

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Some Interesting Reminiscences of Earlier Days.

SALEM'S SCHOOLS OF TO-DAY.

From the Foundation of the District, to the Completion of the New Building--Items of Interest.

The history of the public schools of Salem properly begins with the date of the establishment of School District No. 24, in 1855, by Wm. Pugh, county superintendent of schools.

The first public school house was erected on the corner of Marion and Commercial streets about the year 1850. The building was of the primitive pioneer style of architecture--being simply a hewed log house. It served the purposes of a public school house until the building of the central school house in 1857.

This school house was used as a place for religious worship and also for political meetings. In this house, Rev. O. Dickinson, preached his first sermon in Salem--his text on that occasion being, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?"

The public schools prior to the organization of the present school district were supported by subscription and by rate-bills in addition to the aid given by the common school fund of that time.

The free school system may be said to have fairly commenced in 1872. Opposition to free schools was maintained for several years. In 1875, no opposition was made to voting a tax of 3 mills. For the five years preceding this meeting, the annual meeting had steadily voted the tax for support of the schools notwithstanding the opposition.

The Central school building was begun in 1857 and completed in 1858. J. O'Donald Esq. was the contractor and builder. It has been used as a school house continually from that date, and will no doubt, continue in the service of the district for several years.

The board of directors for this district, in 1858 were, A. W. Ferguson, W. H. Rector, and C. A. Reed. School Clerk, B. F. Brown.

The number of persons of school age residing in the district on April 1st, 1859, was 227. B. F. Brown was clerk for several years. Dr. F. S. Hoyt, president of the Willamette University, was county superintendent of schools in 1858-59.

Among the early pioneers of Salem none took greater interest in the support and maintenance of the public schools than Hon. J. D. Boon, Hon. E. N. Cooke, Hons. J. H. and I. R. Moore, and Dr. A. M. Bell--each having served as director in addition to extending liberal pecuniary aid to the schools.

In 1865, there were enrolled in the Central school over 200 pupils. The number enumerated in district in 1865 being 682.

To meet the imperative demand for more rooms it was decided at the annual school meeting of April 2nd, 1866 to build two or more new school houses, one in North Salem, and one in South Salem, and during the year 1866 these two houses--one in North Salem and the other in South Salem--were erected at a total cost including purchase of grounds, of \$4500.

The report of the school clerk at the annual meeting 1867, stated that the Central school had an average attendance of 160. The district had three schools, all self-sustaining, at the moderate cost of \$4 00 tuition per term, in addition to the school funds received by the district.

No local tax to pay teachers salaries was levied in those days. Taxes had been levied for local school purposes, to pay

deficiencies, to repair and build school houses, in a few instances during the fifteen years' history of the district prior to 1866. At the April meeting, 1867, Rev. O. Dickinson was elected to represent the district as a delegate to the Marion county teachers' institute to be held at Belpassi in August of that year. In 1867, there were 330 pupils attending the several schools and 839 persons reported of school age. The increase in school population being rapid--the district between the years 1866-69 purchased sites and built the two school houses known as the Little Central and the East Salem buildings.

The Little Central school was first used as a public school for the colored children. Mrs. R. Mallory, was elected the teacher for this school and taught it as long as it was maintained. From 1866 to 1869, the following teachers taught in the schools: some of them taught but a short time, others several months, and a few the entire three years. Prof. T. H. Crawford, W. T. Ramsey, F. H. Grubbs, J. M. Garrison, O. D. Doane, H. Y. Thompson, R. O. Dunbar, Mrs. E. Deninger, Mrs. P. L. Price, Miss E. A. Witten, Miss Aurora Watt, Miss Fannie Case, Miss McGhee, Miss Louise Simpson, Miss Clara Watt, and others whose names we failed to find on the records. The names are not given in the order of their services. In 1869, there were 1136 persons of school age in the district. The average attendance of the schools during that year was 327. From 1870 to 1875 the teachers were frequently changed. The names of the teachers who at various times taught in the schools are: O. D. Doane, Mrs. P. L. Price, Miss Nellie Taylor, J. M. Garrison, W. T. Ramsey, Miss Louise Simpson, Miss Clara Watt, Miss H. Carroll, C. R. James, Misses Mary A. Gallagher, Maggie Patton, Mary Robinson, H. P. Crooke, Mrs. L. A. Mallory, Miss Marie Smith, L. Thompson, Miss Z. M. Raymond, A. F. Lockhart, H. M. Hopewell, C. F. Ferguson, Prof. Farlong, S. Rice, Mrs. S. B. Woodworth, Miss Gilliland.

