

COUNTYSCHOOL REPORT

SCHOOLS MAKING RAPID PROGRESSIVE STRIDES.

Many Improvements Noted in All Schools—Record of Attendance For Month Very Good.

The average number of pupils attending Polk county schools in the first month of the present year, or from September 8 to October 8, was 3,706, according to the monthly report for the schools of the county prepared and just issued by County Superintendent H. C. Seymour. The average daily attendance in that time was 3,604, or 97 per cent of the total. Of the total number of pupils in the county there are 2,334 who have not been late or absent since school started. This report is not as good as those that will come in from now on because of the fact that absences were counted against those children, who by reason of the grain and hop harvests were kept in the fields after school started. Throughout the winter months there will be little or nothing to detract the attention of the children from their school work and the monthly reports should become even more nearly perfect than the first one. Superintendent Seymour's report shows that 94 parents have visited the classrooms of the county since school started and the several members of the school boards have made 49 visits to the various schools. For removal from school districts and other causes 87 pupils have been dropped from the school rolls during the month. By reason of having maintained an attendance record of 95 per cent through the month 58 schools have been placed on the roll of honor, and for having had no tardy marks on their cards 37 schools have been placed on the roll of honor.

"School work has started out in excellent shape this fall," says Superintendent Seymour. Practically every teacher in the county has taken hold of the work with vim and a determination to make his or her school the best in the county. With the co-operation of parents, school boards and children, which we are satisfied will be forthcoming, we are looking for the greatest school year we have ever had. Many districts have made most excellent improvements, and the school boards have evidenced their interest by putting their buildings in good condition for the school opening."

The Zena school, which was destroyed by fire last spring, has been replaced with a thoroughly modern building, containing satisfaction for the wants of an up-to-the-minute school house. The new building was dedicated on October 11 with appropriate ceremonies. The people of the community plan to meet and grade the school grounds.

The Parker community has completed one of the best school houses in the county or state; a modern building in every way. Parker has a good, live Parent-Teacher's association which is assisting the teacher and school board to make their's a better place to live in. The new building was dedicated on October 8.

The high school pupils of Airie are taking time by the forelock and are circulating a petition for the erection of a play shed or gymnasium, and are looking forward to success. The Airie school became standard on October 18, being the first of the two five room schools in the county to gain that distinction.

The Perrydale school has been raised and two class rooms, a manual training room and a furnace room built. This is a great improvement, giving the community one of the prettiest buildings in the county and a very modern structure. The Perrydale school is the first in the county to report the work of its industrial club for the present year, and Perrydale will be heard from at the fairs next fall. The district has a good, live Parent-Teacher's association and all are working for the betterment of the school.

The Cochran school, after a year of adjournment, has taken up its duties with Miss Roberta Ballard as teacher. The school board has made many improvements making the building a modern little workroom.

An addition has been built on the Elkins school building making of it a two room structure with basement and furnace room. Elkins is another community favored with an active Parent-Teacher's association and all are working for the welfare of the school. Elkins received first place among the one-room schools at the county fair this fall, and next fall, in competition with schools of from two to five rooms, will make the others hustle. The new Elkins school building was dedicated on October 16, with a number of prominent educators in attendance.

The Parent-Teacher's association of Independence is planning with the people of that city for the erection of a large covered playshed or gymnasium and sufficient funds have been gathered to insure its early erection.

Spring Valley residents voted, as a special school meeting, to make several improvements, such as putting in new seats, and all have agreed to work toward the early standardization of the institution.

The school board at Lincoln has purchased new school equipment and is endeavoring to keep its school up-to-date in every particular. The Meltonville valley school board has al-

so made several improvements, having painted the building and put everything in good condition for the year's work.

The people of Black Rock have just completed the erection of a two-room school building which is entirely modern. A splendid year is predicted for this school, one of the best two-room institutions in the county.

Modern fire escapes have been constructed on the Falls City school building. Many other improvements have been made and the school work is well started. The school grounds of the Rogue River district were graded last year and now are in excellent condition. New walks have been laid and the building painted. Everything at the Rogue River school is modern and the children are getting into their work with a determination to make this the best year ever.

The school house at Wildwood has been greatly improved as have the grounds and surroundings. The people at Wildwood are very much interested in their school and have displayed their feeling by expending more than \$200 for improvements within the spring and summer.

At Fern a fence has been built around the school yard and the grounds have been graded and put in first-class shape. This gives the children advantages not enjoyed before in their play and the fence is a protection to them as well as to their flowers and shrubs.

The school industrial club work will continue as in the past, and because of the excellent showing made at the fairs this fall will be even a stronger attraction for the pupils than ever before. It will be necessary for them to prepare a better exhibit next year than they had this fall if they are to take prizes with their products and the children are appreciative of this fact. Literature pertaining to the club work will be distributed at the teacher's institute in Dallas next week. The superintendent expresses the hope that all schools will be entered in the various club projects and suggests that Parent-Teacher's associations, where they exist, lend their aid to the children.

