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Educational Department.

Teachers, school officers and friends of Education from all parts of the Pacific Coast are invited to contribute to this Department; discussions, essays, proceedings of educational meetings, queries, &c. Address, Monmouth, Oregon.

From Supt. Powell.

The following cheering letter from Prof. L. J. Powell, State Superintendent, is characteristic of the man—full energy and enthusiasm whenever a good cause is to be worked out. He richly deserves the hearty confidence of the people he receives:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Salem, Or., Jan. 5, 1882.

Prof. D. T. Stawley,
Monmouth, Or.

MY DEAR SIR,—Hail to you, in your new role!! From the rod to the tripod and thence to the Pen which long since has been acknowledged more powerful than the sword. I fully believe you are in a position now to be of much benefit to the general educational work of the State.

Your prospectus has a sensible and to my mind a practical ring to it.

But, my dear brother, you have taken upon yourself a very laborious work. It will require nerve and grit and patience and push and sense and tact and indomitable energy and a keen sense of the practical.

I bid you God Speed! and will be glad to give you all the assistance I can, but shall not be able to do much from lack of time.

I have nothing prepared for you this week but words of cheer. I will write you again soon.

Respectfully,

L. J. POWELL.

An Important Matter.

A most pressing need of more knowledge of the "human form divine" among the masses of the people, is felt by better informed people generally, and Physiology must soon become an important branch of study in our school-rooms. Dr. J. M. Gregory, formerly president of the Illinois Industrial University, looks to our medical schools for the remedy in this matter. In a recent address in Chicago he said: "Public health officers are wanted by the hundred—trained men full of knowledge and skill, to lead the people, and to guard from pestilence our numerous cities."

Where shall we look for the men of this great public trust except among the graduates of our medical schools? Public good demands that this lack should be met. May I not, therefore, in the name of the great outside population which I represent, and in whose cause I make this plea, ask the medical colleges of our State, this and all others, to add to their chairs, if they have not already done it, one from which the full and large discussion of sanitation, public and private, shall be heard?

Teach it in the common schools. And as all true social progress implies and demands the progress of the people in some line, may we not ask of the medical profession, the voice of their counsel, and the weight of their influence, that the elements of hygiene and of sanitary science shall find their way into all the schools where the children of the people are trained and informed for the duties of their lives?

We can find multitudes of school-boys who can tell the southernmost cape of Kamatchka, but cannot tell the place of their own stomachs or livers.

They know the heart of the wild African continent, but they know nothing of the structure or functions

of their own hearts. This red river of life that courses through their own bodies is wholly unknown to them, but they can tell the river system which drains the northern slopes of Asia.

The knowledge on which their own life and health hangs depending, is not taught them; and the simple sanitary process which might save health and life are never mentioned.

We ask the medical profession to see that these things also go into the schools; that some years are taken off from the study of the everlasting arithmetic, and the almost useless geography, which teaches simply that this insignificant place is here, and that place is there, and another place is yonder, and that these years are given to studying the world within, the wonderful world of their own bodies, and those laws of life and health which may help them to guard against needless suffering and sickness, and to live safe and strong amid nature's forces."

Proceedings of the Benton County Teachers' Institute.

Monday, Dec. 26, 1881.

The Institute was called to order at 7 P. M., in the College Chapel by the President, Hon. E. B. McElroy, Supt. Public Instruction of Benton county. Prayer by Rev. D. C. McFarland. Quartette by Mrs. Johnson and others.

An excellent address was delivered by Hon. Isaac Macrum, Supt. Public Instruction of Multnomah, on the subject, "Our Public Schools." This was followed by a sweet solo by Miss Jessie Taylor.

Pres. Arnold, of the Agricultural College, made a ringing speech on the subject "The Objects and Value of Education."

Quartette by Miss Pitman and others, "Bluebells."

TUESDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The Institute came to order at 10 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. D. C. McFarland. Hon. E. B. McElroy, County Supt., delivered an interesting and comprehensive lecture on "English Literature."

Orthography was the subject of the address by Mr. J. W. Hill; remarks were made on the subject by the Hon. State Supt., and by Prof. Hogue. The finishing touch of this lively discussion was given by Miss Ida Burnett on the piano.

A spicy essay by Miss Nettie Spencer on "Words Without Ideas." Next was a carefully written and well read article on "Attention," by W. W. Johnson.

After a recess of a few minutes the following named officers were elected: A. F. Hersner, and W. Y. Masters Recording Secretaries. V. A. Davis, and W. C. Taylor, Enrolling Secretaries.

There was a general discussion on incentives to study, participated in by Prof. McElroy, Prof. Powell (the teacher must be the incentive to study.) Prof. Hegue—the prize does not stimulate the stragglers—Prof. Baldwin—tell the pupils what they go to school for.

Adjourned till 1 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President, Hon. E. B. McElroy, calling the Institute to order at 1 o'clock. Music by Miss Inez St. Clair.

Prof. Sheak, of Philomath College gave blackboard illustrations of Letter Writing. Penmanship may be promoted by having the pupils write letters. Remarks were made by W. C. Taylor and E. B. McElroy.

Music by Miss St. Clair.

