

DIRECTOR LOCKWOOD DENIES ANY SERIOUS WASTE IN SUPPLIES

Reply in Detail to The Journal Is Undertaken by School Official.

SOME CHARGES ADMITTED

In Other Cases Effort Is Made to Minimize Importance of Transactions.

Director S. P. Lockwood, chairman of the supplies committee of the school board, does not believe there has been any serious mismanagement of waste in the handling of school supplies. However, he says in a letter to The Journal that he is glad that The Journal has been making investigations into school conditions. Some of the results of these investigations have been presented in articles already published.

"We are glad that a representative of your paper has been making personal investigations," writes Director Lockwood, to The Journal's editor, "and have been glad to run down the matters to which you alluded, attention, and will investigate any others which seem to be worthy of attention."

Lockwood undertakes to reply in detail to the various things pointed out by The Journal as indicating waste or mismanagement in the handling of school supplies. In a number of cases his explanations seem adequate. In others he lacks full information. In some instances he admits the allegations, but minimizes their importance.

Incident Is Minimized. He minimizes the incident of the principal of the Almsworth school protesting against being overstocked with domestic science supplies. He points out the small quantity of supplies he says had to be thrown out. The fact is that after one experience with too many supplies, the domestic science department of that school was again overstocked when a protest was made by the principal.

Because the school records fail to show that the double quantity of lubricating oil sent to one school without order and refused, was returned to the school storeroom, Mr. Lockwood assumes the allegation cannot be true. The Journal has the word of both the principal and janitor of the school that it is so, and if the oil was not returned to the school storeroom it only emphasizes the doubt raised by the janitor when he said he "disposed of the oil was taken back to the storeroom."

Speaking of the duplication of an order for Dutch cleanser, Mr. Lockwood says "an additional check has been placed on supply orders, so that duplications cannot occur in the future." This is evidence that heretofore there has not been an adequate safeguard against duplications and consequent waste.

Mr. Lockwood admits the large supply of unrulled tablet paper, which he says has now been on hand for over two years and which "became unpopular," necessitating the purchase of ruled paper while the supply of unrulled paper is still on hand. He says the paper will all be used in the course of time.

Admits Sashes Were Sold. The Journal's statement relating to the over-supply of dumb bells did not refer to Lincoln school, but applies to one of the old established schools. Referring to the supplies sold Nick Spady, Director Lockwood admits that window sashes which he says he sold can be found on the clerk's books of the money being turned into the school district. He says Purchasing Agent Douglass states the amount was about \$4. Spady says the amount was \$21. The record shows \$2.50 was turned in from the sale of hinges. Spady says he paid \$2.90 for them.

The Bankin property adjoining the Brooklyn school, which was desired by the board, was formally listed by the school clerk in the preliminary budget at \$5000. The owner, who was within easy telephone call, was asking \$5250, and the assessed valuation was \$1375.

Loss Was Slight. In his letter, Director Lockwood says the principal of the Almsworth school reports there were five pounds of peanuts spoiled and a portion of a sack of potatoes. "There were left over at the close of schools last June," he says. "The peanuts cost 7 cents per pound and the potatoes 85 cents per sack. As near as we can ascertain, however, about a quarter of a sack of potatoes was thrown out. The loss of these items aggregated a total value of about 50 cents, and I feel that the loss of these items can be found of perishable goods which are used in a large number of schools. I feel it should be a matter for congratulation."

Speaking of the oil, Mr. Lockwood says: "A further paragraph reports that a double quantity of oil for lubricating was sent to one school without order, and that same was refused. A careful search of the record fails to reveal any evidence of fact in regard to this contention, and the records are so kept that had this happened, the records would show it."

Explaining the duplication in the order for Dutch cleanser, he says it occurred at the Ladd school and that one order was for the domestic science department and the other two for the janitor. He says the duplication of the janitor's order occurred through the janitor asking his principal and also the superintendent of properties for the cleanser and both put in an order for him.

