An Address Delivered Before the Oregon State Teachers' Institute, August 22, 1878,

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ter Judge after hearing what I have to say.

make the best use of what we have, instead of them in till in May. growling about what we have not and what we ought to have. It is an easy thing tocomplain fairs, it seems very plain that we are in need -anybody can do that but it requires much industry and some intelligence to meet things We are not advancing in our school work as as they are and make the best of them.

What we need now, more than additional law, in my humble opinion, are conscientious, industrious and efficient teachers and school officers. If the laws we have were faithfully executed, the schools of Oregon would be in a much better condition than they are at present. The County Superintendents and the State Superintendent would not have to guess at the condition of the schools, or make fictitious approximations, as they are now compelled to do. Nearly every County Superintendent in Oregon complains of deficient clerks' and teachers' reports, and excuses his own contemptible efforts on that ground. My opinion is that most of those officers could do better if they would exercise themselves and had the real interest of public education at heart. Too many of them, and also of the teachers, are afraid they will do something they are not largely paid for. I believe, in most cases, district clerks and teachers make better reports than they are given credit for. I have good reasons for saying this, for it is a fact that many teachers make reports which never see the light after falling into their hands. It is considerable trouble to examine carefully the reports of thirty or seventy-five olerks and teachers, and give a correct abstract of their contents. The salary paid most County Superintendents is not sufficient to warrant their leaving any other business long enough to do the work necessary to prepare an accurate annual report. As a result, many of the County Superintendents shirk the hard work, and inand teachers' reports are so poor they can deno better. Clerks and teachers are aften not supplied with blanks. They often do not look to this business until they need the blanks, and then do not have time to procure them. Many County Superintendents even send up scrawls and scraps to the State office that are a shame to a school boy, and call them reports. They say, "I did not have a blank," but generally neglect to add, "I did not try to get one." Enough of these blanks are sent annually to supply every office a half dozen years, but when they are needed they cannot be found.

The principal objection I find to the school law is the lack of penalties for its violation. But, in all candor, I would be glad to know what good penalties will do if we have not officers who will use them when occasion requires! A penalty for violation of law may be as terrifying as the presence of a roused lion, but what will it effect if the culprit be not made to feel its power? Murder would be no uncommon thing if murderers were not banged. Robbery would be the order of the day if robhere were allowed to go unpunished.

Certain duties are required of teachers, but no provisions are made for cases of neglect. Perhaps the law presumes that school teachers will not neglect duty. If so, the presumption in too many instances is errone us. It is very common for teachers to finish a term of school, draw their pay, and after they have arrived in Portland, San Francisco, or some other place, send back a meagre report, or forget to send any at all. They do this in the face of the fact the law expressly requires a report to district clerks and County Superintendents. School directors may be fined the enormous sum of ten deltars and their office declared vacant if they neglect their duty. Now that is a fearful penalty! Enough to strike terror to the very soul of every unfortunate man who holds that responsible office: but who on earth ever heard of its being done? Have school directors always faithfully performed their duty? The district clerk is required to give a bond for the faithful performance of their duty. If he fails to perform all the duties required of him he shall forfeit the percentage allowed him, and suffer the enforcement of his bonds. I have never heard of but one School clerk in Oregon whose bonds was enforced, if any more have suffered that terrible penalty, it has not been made very pubhe, or perhaps all the rest have done their duty. If they have, what are those county Superinten d into going to do who have complained so much of impe feet clerks reports? The County Superu tende it is liable to a fine of one hundred dol-lars if he does not perform all the duties re-

