

Wallowa Chieftain.

THURSDAY, OCT. 8, 1891.

Institute Notes.

Thursday's session of the institute opened by roll call and responses. Class drill in fractions was conducted by Prof. L. O. Hoffmann who brought his students from the Academy, and illustrated in an excellent manner his method of teaching fractions. The students who participated in the recitation showed by the neatness and dispatch with which they did their work a thorough comprehension of the subject under consideration.

A class drill in percentage was next conducted by J. C. Bunch. The recitations were followed by a very lively and interesting discussion on the methods pursued by the instructors.

The afternoon session was opened with select readings by Misses Alice Winters and Nettie Davis, which were well prepared and appropriate for the occasion.

How to teach beginners in geography was introduced by J. A. Burleigh in a short talk.

Map drawing was next introduced by Mrs. F. N. Hamilton, who outlined an excellent method of interesting pupils, and obtaining valuable results from map drawing.

Mrs. L. T. Swihart in a brief talk gave her method of teaching topical geography. A general discussion followed, during which most of the teachers expressed their views on the topic under consideration.

The number of visitors was very much increased to-day, and exhibited considerable interest in the proceedings.

The institute Friday was opened with the reading of minutes of previous sessions which were approved, and Miss Vaughan was especially commended for the neatness and correctness of her record.

A committee on resolutions, consisting of J. C. Bunch, Mrs. F. N. Hamilton and J. J. Lawrence, was appointed to draft resolutions embodying the sentiments of the institute.

Roll call and responses were followed by a general discussion on spelling, introduced by L. J. Rouse who gave a complete outline of his method of teaching and creating a desire in the minds of his pupils to be good spellers. Mr. Rouse was followed by J. C. Rauch who read a well prepared paper on the subject. A general discussion of the various methods pursued followed and several of the teachers gave excellent ideas on the subject.

The subject of grammar was discussed at length by Prof. L. O. Hoffmann. His method developed the idea that pupils are required to understand the subject in all its applications, and to illustrate the knowledge possessed by examples. No subject is to be dismissed until it is thoroughly understood by the pupil. Various remarks and questions followed Mr. Hoffmann's discussion.

Miss Letitia Cox favored the institute with an interesting paper on the subject of "The Teacher's Habits."

The subject of history was discussed very briefly by a number of the teachers and many practical ideas and good methods were introduced by the speakers.

During the institute 27 teachers were enrolled, and the average attendance was also good. Only three active teachers in the county did not attend, and they have presented good excuses. The work done throughout was of a character especially designed to benefit the young teacher, and the results of the session will be of substantial benefit to our schools.

Following are the resolutions adopted by the institute at their session Friday afternoon:

WHEREAS, it is apparent that no teacher can progress or keep pace with the rapid advancement of education and new methods without using all available means for self-improvement, therefore be it

Resolved, That teachers should not allow trifling matters of business or convenience to prevent their attendance at institutes and educational meetings, and we deem it the duty of the superintendent and examining board to lower the grade of such teachers as neglect to attend all institutes within their reach, or fail to read educational books and journals.

Resolved, That it is the duty of all teachers to apply the grade work adopted in this county to the schools where they are employed, and that it is to the best interests of parents to assist in such grading.

Resolved, That it is the duty of all school districts to use a part of the funds allowed by law for the purchase of school aids.

Resolved, That the thanks of this institute are due and hereby tendered to our efficient secretary, Miss Cora A. Vaughan, for the admirable manner in which she has recorded the proceedings.

Resolved, That the institute appreciates the attendance of the people of Enterprise at its sessions.

Resolved, That the thanks of the institute are due to the members of the Baptist church for the use of their house.

The institute closed Friday evening with an entertainment in the Baptist church. Quite a large audience attended the session and were highly entertained by the exercises.