Additional Check Provided. He concludes the explanation by saying: "An additional check has been placed on supply orders, so that duplications cannot occur in the future." His explanation of the action of the janitor in distributing to certain schools a high priced cleaning compound was that tests are being made of various kinds of cleansers with a view of standardizing the supply.

Continuing, his letter says: "Comment is made on unrulled paper. There are on hand at this date 45,205 pads in the storeroom out of two carloads purchased over two years ago when the school district decided to dispense with slates in the schools and substitute paper for the use of children. These pads cost \$0.016 1-3 each. Paper was very low at that time, and has advanced since. This was primarily for the use of the first three grades, but the drawing teacher has been using some since. "After this paper was in use for some time, it became unpopular, as ruled paper was preferred. Fifteen thousand pads of ruled paper were ordered and consumed before the end of the year, and thereafter unrulled paper was supplied for a time. Later 1000 pads were sent to the printing department of the Jefferson high school to be ruled. The presses were so busy that only about 200 pads were ruled in two months, whereupon the remaining 800 pads were sent to the storeroom, and a supply of ruled tablets purchased at less cost than it would cost to do the ruling alone at the Jefferson press. Later, when work slackened up at the Jefferson high press, an additional supply of unrulled tablets were sent there to be ruled for the educational use of the boys in learning to write. These tablets were ruled according to the plan of the boys' learning to write. The stock of paper on hand will all be used in due course.

There may be some justification of the criticism that there is an excessive supply of drawing paper and other materials in some of the schools. This is a matter which will have to be attended to which you allude to, however, as they are not perishable.

Sawdust Purchase Explained.

"Under date of January 6, The Journal referred to some sawdust at the Jefferson high school. It would seem that the boys at this school had been buying sawdust for the athletic field at \$1 per load. As a matter of fact it was not sawdust but fine shavings from a planing mill. The mill from which it was obtained was close to the Jefferson athletic field, which made the product cheap. The chairman of the grounds committee had the superintendent of properties give an order under date of September 13, last, for 25 loads of this material to be obtained at the same mill, and to be used on the Jefferson athletic field. One load was delivered by the mill, after which no more could be obtained from that source as they had no more on hand and had no work which would produce these shavings, and referred the superintendent of grounds to the Holman Fuel company, whereupon the purchasing agent (not shavings) from the Holman Fuel company at \$2.75 per load. These loads were more than twice the size of the loads delivered at \$1 by the Williams Avenue Planing mill, and the 10 loads did what the 25 smaller loads were expected to do. The price is the same as that paid by the city for the same material in its fire and park departments, considering the haul—the city buying from the same firm. The delivery of a load of sawdust to the Hudson school for \$4 is correct, and is the standard price for hauling into that district, as paid by the city. Principal Jenkins of the Jefferson high school states that the sawdust furnished by the school district is much superior to the shavings the boys had been getting.

Discarded Supplies Sold. From time to time the school district finds itself in possession of discarded material of no value to the district, and which it sells to the best possible advantage. A discharged employee of the district, who in court pleaded guilty to having appropriated to his own use some school property, alleges that he purchased some hinges for \$2.50 from the purchasing agent of the district. These were hinges which the district had no further use for as they were old style and off size. \$2.50 was received, as shown by the clerk's cash book. He also alleges that he purchased some windows. These were small sashes taken out of the old portable school houses, of very little value and difficult to dispose of. The purchasing agent states he sold them at 15 or 20 cents per sash, which at most would come to about \$4. This money the purchasing agent states he paid to the former cashier in the clerk's office. An entry of this \$4 has not yet been found in the cash accounts, but inquiry will be made of the former cashier and a further investigation made.

Gave Courtesy to Employe. The article states that this same discharged employee received from the school purchasing agent requisitions for paints, tile, etc. for the personal use of this former employe. The purchasing agent never used a school requisition for this purpose but he did say to the wholesaler that he wanted this man wanted to secure some goods that he was connected with the school district and would like to get some material at low prices as possible. These wholesaler houses as a courtesy permitted this man to have wholesale rates. As before stated the purchases were not made on school requisitions, and further the accounts were not paid by school funds. It was simply a case where the purchasing agent introduced a fellow employe, and on the strength of that introduced employe was able to buy for his own account at wholesale rates.