Essay by Miss Ida Burnett, on "Oral Teaching." Explanation and illustration shall precede all application of rules.

Quartette by Mrs. Addition and others.

Prof. A. E. Milner read a paper on "Book-keeping."

Music by Miss Ida Burnett.

Judge F. A. Chenowith addressed the Institute on the subject, "Relation of Crime to Education."

Music by Miss St. Clair.

EVENING SESSION.

The Institute met at 7 o'clock, President in the chair. Prayer by the Rev. Bowersox. Solo by Miss Pitman.

The address of welcome was delivered by S. T. Jeffreys. Response by Mr. W. C. Taylor. These speeches were both lively and appropriate.

Quartette by Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Addition, Mr. Carrick and Mr. Readman.

Address by Prof. T. F. Campbell, of Monmouth. Solo by Miss Jessie Taylor. The Hon. State Supt., L. J. Powell, reported a steady advance, all along the line in educational matters of this State.

Music by Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Hoodeck.

WEDNESDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Association came to order at 9 o'clock. Prof. M. H. Parker of Philomath, read an essay on "School Government."

Reading was then introduced by Prof. W. H. Hauert, followed by Prof. Gregg, Prof. Hogue, and Prof. Powell. Fractions were then explained by Prof. A. F. Hersner.

Greatest Common Divisor and the Least Common Multiple by Prof. A. E. Milner. Music by Miss St. Clair. Miss Lizzie Hamilton read an essay full of good thoughts—Latitude and Longitude by Prof. J. Emery.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Institute came to order at 1:30 o'clock. The English Alphabet was the subject of remarks by Prof. B. J. Hawthorne.

Music by Mrs. Addition and others.

Elocution by Judge W. S. McFadden. This was followed by an essay by Mrs. Linden W. Bates, on the subject "Relation of Culture to Labor."

Hon. L. J. Powell being called upon made a waking up speech. He is always ready.

Hon. J. T. Gregg, of Salem, was then introduced, and read a paper on the "Relation of Normal and Public Schools."

EVENING SESSION.

The winding up of the exercises of the Institute took place in the City-Hall at 7 o'clock. The programme consisted of Elocutionary exercises interspersed with music, all of which were well rendered.

California State Teachers' Association.

The State Teachers' Association of California, convened its fifteenth annual session Dec. 27th, in the main hall of the Young Men's Christian Association building, San Francisco.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Association, James Denman, and after the disposal of preliminary business, J. S. C. Stubbs, chairman of the Board of School Directors, made a brief but neat address of welcome.

A recess was then taken until 2 o'clock to allow members an opportunity to sign the roll and pay dues.

When the meeting reassembled James Denman, of San Francisco,

read an address on "Graded Schools. The next feature of the programme was a discussion on the "Uses and Abuses of the Credit System," introduced by S. Sturgis and followed by Mr. E. Nolton, Miss Kate Kenedy, Mr. Ira P. Moore, of San Jose and C. J. Smythe, of Sonoma.

The chairman then appointed committees on resolutions, also nominations of officers. Miss Lulu Moore was appointed Assistant Secretary, after which an adjournment was taken until 9:30 the next morning.

The State Teachers' Convention reassembled in Young Men's Christian Association hall Tuesday morning. After the regular transaction of routine business Pres. Denman appointed a committee on Introduction.

The regular programme was then taken up and Rev. A. L. Cole, of Solon, read an address on the "Battle of Letters."

State Superintendent, F. M. Campbell, then addressed the convention upon "Education as the True Liberty." At the conclusion of Mr. Campbell's remarks—which were listened to with great attention, a recess was taken until 2 o'clock, when Jesse Hoed, County School Superintendent of Butte county, addressed the meeting on the subject of "County Superintendents."

A volunteer quartette of male voices then rendered, "My Last Cigar," and being encored sang "Good Night, Ladies."

Pres. W. T. Reid, of the State University then read an address upon the "Current Fallacies in Education." A resolution was then adopted that the Association view with disfavor any attempt to disturb the neutrality of the public schools on the question of religious faith.

An adjournment was then taken until 9:30 o'clock the next morning.

The Teachers' Convention reconvened in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, for the third and last day of the session, Wednesday, December 29th. Pres. James Denman in the chair. The roll call showed that thirty-three counties were represented in the Convention, and that twelve county superintendents were present.

After the preliminary business had been disposed of, Prof. J. M. Grimm, of Los Angeles, addressed the Convention on the subject of "Mechanical Pedagogy," handling it in a very able and comprehensive manner.

James E. Clark, Secretary of the Washington Territory State Institute, spoke for a short time on "Our Present System of Education."

The hour for recess having arrived, the Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock.

Upon reassembling in the afternoon Dr. J. H. Wythe addressed the Convention on "Symmetrical Education." The Doctor was frequently applauded and on the conclusion of his remarks, Pres. Denman read a telegram from J. M. Eaton, of Washington, regretting his inability to attend the Convention.

Prof. Charles H. Allen, of the State Normal School, was the next speaker. He addressed the Convention in a very able manner upon "The Necessity of Trained Teachers."