Maudie Allen and Maggie Gaily did themselves credit by the manner in which they rendered their recitations. Mrs. E. G. Fowler read an excellent and carefully prepared paper. Dr. E. W. Barnes delivered the address of the evening which engaged the careful attention of his hearers. The institute is especially indebted to Misses Mary Samms, Jennie Wade, Minnie Reavis, Mrs. Lucy Reavis Prof. L. O. Hoffmann and Prentice Homan for the pains they took to furnish the music for the occasion.

Supt. McCully made a brief talk at the close of the session. Institute closed by tendering the Superintendent a unanimous vote of thanks for the efforts in the institute work. The sessions throughout were the most pleasant and profitable ever held in the county.

THE ALLIANCE QUESTION.

A Discussion Between F. E. Parkyn and Thos. Gwillim.

QUESTION.—"Resolved, That the present system of marketing farmers' produce, the present system of furnishing him his supplies, and the present condition of our political affairs, make the Alliance movement commendable, and worthy of the support of all classes of people who follow useful occupations."

First Article by Mr. Gwillim.

ARCADIA, Oct. 3, 1891.

In commencing my review of Mr. Parkyn's argument in favor of the Alliance movement, I desire to express my entire satisfaction with the fair manner in which he has stated his case, and the evidence introduced to substantiate it. There can be no negative without a positive, hence I did not expect to have it quite one-sided. In fact, I rather like a vigorous opponent.

By way of beginning, it is not my intention to condemn the Alliance as a whole, but only such portions of its published platform as I deem to be misleading, either wholly or in part, or impracticable, visionary and illusive. In order to be as definite a possible and make my meaning clearly understood, I will state once for all—

1. All people have a right to look after their own interests.

2. Co-operation, when possible, is the ideal business theory.

It will thus be seen that I am not prejudiced against the Alliance, and, furthermore, I have none but friendly feelings towards any of its adherents. The argument of my worthy opponent, however, implies that the adverse circumstances of which the Alliance complains are all artificial, and, as such, the result of dishonest actions by persons who victimize the farmers on principles opposed to fair business methods. I shall endeavor to follow Mr. Parkyn's line of argument as closely as possible, not particularly to disprove his assertions, but to get at the truth as nearly as I can.

It is an undeniable fact that in the states where the Alliance element is the strongest the people have little to complain of general agencies, or high prices paid for their provisions, implements, etc. My opponent illustrates his case by citing the reduced cost of machinery in Dakota. Yet that State does not seem to appreciate this. Its periodical crop failures more than balance all of these advantages. They had no seed to sow, no feed for their stock, no fuel to burn; hence they organized, and published a statement of their wrongs.

Of another State, and that the most prominent in the Alliance movement, I can speak from extended experience, having passed ten years within its borders. In the State of Kansas the people have all the advantages of proximity to the leading implement factories and a consequent low rate of prices. I have seen wagons sold there for \$70 on a year's time, but not the style of wagon used by the farmers of Oregon. Good wagons of reliable workmanship then cost \$90 without being handled by an agent. For further information I would state, that I joined the farmers' movement in that State some years ago, and saw specimens of the "cheap machinery" that could be thus obtained, which, in fact, were dear at any price.

In further support of the assertion, that many of the evils denounced by the Alliance are due to natural causes, I mention the frequent failures of crops in Kansas, and the consequent return of hundreds of families from the western part of the State, the roads being lined for miles with wagons, and frequently men, women and children on foot begging their way back to "wife's folks." About a year or so later a counter stream of emigrants would be seen going west, and thus the State was "developed." It is a matter of record, that nearly all of the people where these scenes were enacted are strong supporters of the Alliance. During my residence in that State farmers' supplies were gradually reduced in price nearly 100 per cent., while corn, grain and stock remained about the same. That did not look as if the farmers were being robbed. I refer to these things because the Alliance claims not a local, but a national field of operation, and if I prove that any part of the evils that afflict the farming community can be traced to natural or local causes, or to personal mismanagement, I make a strong point.

