

SCHOOLS FAIL TO REACH HIGH IDEAL, STATES SPEAKER

Coos Bay System Scored; Lack of Dignity Complained of; Leading Educators Offer Remedies.

The Coos Bay public schools are worse than no schools at all, because of the inefficiency of the teachers. There is a deplorable lack of dignity among the grade teachers and their methods are questionable.

This was the verbal bomb thrown by Mrs. C. F. Armstrong, herself a former teacher, into the gathering of educators, taxpayers, business men, farmers, mothers and legislators, who assembled Saturday at the first regional conference of Oregon and Washington to talk over matters pertaining to education with F. F. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, from Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Armstrong indicated that her criticism of school teachers in Coos Bay might well apply to other localities. "The trouble lies in the ideal of education," she declared. "My little girl came home crying because the teacher took 10 percent off all her grades because the child had forgotten to take off her apron. Is that what our normal schools are teaching?"

TEACHERS ARE SCORED

This speaker declared that university graduates are denied the right to teach in the primary grades, while high school girls with only a few weeks of training are sent to teaching in the elementary schools. She also had some vigorous verbal raps for the high school teachers, declaring that they are teaching the students to become mentally lazy.

The inefficiency of teachers, inadequacy of salaries and lowering of teaching morals were themes for discussion, and at times the conference waxed exceedingly warm. Mrs. Armstrong's statements provoked spirited comment and discussion.

N. D. Showalter, president of the Cheney state normal school in Washington, stated that 3800 teachers in that state depended upon examination each year for certificates to teach and that 31 per cent of the high school teachers had inadequate training.

He declared that rural schools were clamoring for trained teachers, yet the rural communities would send no one to be trained, or furnish suitable living places for their teachers. He said that

FLASHES FROM JOURNAL WIRES

WASHINGTON.—(I. N. S.)—Legislation to enforce the prohibition amendment in the Philippines will be introduced in the senate when congress convenes next week, by Senator Jones of Washington, the senator today announced.

CHESTER, Pa.—(I. N. S.)—Governor of 22 states, including Vice President-elect Calvin Coolidge, Saturday witnessed the exercises attending the presentation to this city of the city hall by Governor Sprout of Pennsylvania, at whose expense it was restored to its colonial splendor, and is his gift to his home city.

NEW YORK.—(I. N. S.)—Republicans, who will control the 1921 state legislature, will make no effort to unseat the three Socialists who were elected to that body.

PORT WORTH.—(I. N. S.)—Mayor H. W. Elliott of Desdemona will be tried December 10 on the charge that he permitted a gambling house to operate.

PARIS.—(I. N. S.)—The allies have decided to revise the Turkish treaty as a result of the collapse of the Venizelos government in Greece, L'intransigeant announced Saturday.

PARIS.—(I. N. S.)—Mustapha Kemal Pasha, leader of the Turkish nationalists, is massing over 40,000 troops for an offensive against the Greeks in Smyrna.

SAN ANTONIO.—(I. N. S.)—President Obregon has received a wireless message of congratulation from President-elect Harding, according to an official statement of the Mexican consulate here Saturday.

some teachers belittled their profession until they could get no one to take up teaching.

SUGGESTIONS ARE MADE

Dignify the profession, remove the discrimination against married women and let those who taught before marriage be welcomed back when their children are of sufficient age; grant subsidies for the training of rural teachers—these were solutions offered by Showalter.

It was brought out that Oregon needs 1500 new teachers a year and Washington 1200.

Claxton said now only the mediocre individual would take up teaching; that formerly very young persons taught while waiting until they were old enough to do something else. Fine men and women untrained who had native ability and optimism, but that these now spent more years in specialized training for

COAL GATE, Okla.—(I. N. S.)—State Bank Commissioner Fred K. Dennis of Oklahoma is at liberty under \$12,000 bail following arraignment before a federal commissioner on charges of permitting a defunct bank to "operate" and "suppress" forcibles of its president.

FAYETTE CITY, Pa.—(I. N. S.)—A reign of terror exists in many districts of Fayette, Westmoreland and Washington counties. Firebugs are running amuck, and many schoolhouses, barns, houses, stores and other buildings have been mysteriously burned.

SEATTLE.—(U. P.)—Attempts to lift the steamship Prince Rupert, which was wrecked last September in Swanson bay, will be made next week, according to Captain C. H. Nicholson, manager of the "Grand Trunk Steamship company of Vancouver, B. C. The Prince Rupert has been submerged in shallow water near the uncharted rock on which she struck.

