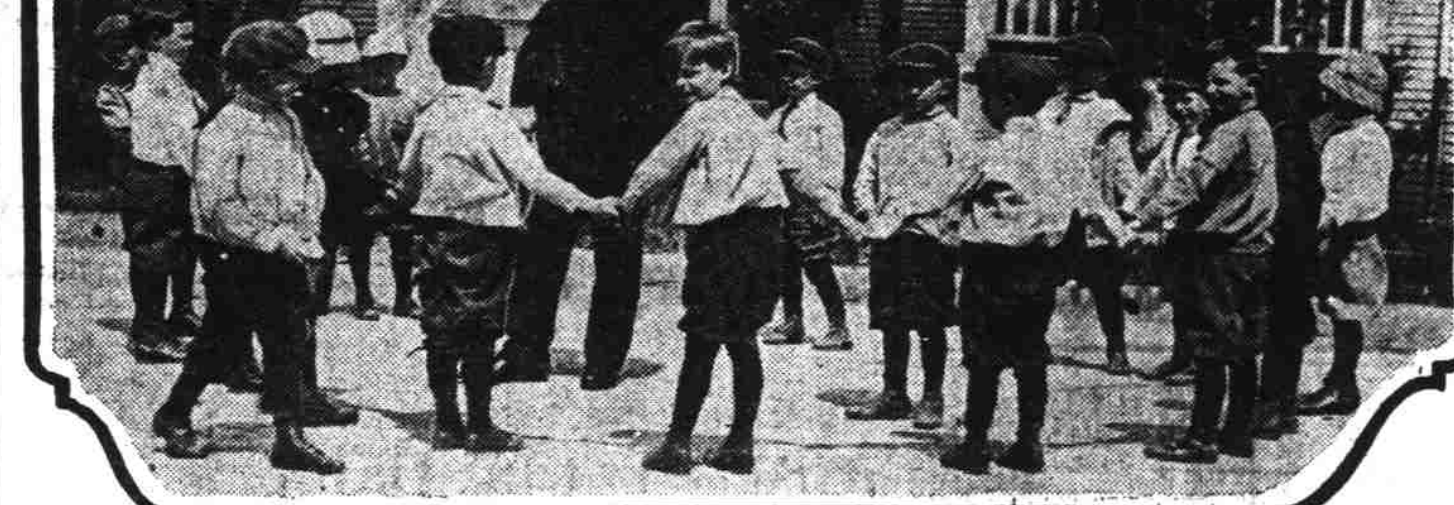
"In the same way I consider that a boy who cultivates a big fat garden, and who grows vegetables better than his parents, or a boy who makes a fine chair, is deserving of credit. I have had several boys bring me surprisingly good samples of crochet work."

"In fact, both boys and girls bring for my inspection samples of what they have done. The plan has most certainly increased interest among students in work at home."

China Planning to Reorganize Troops

Peking, China, May 23.—President Yuan Shih-kai has drafted a plan to reorganize the army on a national basis. The plan would enable the central government to force the provinces to send in tax money regularly, instead of spasmodically as at present. It would strengthen the central government tremendously and checkmate the present state's right tendencies.

Some minor business ventures are also recorded. One boy carried papers for three hours in a week, and spent half an hour collecting the pennies for the papers. Several girls claim credit for patient piano practice. One calls attention to 5 minutes each of five days in caring for birds. Many mow lawns and run errands, others



Top, left to right—A recess entanglement, Sunnyside school. Lorrin Andrews earns school credits gardening at home. A better grade for feeding the chickens. "Drop the handkerchief" among girls at recess, Sunnyside school, Principal Curtis in foreground. Center, left to right—Breadmaking, from an original text. Eleanor Bosserman gets credits for ironing, wearing dress and cap made by herself. Ray Relserson says mowing lawn for credit at school is fun. Bottom, left to right—Principal Curtis of Sunnyside school directs a recess game. Miss Abbie Wright, teacher of room 15, Sunnyside school, who was first to introduce there the plan of giving school credits for home work.

HIGH SCHOOL TECHS INVITE PARENTS AND FRIENDS TO BANQUET

Gathering at Jefferson Gave Opportunity to Demonstrate Quality of Work.

Members of the Jefferson High School Technical club recently called in their parents and friends to help them enjoy their first annual banquet. The gathering had educational importance. It gave opportunity to demonstrate for the benefit of school directors, the superintendent and assistant superintendent, to a visiting representative of the national department of education, the quality and amount of work done in the departments of woodworking, drawing, machinery and printing.

It was said that the work is being done not to turn out mechanics ready to hold salaried jobs, but to give every boy who desires a broad foundation of industrial training upon which he may build in accordance with his individual abilities by means of further and more specialized training. At the same time it was evident that boys who do masonry in this line is being given in any school.

President Has Envious Record.
The president of the Technical club of Jefferson high is Fendall Young. He has an enviable school record, starting when he was eight and now finishing his second year in high school at the age of 16, at the same time being prominent in school activities.

Mad Dog Recognized Friend.
Centralia, Wash., May 23.—Mad Dog, an Indian chief with the Sells-Flog and Buffalo Bill shows, and John Griner, a resident of Centralia, met for the first time in 35 years when the circus stopped in this city this week. Griner was watching the parade and was immediately recognized by the Indian, who made haste to hunt him up after the parade. Griner used to live in Dakota, while the Indian lived on a nearby reservation.