Mr. President-Ladies and Gentlemen: The of his affairs, and the law does not require the he drifts helplessly along, unable to answer a posed of, the Governor as president, the State Executive Committee, in casting about for State Superintendent to look after it. Further collateral question or solve a doubt, or open a Superintendent as secretary, the president of some one to treat this subject, selected me to the law requires lim to report to the State single window through which the light of the the State University, the County Superintenperform that work. I consented to do it, and Superintendent within a certain time and if he outer world may pour in upon the subject at dents of four of the most populous counties in whether it is well or pourly foce you will bet fail to do it, the State Superintendent shall not hand. If it not trong to call this teaching?" the State, and two current professional teachthy the County Judge and the County Court . Private examinations about the probabilities, ers, The two teachers should be elected acoust may declare the clace vacant. Yet the law Superintendents should be paid a respectable stry by the other members of the Beard. The and upon it, and much will configur to be said does not specify wint that report shall be on solary, and not be allowed perquis ton for exam- State Superintentendent and the two teachers as long as school touchers who come into a should constitute the State Board of Examinain Oregon, a teacher falls to do I'm dair, he sendent finds is very difficult to make any county and can secure a school between exami- tion. blames the school law. School clarks curse the specific charges against him. But the law is nations the Superintendent should have power the school law because they to not make their respecific regarding the time. Within ten days to grant temperary certificates until the next power temperary certi quently arraign the school law when they are and here let me say that it is difficult for Super | Private examinations should be prohibited. Board. It should be made the duty of the called upon to do anything pertaining to school intendents to get their reports to the State office | Superintendents should be paid a respectable members to attend all meetings of that body, work, and, as a consequence, the State Super- within ten days after the required time. It is salary and not be allowed perquisites for exam- and every case of absence should be heavily intendent must blame the school law for not more frequently five times ten days before they joing teachers privately. In cases of teachers fixed. The mileage and per diem should be receiving complete and correct reports from arrive. Why? Because the roads the first of who have come into a county and can secure fixed by law and paid out of the general fund. those who are never ceasing in their wails April are in many places in Oregon, impossable. a school between examinations, the Seperin- An appropriation should be made to meet the about the school law. "Where there is so The extreme northern counties, and Josephine tendent should have power to grant temporary expenses of an annual State Teachers Institute; much smoke there must be some fire." I am Coos and Lake counties cannot get their mail of the opinion, however, that it is mostly smoke. Through to the Capital in ten days. This The fire may be pretty low, but, my friends, fact has a tendency to make Superintendents in much can be accomplished with a small amount | those counties careless. They are apt to post- port to the Superintendent before drawing any mal school is established and are appropriation of fire, if it be judiciously used. Too much pone their work from day to day, and they law, like too much fire and a little learning, is may, without much fear of detection date their distributed among the district, but should re- A County Teachers' Institute should be held a dangerous thing. We should, in all cases, reports back to the first of April and not send main in the treasury and be paid out as occe- annually in each county, and the county should

By considering the condition of our school af of improvement. Something needs to be done. make suggestions and advise changes and improvements, but it is quite another affair to secure them. It is no doubt fortunate for all conserned that laws are not easily made nor changed. would indeed pity a community that had to be governed by laws made and davised to sait very whim of man and woman. There never was a person subjected to law, that was entirely satisfied with it. It is human nature to consider individual interests before those of a commonwealth, and as long as laws are made to best suit the majority, individuals will find cause for complaints.

When a measure has been thoroughly tested and found impractable it should be modified. If we have thoroughly tested our school laws and found them inadequate the Legislature should be called upon to make the needed proindicate what releval legislation is needed; for the teachers in them. But in stating these directors employ teachers and desire to pay wants we should lay seide all individual inter- them for services, they should instruct the ests and think only of the good of the masses to clerk to draw an order in favor of the teacher be effected.

I shall call your attention to a few points next legislature.

First the examination of the teachers. The aid two or more competent assistants, but makes no provisions for paying them for their services nor reimbursing them what they pay out as expenses, as a consequence not one time in twenty the "competent assistance" put in an appearance. No plan of conducting the examination is provided nor even suggested. Every County Superintendent has a plan peculiarly his own. Some make the examinations easy, others diffi. cult as the case presents itself. They are at liberty to do as they please about it. Two grades of certificates are issued No. 1, and No.

