

# Semi-Weekly Herald

TUESDAY, NOV. 22, 1904.

## Mothers' and Teachers' Association.

The second meeting of the Mothers' and Teachers' Association was held last Friday at the public school building.

The general subject, "Some Essentials of a Successful School" had previously been assigned for discussion. Mr. I. Hacker, chairman of the board of directors read a paper on the Directors' part in a successful school, and Mrs. Louisa Haberly the Parent's part. Mr. R. S. Knowlton, director, and Mr. O. C. Sanford, clerk, were present, and each made remarks. A general discussion followed, many good points were brought out, and much interest manifested.

## The Parents' Part in a Successful School.

BY MRS. LOUISA HABERLY.

Have the parents any part more than sending the children to school when it is convenient? The more I think of it the more I feel the parents have a very important part. More important than most of us are willing to believe. Was this topic given me that I might feel more the necessity of having my children on time, and tidy and careful in all things? I am thankful that it was given me. It made me think as I was about my work and I resolved to make a greater effort to do my duty better in the future, especially in the matter of being on time. It is my besetting sin and I see it in my children, always a little late. Parents do you see yourselves in your children?

Then a duty is to determine to send the children regularly, not when you or the children feel like it. No child can have the interest it should in the school work if out half of the time. Then the teacher can't do her best work with an irregular pupil and have the interest in him or her. The child gets behind the class in the work and loses heart. The other pupils feel it unjust to have to wait on such pupils and go more slowly with the class work. So parents, send the children every day if possible. To do that will necessitate planning before hand so everything will be ready, proper food, clothing, recreation and preparation. Have them start on time and urge them to go promptly to school. I see a number of children play in the dirt and water every day as going to and from school. And when their clothes get muddy blame their playmates, when if they had not stopped to play or look on, it would not have happened.

Then see that faces, hands and clothing are clean and hair brushed. I know it is hard to keep several children in reasonably clean clothing. That is one reason I so dislike to see the children playing in the mud puddles. Even if some mothers have the time and strength for that sort of needless work it is a temptation to other children whose mothers have enough to do. "Am I my brothers' keeper?" Yes, and have no right to do things that will make it harder for others to do right or be happy.

Then do not criticize the teachers, directors and school management in the presence of the children. If you find fault how can a child of yours have that proper regard and respect for the teacher and the important work of preparing for the life work without which a child cannot do the best work in school. Help the children with their difficult studies. Do not leave it all for the teacher. It will greatly encourage a slow pupil to help them and so have them feel they are among the best in the class. And do not be too ready to give ear to complaints of teachers by the children. Things will sometimes go wrong and the teacher does things that seem unjust, but help the children to imagine themselves in the teacher's position and it will be different. Make them think the teacher is the best teacher they could have and wants to do what is best.

I have yet to find a teacher who will wilfully and with forethought wrong any pupil, much less one that tries to do his or her duty. Teachers are just as anxious to give good reports of their pupils as parents are to receive them. Sometimes

they have an especially trying day and get a little impatient and seem unkind but put yourself in their place. They have not the easiest work in the world. I taught a short time, long enough to learn that the drawing of the salary is not all of a teacher's work.

## Duties of a School Director.

BY I. HACKER.

Mrs. President and Members of the Mothers' and Teachers' Association:

When I was first invited to attend this meeting and to make a little talk to you, I was engaged on a long and hard piece of work, and at such times I cannot, and never attempt to do anything else. After I had completed the work and my senses were recovering their normal condition, I thought I might be able to say something; but I have been busy all the time, and only by snatches have I given the subject any attention. It would be a pleasure to me if I were able to say something more worthy the topic and the audience. Mr. Davis had not learned by inability, or he would never have asked this of me, so you will please pardon him for any indignity that you may feel he has shown you.

It is more than a score of years since I attempted to speak to an audience, and never before to one of ladies.

Your cause is the most important and interesting one in the world, and that interests me and that I enjoy more than anything else, and it would afford me pleasure if I had more time to give to the work.