My objection to purchasing agencies is that I have seen them tried, and witnessed their complete failure. With persons of capital, exclusively, they may succeed, for denounce it as we will, money is, and will continue to be, "the power behind the throne." Unfortunately a man's honor is not held as good security in a business transaction, hence the purchasing agency may supply a local demand, but owing to limitations in the average ethical code, it can never become general. This I know from experience.

I say here that I have no use whatever for professional gamblers in grain and other articles, and if the Alliance can do away with this class of men, it will be entitled to a good deal of credit. Furthermore, if it can do away with general agencies, and thus bring the producer and consumer more closely

together, it would be a great benefit, but this I regard as somewhat Utopian for the following reasons:

1. Probably nine-tenths of the implements and machinery sold are not paid for under from one year to three or four years, and some never. All this is at the agent's risk, who adds to the price to secure him against loss.

2. It would be impossible to guarantee the entire trade of a community for any length of time. I have seen it tried.

Ten years ago the prices of some of the things purchased by farmers in Union county, Oregon, were just about double what they are at present, and the prices obtained for cattle more than fifty per cent. less than at present; thus sugar was 15½ cents a pound, coal oil \$1 a gallon, dry goods and other articles in proportion, and wagons \$157. Good cows sold for \$14, calves for \$6 at the highest, and whole herds averaged \$10 a head. Soon afterwards the railroad commenced operations, and we see the results.

My opponent will not deny, that when a person buys all that he can on credit, and sells little or nothing, after a while his pocket-book will be slim, and his notes equal to waste paper. He will not deny either that, under existing circumstances, while some men complain continually of hard times, others, with better facilities, accumulate a competence.

One principle of business, acknowledged the world over, is that of buying as cheaply as you can and selling at the highest possible figure. According to this my worthy opponent expects too much when he looks for dealers to sacrifice their own interests to those of their customers. Even farmers accept low profits, not from any scruple of conscience, but because they cannot get more. I never knew of a farmer being troubled in mind because he had taken advantage of a neighbor in a trade, yet instances of this are not rare. We say, as does the Alliance platform, that all people ought to be honest; but, as we are confronted, not with ideal theories, but hard, unyielding facts. The general application of the "golden rule" seems to be yet in the future.

It will be asked, "What has this to do with the subject under discussion?" Much in every way, but chiefly this, that the desire to secure large returns for small efforts is not confined to the so-called commercial world. The plan outlined by the Alliance calls for a higher standard of business integrity than the country can produce. It goes without saying that a man will look after his own business better than he will that of another person. He need not be an exceptionally bad character to do this. Persons of high Christian attainments have been known to work upon this principle in matters social and ecclesiastical.

Mr. Parkyn questions the right of merchants to fix the price both ways, but that is exactly what the Alliance proposes to do. I do not consider dealers to be philanthropists; they did not come West exclusively from sanitary motives, nor as missionaries. To tell the simple truth, merchants and farmers alike are after the dollar. If the farmer gets worsted in the race, he need not attach the blame to other parties.

I do not wish to make any invidious allusion, but I have before me a poster addressed to the farmers of this county proposing to build a warehouse at Elgin to store grain until prices suit. So far that is all right, but now comes the reason for it—"that farmers may have the use of their money, instead of it going to pay old debts." That is to say, to swindle the merchants so much. In a game of cross purposes one or the other goes to the wall; the only question is, which?

The great trouble with many people is that they mistake mere coincidences for cause and effect, and have not courage enough to face an unwelcome truth. They seem to eagerly accept any subterfuge promising an easy way out of the difficulty.

In conclusion, I ask the careful consideration of all impartial readers. Others I do not expect to influence, for—

"Persuade a man against his will He's of the same opinion still."

I have endeavored to offer nothing but either direct or collateral evidence, and have left out much that might be included. I have not attempted to preclude Mr. Parkyn from offering a rebuttal, as that is his privilege.

THOMAS GWILLIM.

JOSEPH MILLING CO.
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