The annual meeting held April 3d, in 1871, voted a tax of 2 1/2 mills for the support of the schools, the former system of supporting the schools proving inadequate to meet the increasing demands. This meeting will be remembered as the "Stormy Time," active opposition being made to the proposed levy. The vote of the April meeting was 51 ayes 39 noes on the tax levy. It appearing that some illegality was found in reference to notices calling the meeting, another was called for April 24, when the meeting voted strongly for free schools, and a tax of 3 mills instead of 2 1/2 mills was levied by a vote of 112 to 74. The board of directors in 1871, were, R. H. Dearborn, H. Mallory, and Paul Crandall, C. P. Stratton, clerk.

The free school system may be said to have fairly commenced in 1872. Opposition to free schools was maintained for several years. In 1875, no opposition was made to voting a tax of 3 mills. For the five years preceding this meeting, the annual meeting had steadily voted the tax for support of the schools notwithstanding the opposition. In the year 1875, the board of directors consisted of Messrs. D. Payton, P. Crandall and R. H. Dearborn, Clerk Lafe Williams. This board adopted the present system of graded schools. To Hon. J. T. Gregg, Hon. L. L. Rowland, Prof. Howard Morris, and Prof. S. A. Randle, is the credit due of preparing the system of graded schools that has successfully stood the test of eleven years' experience. The corps of teachers selected to introduce the graded system, were J. T. Gregg, Miss Clara Watt, Miss Zilpha Raymond, at the East Salem building; Mrs. L. G. Adair, Mrs. Nellie Curl, at the Central school; Miss Marie E. Smith, at the Primary Central school; H. G. Morris and Miss Ida Hutton at the North school; A. W. Lockhart and Miss Mary J. Jory; at the South school; J. T. Gregg was made city superintendent of the schools. Prof. Morris, died in January, 1876, and the board elected Prof. S. A. Randle to succeed him. From 1876 to the present time a detailed account of the schools is unnecessary, as the large majority of our people are familiar with the progress of school affairs during this period. At the annual school meeting of 1883, the following statistics were presented, viz: Number of legal votes in district, 650; number of persons of school age, 1566; and over 600 pupils attending the schools.

In addition to the five school houses owned by the district, two church buildings were being used for public schools. It was determined at this meeting to build another school building. Accordingly a committee was appointed to select a site, and the board of directors authorized to contract for the erection of a suitable building to meet the pressing demand for better accommodations. A 5 mill tax was levied for building purposes and a 3 mill tax for the support of the schools. The total taxable property in this school district in 1883 was \$1,321,758. The amount paid for teachers' salaries, \$6285.00. The number of teachers employed, thirteen.

As a result of this move in 1883, we now have, and are occupying the beautiful East Salem school building which is shown in the cut accompanying this article. It is one of the finest, most commodious, and conveniently arranged public school buildings on the Pacific coast. It is designed to accommodate 600 pupils seated in twelve rooms. It is furnished with the latest and most approved furniture. It is supplied with water from the Salem water works, and is heated by hot air furnaces.

It will cost, when entirely completed, about \$40,000.00. It is a fitting monument of the interest, enterprise, and solid support manifested by our people in and to the public schools. The growth of the public school system has been no more strongly marked anywhere in Oregon, than right here in Salem, nor anywhere else for that matter. Salem now employs as thorough a corps of teachers as can be found in the graded schools of any city and the patronage will favorably compare with that of any other schools.

MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS. A Few Items About the Public Schools of this County.

The public schools of Marion county are in a flourishing condition. There are eighty-nine districts that maintain three months, or more school each year and 107 public schools. No less than two hundred teachers find employment for a period ranging from one term of three months to ten months during the school year. There are from three to five school houses in each township, exclusive of

the towns and villages, so that Marion county affords excellent school facilities. In few instances, do children have a distance of over two miles to travel in order to attend school.

