



The Boardman Mirror

Boardman, Oregon
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
MARK A. CLEVELAND, Publisher

Subscription (in advance) \$2.00 Per Year
Application for entry as second-class matter at the postoffice at Boardman, Oregon, pending

OREGON'S NEW SCHOOL LAW BEST IN U. S.

Oregon's new school district law authorized by the passage of House Bill No. 215 is characterized by prominent educators and editors as the best school district law in the United States.

There was a time many years ago when "the little old red school house" served the purpose of the then isolated communities very well, and there are some who still think it is good enough.

The demand for secondary education was for many years supplied by religious and private academies, but these were in the main free schools and did not serve all the people. Then came slowly but surely the free public high school. For awhile these were mostly located in towns and cities, but the consolidation idea has been developing and there are many rural high schools and yet with all our advances but a small proportion of the children of the land especially those in rural communities are adequately served, this condition being due principally to poor housing and equipment, untrained teachers and lack of funds. Every child, poor or rich, city or rural, should have an equal chance, under equal conditions, to get an education that will make him a first class citizen, able to satisfactorily perform the duties of civil life; make him economically independent, self supporting; and so train him that he will know how to spend his leisure time profitably without interfering with others.

The idea back of the new law is to supply these equalizing conditions and influences, to raise the standard of rural education, and to secure efficient supervision of the same.

This act applied to Morrow county would put all the schools of the county under the jurisdiction of the county board of five members, since there is no district in the county unless it would be Heppner that would have 500 pupils on the census. If they have they would be a town district and retain their present organization. All the other schools would be under the county board. The theory is that it is far easier to secure from the county five very able men than 150 or more as at present required. The county district board assumes control of all school property and all indebtedness against the same, within the district. The first county board would be made up of five chairmen of existing boards and at the next annual election a new board would be elected. There would be a meeting place for the board provided by the county court in the courthouse.

The duties of the new board would be:
To employ a superintendent of schools, fix his term of office and compensation, including necessary traveling expenses. (Present superintendents would serve out their terms.)

To employ a school clerk, fix his compensation, bonds etc.

To employ all necessary assistant superintendents, supervisors, teachers, janitors, and assistants and fix their compensation.

To lease and build school houses, buy and lease lands for school purposes, furnish all supplies, etc.

To prepare annual budget, levy taxes, make annual printed report to tax payers, consolidate schools and arrange for transportation of pupils, fix tuition, and determine boundaries to be served by each school house etc.

It will be seen that provision is made for efficient supervision of all schools, that consolidation will be encouraged, that economy in management and in the purchase and distribution of supplies will be secured, and that the blanket tax covering the whole county will lessen the tax for 75 percent of the districts, which are now paying 10 to 20 mills or more. Umatilla county has figured that a six mill blanket tax will supply all the money now required to run the schools. Even the increased supervision charge would not raise the tax more than two mills.

Other features of bill allow for the election of a local school committee of three same as now (present boards serve until the next annual election.) This committee cares for the school property, determines its use for civic purposes, visits the school (same as now) reports to the superintendent the progress and the needs of the school and wishes of the people concerning same, and recommends improvements in school property. By unanimous vote they may, not less than thirty days previous to the opening of school, reject any teacher assigned by the board, notice of rejection to be delivered in writing and specify the reason. They may also establish high schools under the present regulations.

There are still other features of the bill covering duties of officials etc., that are unnecessary to outline as they are the usual duties of such officials.

To our mind the weak point in the law is that it is optional with the counties. It should have been made mandatory. Experts state that it will take three generations to overcome the individual and community selfishness that has always handicapped educational reform. Hope in former times has been placed in local district boards but they have not understood fundamental rural or educational needs.

The state should exercise its inherent right and demand constructive reforms and create the system above outlined under which school business can be transacted in a modern manner, and under which rapid progress along modern lines will be possible.

It is to be hoped that Oregon will not drag along and wait for the mandatory authority of the state to effect this reorganization, but that within the year, each and every county in the state will have taken the great forward step that means efficiency and progress, under the option granted by the present law.

The Ladies Aid will conduct a cooked food and rummage sale Saturday, March 26th.

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Boardman Ladies Aid.

The Ladies Aid of Boardman entertained the ladies of Irrigon at an all day meeting Wednesday March 16th. The church was very homelike and tastefully arranged. There were fifty in attendance, thirteen being visitors from Irrigon and three men, also from Irrigon. In the forenoon Mrs. Fagerstrom rendered numerous selections on the piano. At the noon an excellent luncheon was served followed by an enjoyable program in the afternoon.

Piano solo, Mrs. Crawford. Reading, Mrs. W. O. King. Violin solo, Mrs. Wicklander. Reading, Mrs. Cramer. Vocal solo, Mrs. Wm. Finnell. Piano solo, Mrs. Fagerstrom.

A business meeting was held at the close and officers elected for the following year.

The following ladies were guests from Irrigon. Mesdames Walpole, Fagerstrom, Howard, Wolfe, Lester, Chaney, Ricks, Rand, Anderson, Sampson, Wisdom, and Rev. and Mrs. Hood.

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