

The Sentinel

A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

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National Editorial Association
Oregon State Editorial Association
Willamette Valley Editorial Association
Lane County Editorial Association
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1917



'Tis the star-spangled banner,
Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave.

CUTTING THE COST OF EDUCATION.

The Sentinel has upon several occasions said that the cost of education is a heavy burden upon the taxpayer and has expressed doubt if it is always worth what it costs.

A third of the taxes which will be collected on Cottage Grove property next year will be for the support of the city schools. If we add to this the tax we pay for the support of the university, the agricultural college, the normal school, the schools for the blind, deaf and other unfortunates, and for salaries of county and state superintendents and supervisors, county agriculturalists, etc., we are likely to find that a half of our taxes go for the support of education in one form or another.

Of course, it is not so much a question of what education costs as whether or not we can afford to spend that much for it, whether or not the same results could be secured cheaper, and whether or not the education we get is worth what we pay for it.

Cottage Grove is not extravagant in the wages paid its teachers. Our teachers leave us every year for other schools where the wages are higher. Salaries ranging from \$60 to \$85 a month for teachers, \$100 a month for principal of high school and \$1350 a year for a superintendent do not seem extravagant. Had these teachers not fitted themselves at big expense for this kind of work many of them would get higher wages at work where a less expensive education was necessary. Others with only an industrial education are getting higher wages. So there seems little chance for a saving of money in the wages of teachers. In fact the high school faculty is yet short one teacher



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because the school board will not pay as high a salary as can be obtained elsewhere.

The members of our school board are men with reputations for rigid economy in the conduct of their own affairs, and we have no doubt that the affairs of the schools are conducted in the same manner as their private businesses.

As a matter of fact the cost of education per pupil in the Cottage Grove high school is the lowest in the state, being \$30 a year. Only a few other schools come at all close to that figure. The cost at Eugene is \$52 in one school and \$77.90 in another. The highest cost per pupil in the state is also in Lane county, being \$150 a year, at the Crow high school.

In the conduct of our institutions of higher education things may be different. Some economies might be practiced there, but our university and agricultural college every year lose men who leave to get higher salaries elsewhere, so that it seems that the wages paid instructors can not be cut. There may be other economies that might be practiced, but the saving of \$50,000 or \$100,000 a year in the conduct of these institutions would mean only a fraction of a mill in the tax levy, so that if we are to cut the cost of education to any appreciable degree it must be done in the local schools.

And there is an earnest desire upon the part of the taxpayers to cut that cost, if possible. The only difference of opinion is upon whether or not the cost can be cut and still give our children the education we desire them to have.

A large proportion of the taxpayers desire to do away with manual training and the teaching of domestic science and arts. In fact, the school board has been instructed to eliminate these departments next year. Unless there is a change of sentiment between now and the next annual school meeting these departments will be eliminated at a reduction of \$2000 in the tax levy.

In view of the fact that every pupil who attends these departments learns something of which he will make use in his future life; in view of the fact that a practical education is the demand of the day; in view of the fact that but a very small percentage of those who graduate from high school ever make any use of the foreign languages, algebra, geometry and others of the higher branches; in view of the fact that several Cottage Grove young men who have acquired an industrial education through apprenticeship are getting higher wages than any teacher in the high school, it seems to us that the tendency of education should be more towards the practical than away from it, but possibly we are mistaken.

We understand that the position of those who would eliminate the manual training and domestic science and arts departments from the schools is that this training should not be eliminated but that it should be taught outside the schools.

Whether or not these subjects should be taken outside the schools, we will all agree that they could be taught outside, and if the parents of the school district will see that this is done we will be pleased to save our share of the taxes which we now gladly give for this form of education.

We heartily wish that parents would take a greater interest in giving their children a practical education, or in seeing that they get one, but, unfortunately, such is not the case.

If you have an industry and have expressed a willingness to teach the trade to one or more young men or women, you have some idea of how much interest parents take in giving their children a practical education. It takes years, sometimes, to become proficient in an industry. It takes just as much hard work to get an industrial education in the industry itself as it does at school. The pupil at an industrial school will put in years at great expense learning a trade, but there is not one young man in fifty who is willing to go into an established business and work his way up. The process is too slow for him. Although, because of the comparative few with sufficient ambition to stick and learn a trade, the wages of trained men are mounting higher and higher.