2. The law says: "If the applicant pass an examination so satisfactory to the Superintendent as to justify to set the figure I opposite all the branches named in the foregoing certificate. The certificate shall be good for two years: but if the Superintendent rate the applicant No. 2. the certificate shall be good for six months."

This, you will readily see, is very indefinite. What one Superintendent would rate No. 1, another might deem a very poor No. 2, and vice versa. Applicants find no trouble in passing examinations on such easy conditions. They secure certificates No. 1, on No. 2, and go out into the country, and indeed into some of the towns, and often what they teach children must must be unlearned, at the expense of much time and money before said ohildren can ad- duty. And before County Superintendents vance with any benefit to themselves. The law should be explicit on this point. The State Board should issue quarterly, as now, a certain number of questions and the law should state ports according to law. exactly what per cent, of these questions applicants must answer before they can obtain certilicates. The County Board of examination. those competent assistants, should criticize the papers and recommend to the Superintendent those who have met the requirements of the law and are entitled to certificates. The County Board of Examination should be paid for their services out of the general county funds the same as jurors and other servants of the people. The members of this Board should be required that they have been correctly kept; and before to sign all certificates, and this part of his duty should be taken entirely away from the Superintendent. The law should be unequivocal and officers should be required to fulfillit to the letter. The list of studies in which persons should be examined for teachers' certificates should be examined and the standard of proficiency raised. For instance: In addition to what is now required. School law Constitution of the United States, Physiology and Mental Philosophy vided by law, into at least three grades. Three should be required for a certificate of any grade and any applicant who falls below seventy per cent, in arithmetic, written and mental, and and grammar should not be granted a certificate to teach. "How often does the young man

SCHOOL LAW AND SCHOOL REPORTS | quired of him, and the County Court shall who has but a dim perception of the simplest to teach a first grade school. The law should bring suit against him to recover the same if he rudiments of a subject, dare to offer himself as positively probibit, and at present the State fails to pay it within sixty days after said fine an instructor therein! How crude and scanty, Board should specially rule, that no second or is assessed. This sounds as though he might and circumscribed and shallow are the resources third grade certificate should be renewed withbe made to do his duty if we had County Clerks of many who presume to take the honored out examination. All those persons who are with backbone enough to execute the law, But name of teacher? How speedily are those re- contented with second or third grade certificates who is to know whether or not the County sources exhausted and the wretched man left should be excluded from the school room as Superintendent fails to do his duty? The in painful impotency in the presence of his teachers as soon as possible. County Court never examines into the condition eager pupils! Confined to the words of the book, The State Board of Education should be com-

Superintendent. on the County Superintendent for the amount, who after examining reports and register, and

on the treasurer. This is the best way I see under the present anywhere unless the fare is reduced and the law provides for quarterly examinations and re- circumstances to secure complete and correct board is half price. Business men have come quires County Superintendents to call to their reports from teachers. The County Superin. to know that when school teachers deal with tendent of Tillamook save if to report to the district clerks and County Superintendent, their certificates should be revoked profits from their miserable pittance. Can we for one year. That is a very good suggestion, and I think it would be the best thing the State Board of Education could do, to make a pendence, culture, accomplishments, and rerule authorizing County Superintendents to revoke the certificates of all teachers who do not report to the clerk or Superintendent, and another rule requiring teachers to notify the Superintendent when and where they begin their schools. County Superintendents do not the teaching force. If these institutes, State know where schools are in session in the county and District, ever do much good, the State unless he finds it out from some person living Superintendent must be enabled to employ in the district. He should have official knowledge of every school in the county, when it begins, when it closes, salary of teacher, grade of certificate, and number of pupils. This information should, within one week after opening school, be sent to the Superintendent by the teacher.