When I taught, I was always glad to have the mothers visit the school. Not too many at one time, for my rooms were always crowded, and I did not like confusion or anything to annoy me or to distract the pupils. But here are seven rooms, and if more chairs were furnished quite an assembly could be distributed without disturbance. I once had a little experience in this line which I thought was too much of a good thing. In my first teaching in Oregon, and the first school taught on Coos river, I boarded round and packed my blankets, helped the youngsters evenings at home by the light of the backlog fire, and when bedtime came, climbed to the loft by a ladder on the outside. When the school was well under way, I wanted the parents to visit us, and through the children invited them to come Friday afternoons; hoping some of them would be interested enough to come in occasionally. The next Friday afternoon I was appalled when (to reverse the saw) every son's mother of them with her last born at her breast or skirts came crowding into the little school house. I made the best of the situation and did all I could do to entertain them, and to show what amazing things their fond offsprings were capable of. After they had joined in singing "God keep us till we meet again," and were dismissed, I gathered out of the confusion such a little chunk of ice that we had cut that afternoon upon which that Friday's low descending sun could cast its slanting rays, that I concluded to let the mothers' meetings, like so much of the glory of this world, go with the dead past.

I presume, in what I say, it is not expected that I give you the duties of director as laid down in the school laws, but that I might speak of matters belonging to their duties and out of the ordinary routine work. One of the first duties of directors is to procure suitable grounds and a school house. In most new and growing towns like this, and this does not appear to be in the exceptions, it is customary to select the highest ground and construct a showy and attractive house from the outside, more for show and booming purposes than for utility, health, comfort and convenience. This house is located at one side of the district, and it can never be otherwise, for the center of population will continually grow farther away. I think an ideal location could have been selected, and with a commodious house, in a short time, I would expect to see the pupils from the adjoining districts above and below, attending school here. Such a move would prove beneficial to all.

Soon after I moved to Empire I was chosen a director. The school occupied two rooms. The house had two large halls below and a crooked stairway thirty-six inches

wide from the outside door to a hall above and at the bottom stair just room for a pair of doors to open. It was as complete a trap, in case of a panic, as could be planned. At my suggestion, we had the thing removed and a stairway six feet wide go up from one main hall to a large hall and landing above. The thing was so simple that everybody sang "Oh, how easy." I do not mention this to show how bright I am, but to prove how stupid the other fellow was. If I wished to show up my own short comings I would point to these silent, plastered blackboards; they speak louder than words.

This year, while building the addition, we directors were saved considerable work and trouble by our capable and willing clerk. He was equal to the occasion, and we were more than willing to his having room to swing according to his size and strength, if necessary, and he acquitted himself to our complete satisfaction. And it is due him to say he is the best school clerk in the state of Oregon.

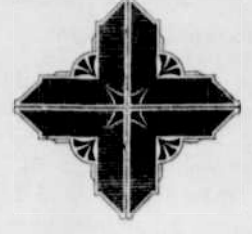
Securing teachers is one of the tribulations as well as delights of the director, and sometimes to get rid of an unsatisfactory one is not a pleasant thing.

While I was a director at Marshfield, I had two good associates, Mr. Merchant and Dr. Golden. Although they were pleased to put most of the work upon my shoulders, they stood by me. One of the first difficult things they gave me to do was to procure a teacher to succeed myself. Teachers were not then plentiful. We finally received an application from a man who wanted a school where he could eventually establish an academy. It came through a friend whom we considered reliable, and was accompanied with flattering testimonials. We gladly offered him the place, and in due time he came, he and his wife, from Puget sound. He was all right for a candidate to a new town that was ambitious to start a grave-yard without waiting for one to die with his boots on. He was a ghastly sight for a school teacher. It was before the discovery and universal knowledge of microbes and bacteria, and we allowed him to commence the school. He proved a complete failure. The school room was a pandemonium. Every pupil chewed gum, and some of them in every known language, dialect and jargon, and the airy deftness with which they could rope it out of their mouths and coil it back again would make the performance of Miss Bridges as Sierra Nevada look like 30 cents.

