

CAUSE FOR EXCHANGE OF SCHOOL BOOKS OF PORTLAND EXPLAINED

State Law Requires That the Textbooks Shall Be Adopted Every Six Years.

SMALLEST LIST IN YEARS

Superintendent Alderman Says Interest of Buyers Was Taken Into Consideration in Choice.

Why are school children required to buy new text books this year? What is the basis of exchange of old for new? What becomes of the old books? These and dozens of other questions are being asked by parents of the city...

List Smallest in Years.

Portland is the only city in Oregon with over 20,000 population, and so Portland has this year for the first time chosen its own books. The state board chose the text books for the state at large last year, but Portland, waiting for the new law to go into effect, did not adopt new books until 1914.

Price Is All Fixed.

The price of new books is also fixed by contract, which protects the city of Portland, as it assures that the text will always be sold at the lowest market price.

Every possible step has been taken to facilitate the process of getting new books. When your little boy entered the A class of the second grade early this week for instance, he was given a printed slip with the names of the books required.

The slip told the parent that the son must have a copy of Sloan's second book which would cost 33 cents, some water colors costing 20 cents, colored wax crayons 5 cents, and a writing book for 15 cents.

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This exchange system applies to all the grades and the high school. Under the state law publishers are required to maintain one book depository in each county, such depositories to keep stocks of their books. J. K. Gill & Co. are the general book depository for Portland.

53 Stores Selected. Manifestly it would be inconvenient and inexpedient for each of the 25,000 Portland school children to go to Gill's for their new books and so the depository has arranged that 53 stores located near schools in every part of the city shall handle the new books and accept old books in exchange.

These dealers are instructed that "second hand books taken in exchange should be complete books, that they could be used again if necessary."

This is the rule affecting old books for exchange, and presupposes a reasonable amount of wear and tear and all the pages intact. A book with a number of pages missing or torn and frayed and falling apart is not considered exchangeable.

Many children wonder what becomes of their old books, the old books they have studied from and marked in. These that can be sold in some other states are shipped away; those that are not saleable are burned.

For example, an arithmetic discarded by the state of Oregon might still be in use by the state of Missouri. When all the old arithmetics exchanged by Oregon pupils would be sent back to the publishers, and they would try to dispose of them in Missouri.

To Change in Relays. Sometimes it does not even pay to send them back. Last year a carload was sent from Portland east, the freight from which were not sufficient to pay the freight on the car. Where this is the case this year school books were kept in relays so as to distribute the expense. One year, for example, all the arithmetic and history textbooks would be changed; the next year the change would be made. The next year the change would be made.

Changes made between the second term and the first term of the last school year are estimated to have saved the parents of Portland school children \$100,000. For this present term the saving is estimated to be \$18,824.91, provided in both cases the books were changed.

Although the list of books for the high schools seems long it is explained by school officials that it includes a number of books which are changed.

Comparative cost of school books for February, 1913, and the present term, September, 1914. Am. saved. No. Pupils. 71.

1A - .85 80 .67 106.00 18.33 21,925.91

1B - 1.25 80 .15 222.22 109.97 21,925.91

2A - 1.15 105 .83 125.4 67.70 21,925.91

2B - 1.05 115 .20 118.1 67.80 21,925.91

3A - 1.45 105 1.43 131.6 68.93 21,925.91

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