If district clerks do not make full and correct reports, their districts should not be allow ed their State and county funds. Be assured if this were the case, these officers would do their duty. The State Superintendent and County Superintendents should be required to give sufficient bonds for a faithful performance of could draw their salary, the County Treasurer should be in possession of a certificate from the State Superintendent that he has made his re-

Forms for teachers' record books, or registers, should be provided by the State and before the teachers could receive pay for their work, these ooks should be sut mitted to the County Superintendent for examination. Forms of district clerks' books should also be provided by the State, and when County Superintendents make their periodical visite through the county inspecting schools, they should be required to examine these books and certify in their pages the County Superintendent can draw his salary directors' certificates should be presented by him, that he has examined the books of the district clerk and certified that they have been correctly kept. If these books have not been correctly bpt the district should forfeit its

county and State money for the ensuing year The schools of the county should be graded by the Superintendent according to a plan progrades of certificates should be granted teachers, good for one, two and three years; and no one holding a 3d grade certificate should be allowed to teach a let or 2d grade school; and no one holding a 2d grade certificate should be allowed

certificates until the next regular examination, and for employing competent lecturers and To secure correct teachers' reports, the law teachers to conduct it. District Teachers' Inshould require every teacher to present his re- stitutes should be continued until a State Norsalary. Hence, no school money should be made to pay the expenses and hire instructors. sions require, on the warrant of the County meet the expenses of it. All teachers employed in the county should be compelled to attend, District Clerks should not be allowed to han- and if teaching at the time their pay should die the State nor county funds. These officers continue; and those who do not attend should do not generally know what a correct teacher's forfeit their certificates. Teachers generally fast as we ought. Some alterations in the school report is, because they do not have much occa- attend institutes to get new ideas on teaching; law, are desireable. It is an easy matter to sion for studying them. They are not very they do not go to teach. Few of the leading much interested in that detail which is found, educators of Oregon will do anything at these or ought to be found, in a document of that Institutes. They have no time, and some of nature. The County Superintendent is inter-them no inclination, to prepare a lecture for, or ested particularly in these reports, as he must to instruct the common pedagogues of the land. lapend upon them for much of his information | The president of our State University has never to report to the State Superintendent; there- taken an active part in an Oregon State Teachore he is the officer who should examine them, ers' Institute. The president of the State Agand he should have such as advantage that so ricultural College fectured once. We must teacher could draw his money, go to Pertland have money to hire competent persons, or we or the Sandwich Islands, and send back a re- shall always find it difficult to get them to port. I say Pertland, Mr. President, because, work. These men whom I have mentioned are after I went into the County Superintendent's paid high salaries, and from that standpoint office, several teachers sent reports post-marked can afford to do something, but they need their Portland. Indeed, for a while I thought all vacation and they take it. The redagogues in the Marion county teachers resided in that de- the common schools who will work are paid lightful city. I will add that those reports starvation salaries and cannot afford to attend were imperfect and should never have been re. Institutes and pay their balf fares and reduced ceived. But the teachers had the money and board rates. Yet, when they do attend, they visions. This State Teachers Institute should I had their reports, so-called, and it was, with are called upon by the finance committee to me, Hobson's choice, accept those or none. I contirbute a dollar, or such a matter, to pay it seems to me that none are more capable of will repeat: The county nor State fund should the necessary expenses such as having and knowing the wants of the public schools than not be distributed among district clerks. When moving a musical instrument, moving blackboards, etc., as always has been done. It is a shame to the State to compel its Superintendent of Public Instruction to hold these Institutes and not provide him with money to meet the necessary expenses that are incurred, that no doubt needs to be considered by the finding them all correct, should draw a warrant School teachers are generally looked upon as a sort of charity creatures. They cannot go feel the pangs of a guilty conscience for taking expect the best men and women to engage in such a profession? Can we expect to find indefined dignity under such circumstances? How absurd! Please note this fact: When good wages are paid the best schools are always found. Why? Because men and women of unquestioned ability and broad culture compose competent persons to assist him, instead of being compelled to appoint committees to beg persons to attend them to work. This charity fusiness must be removed, and independence substituted.

Concluded next week

TRADE AND FINANCES OF ENGLAND.