EDUCATIONAL PLANS OF PORTLAND ARE BECOMING FAMOUS

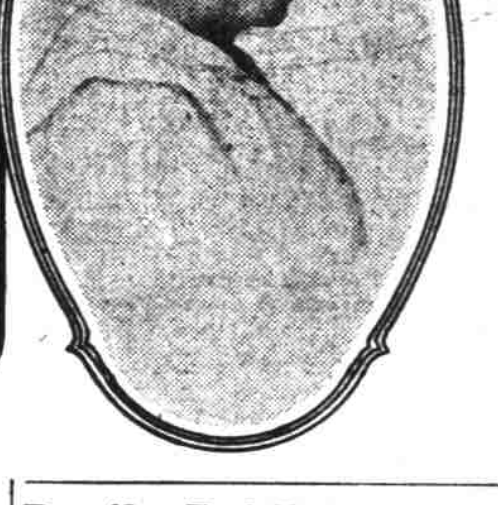
Boston Journal of Education Pays High Tribute to Conditions in This City.

Tribute to the work being done in Portland schools is editorially given in the Boston "Journal of Education," in a recent issue. Some of the comments as reproduced in the Portland School Bulletin follow:

"Portland, Oregon, bids fair to live up to the aspiration of the Board of Education, Superintendent L. R. Alderman, the teachers, the Parent-Teacher association and the citizens generally to make that the best city educationally in the country. It is an ambitious hope, but if left free to work out plans and realize ideals, Portland will give all the other cities a lively race for first place."

Suggestion Is Made.
There was general expression of conviction at the banquet that the department should have a building of its own. It is possible that action will be taken soon on a suggestion made at the banquet by Leon LaForge, head of the woodworking department. Mr. LaForge called attention to the fact that while there are comparatively few pattern makers and machinists' positions in Portland many were being trained for such positions, while on the other hand there are 100 greenhouses employing about eight times that number of people, yet no training in this line is being given in any school.

Art School Exhibit.
Beginning May 24 and continuing for eight days, an exhibit of work by students of the Art school will be made in the Art Museum near Taylor street. Classes in drawing are expected to especially be interested in the exhibit.



Pupils Publish Paper of Their Own

"School Room Herald" Name of the Issue Which Is Being Printed at the Sunnyside School.
Some time ago the publication of a "School Bulletin" was undertaken by the students in printing at Jefferson high school. Now room 15 of Sunnyside school has started a publication called the "School Room Herald" which is nearly as pretentious as its inspiration. Here are some of the news items:

"The pupils of room 15 are going to join the army, Miss Wright has taught them how to march."

"Jack and Lynn have not received the stilted they advertised for last week."

"The privilege of playing basketball will be taken away from anyone who is found throwing the basketball or the boys spelled against the girls. The boys won after a long struggle for supremacy on the part of Fred Beers and Ruth Powers. The boys outnumbered the girls by seven at the start and by one at the end."

Prizes Provided For Juvenile Fair
Competitors Must Be Residents of District or Enrolled in the School; Held at Orient School.
More than 100 first and second prizes have been provided for winners of competition in connection with a juvenile fair to be held at Orient school in the Pleasant Home district, September 11 and 12. Entries will be classified in accordance with the age of the entrants, class A being of children between 11 and 18 and class B of children less than 12 years. Competitors must be residents of the district or enrolled in the school. Industrial work, vegetables from gardens, canned fruits, needlework, break, cakes and flowers are among the articles which will be exhibited for prizes.

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Attendance Largest in Proportion to Its Size in M'Minville

SCHOOL CREDITS ARE ALLOWED FOR WORK DONE AT THE HOME
Supt. Alderman Tells How He Came to Originate Plan Adopted Here.

"Nine years ago when I was a school principal, I noticed that one of my rosiest cheeked, most vigorous appearing girls spent much time on the streets after school. One day Mary's mother was pointed out to me. She was a pale, nervous little woman with several children. Knowing that the family was not very well to do I felt myself burning with indignation at the circumstances in her home. I thought, 'What is the use of my teaching that what she most needs to be taught is that her mother is her best friend and needs her help?'"

"Our graduating class of 14 is by far the largest in the history of the school, 45 members."

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Group Meetings Prove a Success
Teachers of Number of Public Schools Meet and Speaking and Music Are Features of Day.
The success of the group meetings as inaugurated by Superintendent Alderman in the Portland schools was exemplified Wednesday afternoon by the teachers of Brookline, Llewellyn and Sellwood schools meeting at Brookline. The occasion was pleasurable both professionally and socially. Abbie addresses were given by Miss Dimick on the Cooley Webster grammar; by Miss Gray of Sellwood on Aldine's primary language, and a report of the home work record slips that have proved very popular in Sunnyside school by Miss Wright. The addresses were followed by songs from Miss Cornett and Miss Lake of Brookline school. Mrs. Allhands of Llewellyn acted as chairman. Refreshments were served.

Faculty Members Have Ball Fever
Contagion of the Diamond Gets Firm Hold on Teachers and Real Ball Game Is the Outcome.
Baseball is a contagion. It infects pedagogues and makes them attempt athletic stunts not warranted by their muscles or suggested by their training. A team of the principals' club met with a team of the Jefferson high school faculty last Tuesday. A good and enthusiastic audience of rosters was present. There were jotted equators and bruised palms and legs skinned by sliding bases and hearts that over thumped with exertion. The principals started authoritatively. Perhaps the faculty members were a little intimidated. For three innings they seemed to hold the game in the hollow of their mitts, so to speak. But after the third inning their wind seemed to fail and their enthusiasm to decrease. The principals pulled up nine runs but the faculty got 12. At the end of the seventh innings each side uttered the historic "enough."

By installing his hot water boiler in his bath room instead of his kitchen a Pennsylvania man keeps the former without additional expense.