"Some comment is made on the fact that a price of \$1000 is mentioned in connection with a piece of property which the board might want to purchase near the Brooklyn school. This was at the time the budget was being made up, and the question was asked as to how much that property could be obtained for. The school clerk stated he felt reasonably sure it could be secured for \$1000. The board decided not to do anything with that piece of property at this time, and it was not put in the budget. Therefore, it was eliminated and no further attention paid to it. Had the board decided to purchase, an investigation or an option would have been secured to get the exact price.

Buy Potatoes Brought Profit. Your columns have made reference to the fact that there was an over-supply of potatoes in the storeroom, and also the statement that this over-supply was disposed of at a price under the market. At the beginning of the school year when the requisition for supplies for the domestic science department for the year came in, the school clerk's office was very busy—making it necessary to have some additional clerical help. One of the extra clerks made a clerical error in tabulating the supplies of potatoes required at the different schools, and about 50 sacks more than were required were ordered. The error was discovered. The potatoes cost 90 cents per sack and were sold at \$1 per sack, which was the prevailing market price at that time. The sales were as follows:

Janitor at the old Josiah Falling school, 3 sacks; storekeeper, 1 sack; purchasing agent, 1 sack. The remaining potatoes were sold to a cafeteria connected with the Lincoln high school. These last were most of them left at the storeroom to be delivered from time to time as required. These potatoes all were, or all will be delivered by the school truck in accordance with practice concerning the delivery of things sold by the district. "I am absolutely informed that the allegation of shavings from the school storeroom to the homes of the officers of the school district is not correct.

"During the last six months upwards of \$45,000 worth of supplies and material passed through the school district storeroom to the various schools. Few people other than those connected with the schools realize the magnitude of the school work and its various ramifications."

He explained the apparent partiality in furnishing certain schools volley balls and other equipment for games by saying these supplies were required at the schools having the two group plans which provides a period for directed play.

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1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Warm Waists \$2.98 Regularly \$4.50-\$6.50 —Crepé de chine in navy, black, blue, brown, black and pretty striped effects. Also a few striped wool challies. —Fourth Floor, Central

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Children's Lined Gloves 59c Pair Regularly 75c and \$1 —Fleece-lined and fur-lined kid gloves and mittens, tugs, grays, reds, browns, six different styles. Sizes 4 to 12 years. Main Floor, Fifth Street

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MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES Lovely Silk Petticoats Friday at \$3.95 Our Prettiest \$6 and \$6.50 Grades —The petticoat illustrated with gracefully scalloped bottom, finished by two full, narrow ruffles, is of soft taffeta in all the leading shades, many in changeable effect. —Another model has fluted flounce, with plain underlay. This, too, in all the popular shades. —Gathered to elastic waistband. —Skirts ordinarily \$6 and \$6.50—Friday Surprise \$3.95. —Third Floor, Sixth Street

MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES 50 Women's Smart Velvet Hats at \$1.00 The Prettiest \$3 to \$5 Kinds. —The illustration gives you an idea of one style—a black velvet sailor with band of corded ribbon and white leather tassel. —There are 49 others in different styles—equally smart. —Some large, some small and others medium. —A wonderful Friday Surprise at \$1 each. —Fourth Floor, Sixth Street

MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES Misses' and Women's Storm Coats At \$7.85 Selling from \$10 to \$15 —We're right in the midst of coat weather—and here's a dandy, good Friday Surprise special from the Apparel Store— —Just 75 in the lot—and every one a bargain! —Storm coats in zibeline, serge, broadcloth and tweed, black, navy, brown, green, Copen, and fancy mixtures. —Many full lengths and others three-quarters. —Friday Surprise at \$7.85. —Fourth Floor, Fifth Street