To the immigrant desiring a location affording the advantage of good public schools, Marion county offers inducements second to no other county in Oregon. In all of the towns, and in several of the rural districts, from eight to ten months school is maintained each year. Many of the districts have fine commodious school buildings suitably supplied with furniture and school apparatus. The public schools are supported by a 4-mill county tax, and the state irreducible fund. In addition to liberal support from these sources, local taxes are levied in some of the districts. The county and state funds are distributed in April and August respectively each year--each district first receiving \$50, and then shares prorata in the remaining funds. This apportionment, made in this way, lends material aid to the district having a minimum school population.

The following statistics afford a fair idea of the present status of educational matters of Marion county as related to its public schools.

No. persons of school age	6474
No. persons enrolled in the schools	3781
Average daily attendance	2922
No. teachers employed	163
No. teachers holding certificates	198
Average No. months' school taught	6 1/2
No. of school houses in the county	95
Value of school houses and grounds	\$86,365 00
No. of legal voters for school purposes	3438
Average months salary paid male teachers	\$40 00
Average months salary paid female teachers	\$33 30
Total amount of funds received from all sources and paid out for support of the public schools	\$55,148 89

Geo. A. PEBBLES.
SALEM, OR., Dec. 27, 1886.

WELLER BROS. An "Unremarkable" Career--An Unphilanthropic Firm--"Business is Business."

Weller Bros., grocers, 201 Commercial street are indifferent about being written up. So far there has been nothing remarkable in their career.

They do not date from away back, and their ancestors could hardly be termed illustrious. Their success has not been phenomenal, but equal to their fondest hopes for which they are grateful to a patronizing public.

They are not philanthropists, but endeavor to sell groceries at reasonable prices and do not forget to add a margin for incidentals, etc. Their bank account is not monumental, and they never keep over \$5 00 in the safe.

Their manner of doing business is not original or peculiar, and all they ask in exchange for their goods is "dollars of the realm" unpunched and unalloyed. They keep a barrel of pickles constantly open, which the ladies are cordially invited to sample, and their gentleman friends are most welcome to the genial influence of a good fire so long as the wood lasts. They are not at all exclusive and are glad at any time to be interviewed as to goods, prices, etc., at their place of business, 201 Commercial street, Salem, where they will always be found "At Home."

J. W. CRAWFORD. The Oldest Established Tinner and Plumber in Salem.

In 1868 David Cole, now of Portland, established a tin store, and plumbing house at 261 Commercial street. After a few years Mr. Cole was succeeded by Meyers Brothers, and this firm by L. Meyers & Co. In 1874, J. W. Crawford, already well-known in Salem as a man of excellent business qualifications, purchased the business from the latter firm, and is still conducting the business "at the old stand."

He now has as complete a stock of stoves, ranges, tinware, clothes wringer rollers, force and lift pumps, steam and water pipe, hose nozzles, house furnishing goods, and everything else in that line that one often finds. Mr. Crawford always keeps a large force of competent workmen employed, and is prepared to do plumbing in all its branches, at short notice. He also does roofing and spouting, his work in that line being done with neatness and dispatch, and to the entire satisfaction of his customers. Repairing is made a specialty in all branches. Mr. Crawford has a very extensive custom, which he gained by "hard work" and close application to his business, and by showing to each and all of his customers that he aimed only to please, in both quality of the goods purchased and service performed, and in prices. His place of business is at 261 Commercial, about midway between State and Court streets.

BATHS AND SHAVING PARLORS. A Brief Description of the Business Establishment of George Hoyce.

During the few years he has been in business in this city, George Hoyce, of 209 Commercial street has established a reputation as a tonsorial artist, that will stand in rank with any artist in the land. His parlors are fitted with baths, and beside are furnished with all the latest facilities for shaving, and hair cutting, and he and his assistant, Mr. Early, are always ready to do the best of work in their line of business.

CHARLES CALVERT.

The gentleman whose name heads this article, is one of the leading business men of Salem, and carries one of the complete stocks of millinery and ladies' fancy goods, silks, French flowers, and ladies' and children's wear to be found south of Portland. He is also agent for P. Centemeri & Co's kid gloves. Mr. Calvert always keeps several competent milliners employed, and is prepared to do trimming, and everything in that line.