Two—Sentinel higher, the young man can not understand why he can not at once command the same wages at skilled labor that he can at unskilled labor, so he prefers a lifetime job at the wages of unskilled labor to spending two or three years learning the trade that would in a lifetime net many times his total wages at unskilled labor.

That condition is especially true in a place like Cottage Grove where there is a great deal of employment for unskilled labor.

Three years ago two Cottage Grove young men made their own choices. One took a job at the same wage being paid experienced men at the same job. The other decided to serve an apprenticeship at a trade, starting work at \$2 a week. In less than three years the \$2-a-week boy is getting at least 50 per cent more than the boy who started at the top wages of unskilled labor. In three years his total wage has probably been nearly as great as that of the other boy, and for the remainder of his life it will be 50 to 100 per cent greater.

Why did not both learn a trade? Because the parents of one insisted that he learn a trade, while the parents of the other insisted that if he learn a trade he start at the same wages that he could get at unskilled labor.

A large proportion of parents are like the parents of the second boy.

The other day a boy was offered 50 cents to distribute some bills. He couldn't take the job because he had to go swimming. It is because there are so many boys like this one, and so many parents satisfied with boys of that kind, that we believe in industrial training in the schools.

If parents will do their parts, industrial training can easily be done away with. But we do not believe the majority of parents will do their part.

The old adage about laying away for a rainy day has lost its force in the Willamette valley.

COURTESY TO OLD SOLDIERS.

It has been reported to The Sentinel that at the time of the recent funeral of an old soldier, the members of the G. A. R. post were unable to get anyone to donate automobiles to carry them to the funeral, which was held on Mosby creek. Several owners of automobiles were asked but none were able to respond. The old soldiers, most of whom are unable to personally go to the expense of hiring cars, felt hurt at thus being deprived of the opportunity to pay their last tribute to one who offered his life in his country's service.

The Sentinel has no criticism to offer of those who were called upon and for good reasons, as the old soldiers said, were unable to perform the service required of them. Owners of cars are called upon frequently to go to trouble and expense not asked of non-car owners and have been found always ready, whenever possible, to make any sacrifice within reason, but at this time it strikes us that we should be ready to make real sacrifices when necessary for the comfort of the old boys who once faced shot and shell that we might enjoy the liberties and benefits of a great democracy. At this time, as at no other, should we be mindful of the debt we owe these old boys in blue who, now able to bask in the sun, once marched bravely away to fight the good fight for their country, and ours.

Let us not only honor them upon Memorial days, but let us show them every possible courtesy at all other times—courtesies to which they are entitled and which they have rightfully earned. Let us make real sacrifices for them when necessary.

VIEWS OF A PRUSSIAN GIRL.

Here is a letter written by a Prussian schoolgirl to a friend in Switzerland. The writer undoubtedly is young. Therefore it is quite safe to assume that her views are reflected, and consequently throw a very good side-light on the peculiar mental condition of the average German—the German of "kultur," for her father is the state chancellor of architecture. And if you were not aware that Adam and Eve were Prussians, and that the Prussians are the lords par excellence of the world, and that all other nations are only "weeds," the following letter, printed in The Scotsman, will enlighten you on this and other interesting facts about Prussia:

Frankfurt-on-Oder, 29th July, 1916.
My Dear Louise: The contents of your last letter would have hurt me had I not known that your thoughts on our glorious war resulted from sheer ignorance.

You are in a country rendered effeminate by the influence of old-fashioned ideas of liberty, a country which is at least two centuries behind ours. You are in need of a good dose of Prussian culture.

It is evident that you, a Swiss girl, with your French sympathies, can not understand how my heart, the heart of a young German girl, passionately desired this war. Speaking of it some years ago, my father said to us: "Children, Germany is getting too small for us; we shall have to go to France again in order to find more room." Is it our fault if France will not understand that more money and land are necessary for us?