Spelling contests will be carried on in the schools as they have been in the past. The first contest is to be held November 24 and it is possible that every child in the county, from the third to the eighth grade inclusive, will write in the contests.

Maps will be distributed among the schools within the next few days by the county superintendent. These large maps were received from the state forestry department through the office of the state superintendent of public instruction.

Mr. Seymour speaks of the receptions that have been tendered to new teachers by the children of the schools and the residents of the various communities. "This is a very good plan," says the superintendent, "and means that the teacher will become acquainted at once with those whom she must work with and among, and the result will be a closer co-operation of effort throughout the system. The only regret is that all schools have not held these receptions."

HIGHEST COMMENDATION.

Christian Advocate Speaks Well of Rev. Bennett's Book.

The Christian Advocate of New York, the foremost journal of the Methodist Episcopal church, has this to say about the book issued by the pastor of our local Methodist church:

"George H. Bennett has taken up a challenge made to the clergymen of Portland, Oregon, and has published his answer in a small volume called 'The Challenge of the Church: Rationalism Refuted.' The challenges are the Oregon Rationalist society, and as they demanded responses on five points, including the truth of the bible, the divinity of Christ, the reasons for the church, and practical application of the gospel to the lives of men, the author has followed the same general outline.

"As may be seen at once, the challenges have been patently attacked the entire structure of religion. The response must, therefore, be an entire system of apologetics. Mr. Bennett, who is a Methodist pastor in this state of Oregon, and was formerly professor of systematic theology in Portland University, has very wisely answered in a broad and sane way. His book is not voluminous, and he has kept the synopsis of his essay clearly in view in order to hold himself to the main questions at issue. As a brief summary of so broad a field the book possesses undoubted merit. It might be commended to those who wish such an outline of theology as is here sketched out."

MR. MULKEY CHANGES BASE.

Moves From Medford to Portland for Practice of Profession.

B. F. Mulkey, formerly a resident of Polk county, which he represented in the state senate two terms, and where he served as county clerk for some time, will move from Medford to Portland in the near future, there to practice his profession, that of a lawyer. After having left Polk county, Mr. Mulkey was president of the Ashland Normal school, but resigned to follow the law game, and was prosecuting attorney for Jackson and Josephine counties for five years.

Mr. Mulkey has many warm personal friends in Dallas and Polk county, all of whom will wish him unbounded success in his new field of labor. He will be associated in Portland with W. H. Powell, and will have offices in the Mohawk building.

INSTITUTE NEXT WEEK

ALL COUNTY TEACHERS WILL ASSEMBLE WEDNESDAY.

Fine Program Prepared By Superintendent Seymour for Annual Teachers' Institute.

School teachers from practically every school in the county, or about 150 men and women, will be present at the teacher's institute which will be held in Dallas on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week. It will be the occasion for a gathering of the foremost educators in the state and will be the most important event of the year from the teachers' point of view. The exercises open at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning and the program includes musical, dramatic and social sessions in addition to the business of the meeting which will take up the greater part of the three days. The state school laws require that all schools of the county be closed during the time of the institute and that the teachers be in attendance at every session held.

Among the prominent educators who will attend the institute and take part in the program are J. H. Ackerman, president of the Oregon Normal school; E. F. Carleton, assistant superintendent public instruction; Thos. H. Gentle, principal of the training school, Oregon Normal school; E. D. Ressler, department of education, Oregon Agricultural college; B. W. DeBusk, department of education, University of Oregon; F. L. Griffin, department of education, Oregon Agricultural college; M. S. Pittman, Oregon Normal school; Miss Lillian Dinius, Oregon Normal school; Miss Alice McIntosh, Oregon Normal school; Mrs. Mamie Fulkerson, institute instructor, Salem, and H. H. Parsons, rural school supervisor, Polk county.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

(By Frank Farmer)

Do I know anything about sheep? More than I used to, anyhow. When I was a boy, I spent one summer on a sheep ranch. I didn't care much for them then. I could see that they were valuable, for they furnished both wool and meat, but I looked on them as stupid, silly creatures, and I didn't like the smell.

My job was to watch the sheep, day after day while they cropped the prairie grass close. I was to watch out for prairie fires and keep the sheep from straying, but in reality I had a dog who knew more about sheep, and fires than I did. He did the work while I lay in the shade of a big umbrella, and read or watched the big lumps of clouds, white like mashed potatoes above and dark below, come floating slowly out of the southwest and drift lazily off into the northeast.