SEATTLE.—(U. P.)—Bearing Christmas greetings and good wishes for the new year, a box of chocolates, later found to contain a large quantity of small striching tablets imbedded in some of the pieces, was received through the mail Friday by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McCouch at their home in West Seattle. The candy was turned over to the police.

NEW YORK.—(U. P.)—John Reidy, 24, Milwaukee, Wis., confessed, according to police here, that he killed Lee Vaughn Waters in a New York hotel the morning of November 3. Waters attempted some familiarities, he said, and in the scuffle which followed the sailor struck his roommate with a cane.

occupations they intended to take up. "We must either get the mediocre teacher or pay the price," he said. "The country spends \$200,000,000 more for cigarettes than for teachers' salaries."

ACKERMAN SPEAKS

J. H. Ackerman, president of the Oregon normal school, said that 50 per cent of his juniors and seniors are now teaching without completing their course. "There is no distinction between trained and untrained teachers," he said.

"I believe no person should draw one cent from the public treasury until he has been trained for his work."

Miss Agnes Wynne, president of the Seattle Grade Teachers' club, declared there was as much professional spirit among the grade teachers as any other group in Seattle. She explained the Seattle campaign for school betterment as having three planks—increased co-

operation within the corps, with the community and with the nation. A "Know Our Schools club" was former, composed of business and professional men, who visited the schools and reported their findings to the educational committee, she said.

SALARIES NOT ALL

A. G. Smith, city superintendent of Medford, said that salaries would not bring good teachers, but that conditions must be changed—the attitude of the children in the school, the position of the teacher in the community, business connections. Smith even recommended the teacher should be made a reference banker.

Thomas Gentes, a former of Monmouth, urged that teachers be trained at public expense. The conference voted that after 1923 teachers should have at least one year of training after high school; that after 1923 they should have two years, and that rural children should have as good school opportunity as these in the city. Suggested remedies for the inefficient rural teacher were better salaries, better living conditions and a place of influence in the community. Claxton said there should be permanence of position with a house and garden plot supplied.

SINGLE TAX URGED

Financial means for better salaries arose. A representative of the Oregon Federation of Labor wanted single tax; Albert S. Roberts, farmer of The Dalles, said it should be income tax; Reuben Jones of Seattle suggested wiping away useless exemptions and also fixing a head tax.

The conference closed with a night session at Lincoln high school. About 250 persons attended the conference, of which nearly 50 were from Washington.

"There is no other problem in this country today except the problem of our children," declared Commissioner Claxton, in his address before the Oregon Civic league Saturday on "Young America." He took the far-reaching view that the men and women, the voters and the workers of today will be here for such a short period that constructive thought has to do only with the children, potential fathers and mothers and grandparents of the future.

"China, France and Russia are looking to us not only for teachers, but for people to actually lead in the development of their countries," he said. "Every child should be given the free and full opportunity to develop to the fullest, that this country become worthy to lead the nations of the world."

Commissioner Claxton was introduced by Edgar B. Piper, editor of the Oregonian, who called attention to Oregon's wonderful response to educational appeals.

Charles F. DeForest, director of the modern health crusade of the National Tuberculosis association, was a guest at the league and spoke briefly on "Health Education." Judge John H. Stevenson presented the campaign of the Plague Home for Old People.

Judge Jacob Kanler, chairman of the nomination committee, announced the following nominees, who will be voted

on at the annual meeting, to be held next Saturday: President, A. C. Newell; directors, Judge John H. Stevenson, Miss Grace Ames, Arthur M. Churchill, H. M. Caley, Mrs. C. B. Cady, Miss Henrietta H. Failing.

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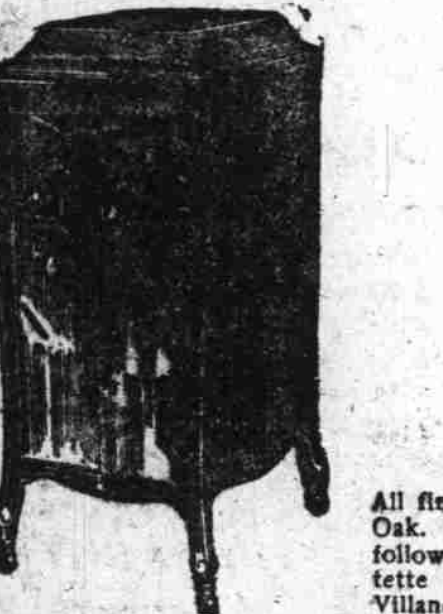
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