I never enjoyed attending funerals, visiting grave-yards, morgues, asylums, sanitariums, hospitals and such places so interesting to some people. So with such inhuman prejudices, is it a wonder that I should object to the continuation of an animated cadaver or a magnetized skeleton moving among those children and whispering death-notes in their sensitive ears, even had he been otherwise capable. The other directors agreed with me, and at the end of the term he was notified that his services would terminate. It was a cruel blow. He asked and was given a hearing. He was an effective talker and his subject was near his heart. He was more than eloquent; he was pathetic. The other directors quailed and would continue him if I would agree. I did not like to exhibit my unmanly emotions, but in spite of all my efforts, great beads of sweat would trickle down cheeks. I remained obdurate. Then he made a house-to-house canvass and brought us the result. I, like a dunce, went out to learn what the mothers meant. The answer was, by almost everyone, "He told such a tale of woe I could not say no. You know best about it. You know your duty and I am sure you will do it." He wanted those mothers called before us. About this time I was getting bravely over my sweat, and told him those mothers were our neighbors and friends, and I did not propose to have them humiliated, and so far as I had power I would protect their children.

Now the joke is on us. The copies of the certificates and recommendations he had furnished, we had given them little attention, relying especially upon the one directly to us. He wanted them returned, and then I discovered that they were copies of papers from twelve to fifteen years old, and that he had not taught during the last eleven years.

# YOU'RE IT



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(To be concluded.)

\$800 will buy a 200-acre Stock Ranch in Southern Coos, with plenty of outlying Government land. J. J. STANLEY.

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**CITY WATER NOTICE**  
All City water consumers are hereby notified that all water dues must be settled by the 15th of each month or water will be shut off.  
LEE GOODMAN, Marshall.  
By order of the Council of the City of Coquille.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

**COQUILLE LODGE, NO. 53, I. O. O. F.**  
Meets every Saturday night.  
Geo. T. Moulton, N. G.  
J. S. Lawrence, Sec'y.

**COQUILLE ENCAMPMENT, NO. 25, I. O. O. F.**  
Meets the first and third Thursday nights in each month.  
L. H. Hazard, C. P.  
I. Hacker, Scribe.

**MAMIE REBEKAH LODGE, NO. 20.**  
Meets the second and fourth Wednesday nights in each month.  
Mrs. Kathryn Slagle, N. G.  
Mrs. Mamie Slagle, Sec'y.

**CHADWICK LODGE, NO. 68, A. F. & A. M.**  
Meets the Saturday night on or before the full moon.  
Dr. W. Culin, W. M.  
J. J. Lamb, Sec'y.

**BEULAH CHAPTER, NO. 6, O. E. S.**  
Meets next Friday night.  
Mrs. Kathryn Slagle, W. M.  
Sec'y.

**LYCOURGUS LODGE, NO. 72, K. P.**  
Meets the second and fourth Tuesday nights each month in Odd Fellows' hall.  
N. C. Medley, C. C.  
R. H. Mast, K. R. S.

**COQUILLE LODGE, NO. 127, A. O. U. W.**  
Meets the second and fourth Wednesday nights of each month in W. O. W. hall.  
R. E. Nossler, W. M.  
O. F. Rohrer, Sec.

**IMPERIAL LODGE, NO. 11, D. O. H.**  
Meets the first and third Wednesday nights each month in Woodman hall.  
Miss Grace Skeels, C. H.  
Mrs. I. N. Plyler, Sec.

**MYRTLE CAMP, NO. 197, W. O. W.**  
Meets the first and third Saturday nights of each month.  
W. H. Mansell, C. C.  
J. G. Simmons, Clerk.

**COQUILLE COUNCIL, NO. 398, F. A. A.**  
Meets the second and fourth Thursday nights of each month in Odd Fellows' hall.  
Dr. Geo. Russell, Pres.  
Mrs. Chas. Harrington, Sec'y.

**EVENING TIDE CIRCLE, NO. 214, W. O. W.**  
Meets the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month.  
Mrs. W. H. Mansell, G. N.  
Jesse C. Simmons, Clerk.

**JUSTUS LODGE, NO. 35, RATHBONE SISTERS**  
Meets the first and third Tuesday nights each month in Odd Fellows' hall.  
Mrs. Fred Lindsay, E. Sr.  
Mrs. R. H. Mast, M. R. S.

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