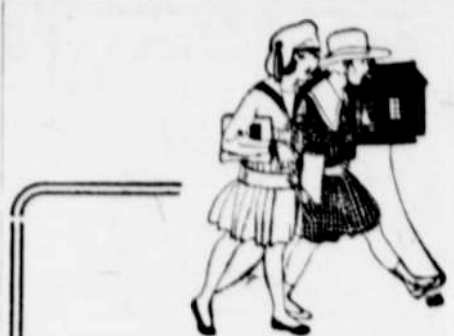
And you reproach us that our soldiers have been very cruel to the Belgian rabble, and you speak also of the destruction of Reims, and of the burning of villages and towns. Well, that is war. As in every other undertaking, we are past masters in the making of war.

You have a great deal to learn before you can come up to our standard, and I can assure you that what has been done so far is a mere bagatelle with what will follow.

As a matter of fact, there is but one race worthy of ruling the world, and which has already attained the highest degree of civilization. That race is ours, the Prussians; for though we Germans in general are lords of the world, the Prussian is undoubtedly the lord par excellence among the Germans.

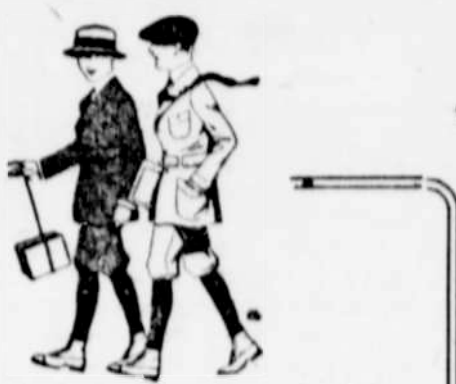
All other nations, and among them, unfortunately, the Swiss, are degenerate and of inferior worth. That is why I have always been so proud of being a true Prussian.

Yesterday, again, our pastor explained to us convincingly that our first parents,



DING DONG DING DONG

Soon now, ringing school bells will call boys and girls from vacation frolic to busy, happy days of study.



Sister, spie and span, will mingle with her playmates, proud of her pretty new school frock, while son awkwardly tries to convince himself and the rest of the boys that he's not conscious of his new suit—that shoes don't feel funny on feet that have been bare all summer. And teacher says, "Now, Children!"

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Adam and Eve, were also Prussian. That is quite easy to understand, because the bible tells us that the German God created us all after his own image. If, then, all men are descended from Adam and his wife, it follows that only Prussians, or at least Germans, ought to exist in the world, and that all who push on and prosper ought to belong to us. You must admit that that is logic, and that is why our motto is, "God with us, Germany above everything."

You know now why we wished this war. Is it not shameful that other nations, who have no right to existence on the earth, wish to diminish our heritage? We are the divine fruit, and the others are only weeds. That is why our great emperor has decided to put an end to all these injustices, and to exterminate all the weeds. Do you understand that now?

I remain, your school friend,
KATIE HAMEL,
(Daughter of the state counselor of architecture.)

THINGS WE THINK

Sympathy, after you've gotten yourself into trouble, doesn't get the results that common sense would have before-hand.

There is a well defined connection between the two words "matrimony" and "alimony," but not a very close relation.

When her husband agrees with her a wife immediately becomes suspicious that something is wrong somewhere.

Man blames everything he possibly can onto woman—but he never seems to really try to get along without her.

A question that might attract considerable interest is: Do reformers make reforms, or do reforms make the reformers?

The man who sets once is likely to get more done than the one who thinks twice.

If we could only collect silver on some of our golden promises, what a fine old place this world would be.

The man and woman who really prefer to be single are to be pitied—there is something wrong with them—but they don't show it as much as those who are just aching to get married.

A man is more likely to be around the kitchen when there is a maid to do the work than if his wife were doing the work and there was a possibility of his services being desired.

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Mrs. Mary F. cisco, and Mrs.

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We Sell

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ICE CREAM SODA WATER SANDWICH NEAT THE B O. M. BALDWIN Oregon

Baker's bread. Lester Phelps h D. Read home on Mrs. Ed. Riddl day last week w Nelson Durham.

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