DR. S. R. JESSUP.

This eminent physician has been for many years in the practice of medicine and surgery in this city, and his present practice speaks of itself, as to his success in healing the sick. He is a homoeopathist, and by his success is weaning many converts from the "old way."

THE "STATE." An Enterprising Home Corporation

RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY.

They Insure Property with Home Capital--Flourishing and successful Business.

On February 29th, 1884, articles of incorporation were filed in the office of Hon. R. P. Earhart, secretary of state of Oregon, setting forth the formation of the State Insurance Company, of Salem, Oregon. The articles were signed by B. F. Harding, A. Bush, Wm. England, W. J. Herren, R. P. Earhart, Jno. Hughes, and H. W. Cottle, all gentlemen of well known financial ability, and of the strictest business integrity. The capital stock of the corporation was \$100,000.

The company organized by electing Hon. L. L. Rowland, M. D., F. R. S., president; Hon. E. B. McElroy, vice president; H. W. Cottle, secretary and manager; and Col. Geo. Williams, treasurer.

Thus organized, the company began business in a little office, on the first floor of the Williams & England block, with two assistants, besides the secretary, in the office.

The first policy, which was numbered No. 1, was written on the residence property of the company's treasurer, Col. Geo. Williams, situated on the corner of Front and Division streets, and their last policy, written on the 31st day of December, 1886, was numbered 8,914, so our readers can judge of the magnitude of this company's business since its organization.

Beginning in a quiet way its business has steadily and healthily increased from the start with almost unexampled prosperity. So rapid was the growth of Oregon's young candidate for public favor that two months after it commenced business it became necessary to find more commodious quarters, and with this object in view a suite of large offices were fitted up on the second floor of the brick block in which the company's office was situated, and here the office remained until the phenomenal growth of the company's business crowded them out of there, when they purchased the brick block on the northwest corner of Commercial and Chemeketa streets in January, 1886, and after handsomely and conveniently fitting it up, the company moved into and occupied their new office on the 20th day of April last. This block is one of the handsomest business buildings on commercial street, and reflects credit both upon our main business street and upon the energetic push and business ability which has ever characterized the management of the State Insurance Company. The entire first floor of this building is occupied by the company in its business, and is nicely finished, and handsomely furnished in bright colors of pleasing designs.

There are now five clerks employed in addition to the secretary and assistant secretary of the company, making seven in all steadily at work in the office, and the company finds it difficult with this largely increased force, to handle its business, although they work on long office hours--8 A. M. to 5 P. M.--the year through. A further addition to this corps of assistants will probably become necessary in the near future.

The company does business only in Oregon and territories of Washington and Idaho, and has about 200 well awake, first class agents in different parts of this territory, who are pushing an immense and first class business for the company.

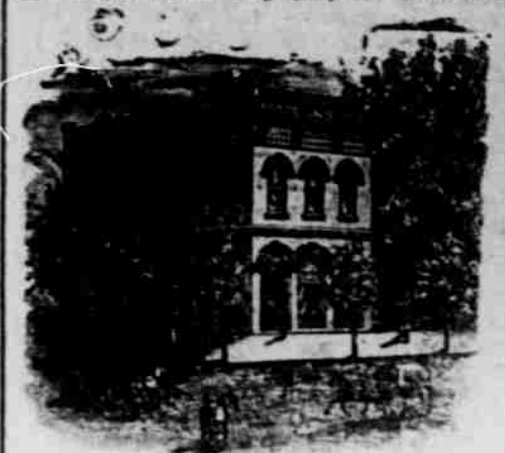
Right here it might be well to speak of the company's mode of doing business with its patrons. The applicant is given a blank application by the agent, which contains a list of questions material to the risk, and these the applicant must answer, and then sign the application; the policy is then granted him in accordance with his application. The application contains the same conditions and stipulations that appear in the policy, and there is no chance for anyone to be misinformed, and get his policy without knowing just what it will insure, and the terms and conditions upon which it furnishes indemnity to its patrons. On the front of each policy issued by this company, is printed in large letters the legend: "Read your policy." So it is no fault of the company if people do not thoroughly and fully understand their policies.