Alluding to the fact that the bank of England has advanced the rate of interest on money loaned to five per cent per annum, in the course of remarks upon the cause that lead to this high rate of interest, high at least for the Bank of England. The S. P Commercial Herald says: Although England still remains the center of the world's exchange, she is not now-has not been for years past either its great manufacturing emporium, or the overshadowing duseminator of the world's productions. Other nations have been gradully developing their manufacturing and commercial abilities, and have entered the field of competition with disastrous effects to their former monopolist. They too have brought their coal and igon into active service for the conversion of raw materials into marketable fabrics in many lines that England cannot make with profit, and some of which England is a purchaser and consumer. Of late years one of her nost important industries has been the building of shins for foreign countries, and by so deng has sold her iron to immense advantage, furnish lucrative employment to skille lartisans and benefiting her vast collieries. But apart rom her manufacturing resources, she has other and scarcely inferior means of accumulating wealth. Her maratime supremacy enables her to do a very large portion of the worlds carrying trade; her vast monetary strength confers upon her nearly all the profits of exchange and a great proportion of those carned by th banking business; and her extensive colonial enessions give her a very decided advantage in their markets. But all those sources of weath are now suffering serious diminution. Foreign demand for her shipe has peen curtailed; her carrying trade is being trenched by other maratime nations; and her wealth has been heavily depleted by investments in worthless

foreign bonds, and reckless speculations in worthless stocks. It is stated, on sound author-ity, that within ten years England has sunk the enormous amount of between five and six thousand million of dollars in such operations. Turkish, Egyptian, Buenos Ayrean, Paraguayan, and a heat of other simular bonds, together with American railway securities, etc., etc., have vastly impaired the strength of Roglah capital. vastly impaired the strength of English capitalists. Even Russia now owes them \$800,000,000. Those are some of the causes that are now operating upon the Bank of England, and forcing it to stop the drain upon its coin and bullion fund; but there are others equally potent, and far more difficult to remedy. The landed property of England is held by comparitively very few parsons. Sixty aix tho said families 1 the real estate of the United Kingdom. tratches of fertile and traiches of fering and most pub active country to reserved for parks, game proposes, and a large number of other unproductive purposes. Its farm products are curtailed and wholly insufficient for the wants of its puople. Nearly every article of food is imported, at a cost of millions

trolum, England paid to foreign nations last year \$48,000,000 for butter \$23,000,000 for choose, and \$12,500,000 for eggs. What she disbursed for tea, coffee, sugar, and a host of other articles, it is not necessary to spe ify. Suffice it to say that while her exports have notedly decreased, her imports have wonderously increased; and instead of liquidating the difference in manufactured articles, as of yore,

she has been obliged to settle in gold The efflux of coin without a corresponding influx on account of domestic producion; the onormous losses she has sustained by bad foreign investments, the recent and growing con-petition in manufactories and maritime commerce instituted by other nations, her latebeavy expenditures for army and navy; the inroads upon her ten monopoly by the construction of the Suez Canal which gives other European nations equal opportunities for direct importation; the unpro luctive condition of much landed property in the realm, and the convenience which the telegraph and cable give equally to to all countries, would seem Rathbone, Member of the Parliament from Liverpool, in his decision, that "England, as a whole, has been extravagant, and has overspent to an extent which is reducing its capital and eating its savings."

Statistics show that for the present year the value of the gold and silver produced in Cal-itorius is \$21 000 000, while the agricultural produce of the same state exceeds \$91,509,000. As compared with mining, agriculture stands nearly five to one in values produced. The wheat crop of California for a single year is valued at \$31,520 560; harley at \$10,000,000; other cerasis, \$4,500,000; produces of the vinewards, \$7,500 600; wool \$7,500 600 front, \$3 500 000; live stock, sold and slanch ered, \$17 500 000; dairy produce \$4 500 000; are the achievements of the agriculturists of a state originally peopled by a class of adventurous and enterprising men seeking for

The Enterprise of Oregon City says: From the City Assessor's report we find the tax roll for 1878, amounts to \$2,195 15 of which he returns as delinquent, \$17 50.

They All Take it.

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