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MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES Men's Ulster Overcoats \$25 Grades \$14.85 Only —Double-breasted, 50-inch, all-wool Overcoats—as illustrated. —Convertible collars with satin yoke and sleeve lining, all seams satin piped. Belted backs. Smart blues and browns. —2 size 35, 2 size 36, 2 size 37, 4 size 38, 12 size 39, 6 size 40, 5 size 42. —Third Floor, Fifth Street

MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES Hosiery and Underwear Women's "Harvard Mills" Vests 35c for 50c and 75c Grades —Medium-weight cotton, high neck, long sleeves, sizes 6 to 8. Children's Fleece Vests and Pants 21c for 35c and 40c Kinds —Large sizes only—6 to 8. Good grade fleeced garments. Women's "Wayne Knit" Cotton Hose 23c for 35c Grades—3 for 65c —Fast black only, medium and heavy weights, hemmed and ribbed tops. All sizes. —Main Floor, Sixth Street

MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES White Pleated Shirts 65c —You can't remember ever having seen white pleated shirts at this price before! They sell regularly everywhere at \$1. You know what a fine "dressy" appearance a white pleated shirt gives a man—it's always good style. Your choice of medium or narrow pleats. All sizes, too. Friday only 65c.

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Bath Towels Ea. 12 1/2c Good 25c Qualities Initiated bath towels, not all letters in the lot, reduced for Friday Surprise to, each 12 1/2c. —Second Floor, Fifth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE White Crepe Yd. 12 1/2c Reg. 25c-35c Yard —A small lot of soft white crepe and pretty dimity. —For blouses, aprons and infants' wear. —Second Floor, Fifth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Linoleum Square Yard, 33c —Good grade of print linoleum. Square Yard, 45c —Extra quality print linoleum. —Seventh Floor, Fifth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Walrus Bags \$5.75 Regularly \$7.50 to \$9 —25 fine walrus, cowhide and goatskin traveling bags. —Leather lined throughout—excellent values. —Basement, Sixth Street

MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES Men's \$2.50, \$3.50 Sweater Coats Friday at \$1.79 —Warm, serviceable sweater coats—the kind that are absolutely necessary these cold days! —Ruffneck, V-shaped neck and Byron collar styles. Full line of navy and cardinal, broken line white. —Main Floor, Morrison Street.

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Calendars Half Price —A clean sweep of calendars of all descriptions. —Gift Books, including \$1.50 novels—one table at 25c. —Over 1500 volumes for boys and girls—Friday at 15c. —Standard Sets and Toy Books \$1. —Basement Balcony

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Antique Gold Frames 49c Regular 85c to \$1 —Hand-modeled ornamental frames, antique gold finish. Sizes \$37 to \$810. Limited quantity. Pictures fitted free. —Fifth Floor, Fifth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE These Dining Chairs 95c Regularly \$1.50 —Golden finished maple chairs, with cane or cobbler seat. Note illustration—attractive shape. —Eighth Floor.

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Cotton Blankets 65c Regularly 90c —Good blankets, slightly soiled from display and handling. —White with blue and pink borders. —Second Floor, Fifth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Stationery Box 44c Regularly 75c —M. & F. Special—50 sheets paper, 25 correspondence cards, 75 envelopes. Good linen paper. —Main Floor, Sixth Street

1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE Odd Pairs Curtains 59c for \$1.35 to \$2 Curtains \$1.33 for \$2.75-\$3.75 Kinds —Wide assortment of patterns. Only one pair of each kind. —15c Scrim, Yard 9c. —Good, firm weave, plain ecru scrim. Very special, 9c. —Seventh Floor, Sixth Street

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MEIER & FRANK'S 1353D FRIDAY SURPRISE SALES German China Salad Bowls 59c 75c and 85c Regularly —Several different designs to choose from—all desirable. Very good grade of German china. Large sizes. —Basement, Fifth Street

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