The company makes a specialty of farm property, and private dwellings in cities and towns, risks which are considered by all companies to be the safest and best.

The State Insurance Company is distinctly a home institution in every essential particular. It is composed of our own people. It is here among us, constitutes a part of our business community, performs a necessary function in our progress and business advancement, it is owned and controlled by home capital, and what is best for the city of Salem, county of Marion, state of Oregon, and northwest territory, it keeps the money which accumulates from its premiums in the northwest. The money which a man puts in an insurance policy of the State Insurance Company, does not go to fill the coffers of some aristocratic bondholder in the east, or to across the broad Atlantic, from whence it never returns, but it stays here at home, where it is loaned, and assists in building up and beautifying our own section of country, and in stimulating our trade, commerce, and agricultural development. During the last three years, this company has received nearly \$300,000 in premiums, every dollar of which is still here in the northwest, employed in our agriculture, trade and commerce. If this vast volume of money had been paid to eastern and foreign companies, it would have been taken away to where money is already plenty and cheap, and where it would have been of no benefit to the northwest.

As to the assets and financial condition of the company, we would say the

company's building and the ground upon which it stands, together with the office fixtures, is worth fully \$10,000. But this



STATE INSURANCE BLOCK.

is not a drop in the bucket of the company's finances. The writer has seen mortgages on first class real estate security, taken for money loaned by this company to farmers and others in Oregon and Washington territory, which amount in the aggregate to over \$60,000. The paid up capital of the company is a clean, neat "plum" or \$50,000 in gold coin of the United States, not "promises to pay," nor notes, but coin; and when we make this statement, we know whereof we speak.

There is also an additional \$50,000 subscribed, and which is so well secured that it is as absolutely good as a like amount in gold coin. This makes their capital stock \$100,000, just what the company claims--no more, no less.

The company, for self protection, never takes a risk for more than \$2,500, without re-insuring the excess in another company that is as reliable as the government, and has over \$2,000,000 in cash assets.

The State opened the year 1886 with \$184,737.89 assets. For their present assets, the attention of the reader is respectfully called to the figures made below, taken from the annual sworn report of the company, which was signed and acknowledged yesterday afternoon. And certainly this report shows the company to be in a most excellent condition financially.

In the progress of this article, we have much pleasure and pride in saying we have simply stated facts as we found them on the books and vouchers of the company, and which we know from careful examination to be true in every respect and particular. One thing that fully demonstrates the confidence of the people in the company, is positively and plainly shown in the fact that it has more risks in Marion county, where it is located, than in any other county; and more risks than all the other companies doing business in this county combined.

The State Insurance Company makes no secret of its business, and its books, accounts, papers and records are ever open to any person desiring to investigate its business in good faith, and inform themselves as to its responsibility and its methods of dealing with its patrons; and no reasonable or fair minded person or persons need entertain the slightest doubt as to the financial ability of the State to pay any and all losses as they may accrue, if they will only take the time and pains to investigate for themselves. Its system of keeping its books and records is admitted to be the best, most complete, and simplest known in insurance bookkeeping, and the investigator will not, therefore, be overwhelmed with a multitude of intricacies in the ledgerdom of modern bookkeeping.

There is not, in our opinion, a more solvent, substantial, and healthy corporation on this coast than the State Insurance Co., nor one which deals more honorably and justly with its patrons. The evidence that this company pays its legitimate losses honorably, fully, and promptly, are abundant, both from the record and from the testimonials of numbers of its policy holders who have sustained losses during the past three years. Its adjustments are liberal, honorable and comparatively free from objectionable technicalities, and its payments of losses are exceedingly prompt, as the company does not take 30, 60, or 90 days in which to pay its losses, but pays at once without discount. Its losses are paid on an average of less than ten days from the time notice of loss is received at the office, and we must heartily agree with the Daily Oregonian of January 1st '86 when it said "The Oregonian takes pleasure in saying that it believes that no other company has paid its losses as a rule so soon after the occurrence of the fire, or has made a more just and equitable settlement of its losses than the 'State.'"