Mrs. Griffith submitted a report of the finances of the Association, detailing receipts and expenditures. The report was read and accepted.

The next business was reports of

committees on resolutions and nominations. The latter committee submitted a report presenting names for officers for the ensuing year, which was adopted. The committee on resolutions submitted resolutions providing for the regulation of business at the next annual meeting which will be held in San Francisco on Dec. 29, 1882, and remain in session three days.

The Convention then adjourned *sine die*.

Scientific Miscellany.

Latest investigations of German scientists have shown that: the electric light is not only healthier than other methods of illumination in leaving the air purer, but that it increases the power of vision in some respects, especially in distinguishing colors. Red, blue, Green and yellow are much more distinct under this light than by daylight.

Two Leipzig chemists have devised a process for obtaining sugar in a permanently liquid form. This result is said to be effected by adding to a purified sugar solution a small quantity of citric acid, which combines with the sugar and deprives it of its tendency to crystallize.

Some experiments by M. Gautier appear to prove that human saliva possesses, in a milder degree, the same poisonous property as that of serpents. The human saliva injected under the skin of a bird caused death, with symptoms very closely resembling those resulting from serpent bites.

A new theory of the so-called fascination of birds by snakes is that the bird mistakes the snake's tongue, which the reptile keeps in rapid and constant motion, for a lively worm, and watches it intently with the anticipation of devouring it.

M. Pasteur has resolved to extend his studies in vaccination to yellow fever, with a view of determining whether or not the disease is due to parasites and can be guarded against by inoculation. A broad field of investigation is open to Pasteur as it is suggested by his discoveries thus far that all contagious maladies may be due to parasitic growths of virulence of which may be so reduced by his method of inoculation as to render this class of diseases no longer a matter of dread.

A Neapolitan gardener, after years of experiment, has produced a camelia with a delicate perfume, and he thinks it probable that these flowers may in the near future be so cultivated as to rival the rose in the fragrance of its odor.

Mr. C. Shaler Smith has given the results of extensive observations in relation to the pressure exerted by the wind. The most violent gale recorded by him was at East St. Louis, in 1871, when the wind overturned a locomotive, the force developed in so doing being no less than 93 pounds per square foot.

At St. Charles a jail was destroyed in 1877, the pressure required being 84 pounds per square foot. At Marshfield, in 1880, a brick mansion was leveled, the force necessary being 58 pounds per square foot. Below these extraordinary pressures, Mr. Smith instances numerous cases of trains blown off rails, and bridges, etc., blown down by gales of 24 to 31 pounds per square foot. In all the examples the lowest force required to do the observed damage has been taken as the maximum power of the wind, although, of course, it may have been higher.

Enthusiasts who make a special study of sunspots and attendant phenomena believe that the corner-

stone of a new science is being laid by discoveries pointing to an intimate connection between solar and terrestrial meteorology. Just what the connection is they are not yet able to clearly define, although electricity is suspected of being the agent through which the effects are manifested upon our planet. It is known that the gaseous envelope of the sun is affected by eruptions of such prodigious magnitude as to be utterly beyond our power of conception, these disturbances appearing to us in the form of rapidly changing spots and protuberances. The eruptions occur at remarkably regular intervals, a complete cycle of the various stages of activity from maximum to minimum and again to maximum being performed in about eleven years—the so-called "sun-spot period." The sun-spot physicists claim a coincidence of the periods of maximum spots and years of great atmospheric and physical disturbance in the earth. The present has been a year of great solar disturbances, while it has been marked by violent storms and earthquakes upon our globe. Further than this, these scientists claim to have recently detected by simultaneous observation minor atmospheric changes as the result of corresponding movements in the sun. Difficulties attend these observations, but the Astronomer Royal for Scotland and others believe that the state of the sun will some day become an important factor in weather forecasts and like calculations.

Weather Report for Dec., 1881.

During December, 1881, there were 18 days during which rain fell, and an aggregate of 3.40 in. of water, 2 clear and 11 cloudy days, other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 42.16°. Highest daily mean temperature for the month 53°, on the 22nd. Lowest daily mean 29°, on the 2nd.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M. 45.45°.

Highest temperature for the month 57°, at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 22nd. Lowest temperature 25°, at 7 o'clock A. M. on the 2nd and 3rd.

Frosts occurred on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 24th, 25th, 27th and 28th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the North during 7 days, S. W. 21 days, South 2 days, N. W. 1 day.

During December, 1880, there were 18 rainy days, and 11.50 in. of water, 1 clear and 12 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month 31.22°. Highest daily 53°, on the 26th. Lowest daily, 23°, on the 3rd.

T. PEARCE.

"Liquor is responsible for nearly all the crimes committed in this community; for the insecurity of life and property in our midst; for the necessity for a large police force; and, being thus responsible, it should be compelled to meet the responsibility and pay for it."—Tribune.

Would it not be still better to abolish the evil? In the case of a mad dog would we tax the owner to pay doctor bills and for coffins, or would we kill the dog? The Tribune advocates high license. High license may be adopted as a stepping stone to something better. It is better than low license and the higher it is put the better. The end always to be aimed at as soon as public sentiment is sufficiently educated is prohibition.—Evangelist.