That the old compact companies should be both jealous and envious of this successful rival in the north-west is not in the least astonishing, particularly when we come to consider that with over seventy of them doing business in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the State has done, and is doing to-day, about one-eighth of all the fire insurance business done in this territory. The jealous chagrin of some of these old companies at the vigorous and persistent growth of the State has betrayed them into a most unjust and unscrupulous assault upon this company, but the plucky State has proven more than a match for the combined force of her jealous competitors, and their shafts of ill-advised and ill-directed misrepresentation, and jealous envy have fallen harmlessly at her feet.

The State is doing a business of over \$100,000 per annum; it has not gone into any compact, combination or monopoly; it is purely a home institution; it enjoys the confidence, and has the support of our people as is clearly evidenced by the fact that it is doing the leading business in the north-west. And these facts account for the fight which has been made against the State.

The stockholders and officers of this company are well known all over the state of Oregon, as being gentlemen of the most sturdy and unblemished business integrity, possessed of the highest personal and social standing, and whose names are synonymous of financial power and ability, while on the other hand the stockholders and officers of outside companies are wholly unknown to our people.

The base and the superstructure of this company is honesty and fair dealing. Its financial condition is as positively and as certainly good, and perfectly safe in every way as is the State of Oregon; its magnificent business and rapid growth have been the wonder and admiration of all; its cash capital is ample; and it holds the largest re-insurance reserve,

for the protection of its policy holders, to the amount at risk of any company doing business in the State. We are much pleased to say, the State does not attempt to build up the business by decrying and misrepresenting any of its competitors, but in a quiet and dignified way it attends strictly to its own business, and it does that well. It rarely ever notices any of the vapors of other companies, but when it does it usually makes the strength of its position keenly felt by its adversary. But we regret that the same spirit of fairness does not characterize the conduct of outsiders who come into Oregon to do business. The company has no valid claims contested or unpaid.

THIRD ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Following is the third annual statement of the company, showing the condition and business of the State Insurance Company for the year ending December 31st, 1886:

Table with columns for CAPITAL, ASSETS, LIABILITIES, and INCOME DURING THE YEAR. Includes figures for amount paid up in cash, surplus over and above capital, cash in office and in bank, and total income for the year.

Table with columns for EXPENDITURES and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF BUSINESS FOR 1885 AND 1886. Lists expenses for fire losses, commissions, dividends, and compares 1885 and 1886 performance.

The present officers are: Hon. L. L. Rowland, President; Hon. E. B. McElroy, Vice President; H. W. Cottle, Secretary; Col. Geo. Williams, Treasurer; C. D. Gabrielson, Assistant Secretary.

Directors: Hon. W. W. Thayer, judge of the supreme court and ex-governor; Col. Geo. Williams, of Williams & England, bankers; Hon. E. B. McElroy, state superintendent of public instruction; Hon. L. L. Rowland, president of State Insurance Company and ex-superintendent of public instruction; H. W. Cottle, secretary of the State Insurance Co.; William England, of Williams & England, bankers; W. J. Herren, grain dealer.

J. J. DALRYMPLE, Sole agent for

Advertisement for Gold and Silver Dress Shirts, Collars, and Cuffs. Features an illustration of a shirt and text: "DRESS SHIRTS and Fine Linen COLLARS and CUFFS Unequaled."

Dealer in general merchandise, gent's furnishing goods, etc. Commercial street, Salem, Oregon.

HIGH GRADE HOLSTEIN BULLS and HEIFERS

For sale at reasonable prices, in fact low, for cash. Correspondence solicited.

R. C. & CAL. GEER, Silvertown, Ogn.

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I have the largest stock of Legal Blanks in the State including all forms for Circuit, County, Probate and Justice's Courts, Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, etc. Steam presses and facilities for rapid execution of FINE PRINTING. Estimates furnished.

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OFFICE HOURS: 8 to 10 a.m., 2 to 4 p.m.

Advertisement for MONEY. For all kinds of Legal Blanks, such as Deeds, Mortgages, etc. Steam presses and facilities for rapid execution of FINE PRINTING. Estimates furnished.

FOR SALE--THE WELL KNOWN CHAMBERLAIN'S PAIN EXPELLER, with five acres of land, together with all necessary buildings, dwelling house, etc., is for sale, price \$4,500. For further information inquire at the premises. 12-31 1886