You have seen sheep herders who would tell their dogs what to do and the dogs would obey. I didn't have to do even that much. The dog knew when it was time to take them home, and he would round them up and keep them moving toward the corral. My aunt owned the ranch. She didn't have so many sheep as some—one about four hundred, and to see them an inexperienced person would have said there weren't more than a hundred. What kind were they? They were grade Shropshires and my aunt purchased a Merino ram that year. Merinos were going to make over the sheep industry, we were told.

My aunt allowed me to invest my savings in sheep. I had twelve dollars, and that bought me four. The following year I got my money back and still had four sheep. I thought I was going to get rich, but the following fall a prairie fire swept down on the fold and the flock perished, mine among the rest.

Later on I worked with South-downs. You don't see so many out here in the northwest, though there are a few. I expect to see more some of these days. I don't class them as range sheep, however. The South-down is stylish. Its meat quality is hard to beat and it dresses heavier than one would think, to look at it. It is prolific, too. I admit, however, that its fleece is light, and for the present, it cannot hold its own against other breeds on the range.

Still later I was fortunate with Lincolns. I found them hardy, big fellows, with a heavy yield of both wool and mutton.

There are many breeds and not one of them but has some strong points to favor them. The reason I don't mention them is that I've had no experience with them. But there is something I can say regarding sheep keeping. The day is coming when every farmer will find it profitable to keep some sheep. They are economy in woolly form. They clean up weeds in good shape and are easily cared for. They are profitable in small flocks. Sometimes the big flocks are fortune makers, too, but I'm speaking of farmers now and not of sheep men. The average farmer won't lose money on a few sheep. A few nearly always do well, but it takes special skill to get proportionate profit out of many.

Just now, perhaps, this advice isn't needed. Sheep have made money of late and everybody is apt to rush into sheep. It is dangerous business, following the leader in that way, how-

ever, but if every farmer had a few he'd find them assets. As I said, they require comparatively little attention and live cheap. Their manure is valuable and they apply it to the land, themselves. It isn't lost. Whenever you find sheep properly cared for in reasonable numbers on a general farm, you'll find that they are profitable.

Jason and his companions sailed through all sorts of perils, according to the old Greek mythology, to find the golden fleece. It can be found without danger to life and limb today, right on the sheep's back.

That brings up the fly in the ointment—the plaguey dog. What I'm hoping for is that dogs will be bred only for use. Nobody loves a good dog more than I do. They are intelligent and useful for a score of purposes and they earn their board many times over. But the cur dog should be exterminated. Until this is done just as effectually as are other beasts of prey, the sheep owner is in peril of losing his valuable animals. We have good enough laws, but they are not enforced.

Still I hope all farmers will start in with a few sheep, for if we all have some we will attend to the case of Mr. Cur dog when he begins to make inroads on everybody's cash box.—Oregon Farmer.

THE CITY IN BRIEF

Dr. Lowe, the eye specialist, has been coming to Dallas for more than a quarter century. "Can you beat it?"

Thursday, October 23, Dr. Freeze, the well-known eye specialist from Portland, will be at Imperial hotel all day. Consultation free. 66-3f.

Take your automobile repair work to C. J. Shreeve, Oak street. 64-1f. The Sterling Furniture company frames pictures. 64-1f.

Of what benefit will an education be to your children if they graduate from school with impaired health, distorted spines and injured eyes?

For Fire and automobile insurance see Chas. Gregory, city hall 32-1f. Dr. C. L. Foster, dentist, City Bank building, Dallas. 73-F.

See Van Orsdel and Manaton for old line fire insurance—the Queen, Liverpool, London & Globe, company 13. The oldest and best on the coast.

Why be bothered with two pairs of glasses? Call at Hotel Gail October 23-29 and have Dr. Lowe show you the new glasses with which you can see all distances. He guarantees all his glasses to satisfy, whether they cost \$2 or more. Scores of references. The Sterling Furniture company frames pictures. 64-1f.

Go to the Dallas Brick and Tile company for your brick and tile and save yourself money. 55-1f.

There is more to hair cutting than merely cutting off the hair. Try us for an up-to-date stylish hair cut—C. W. Shultz. 12-1f.

Only ten in every hundred babies are born with perfect eyes. Eye defects in the other ninety vary, but all should have attention, particularly when the child reaches school age.

Automobile repairs of every kind and nature at C. J. Shreeve's, Oak street. 64-1f.

Dr. Rempel, Chiropractor, 513 Church Dr. Stone's Heave Drops cures heaves. Price \$1, for sale by all druggists.—Adv. 79-1f.

If your children squint, if they hold their books too close to the eye, if their school progress is not what it should be—then let Dr. Lowe determine, by accurate examination, whether glasses will help. Consult him at Hotel Gail, October 23-29, Independence 30. Remember dates.

The Dallas Wood company is ready to furnish you with mill wood. Good loads and good service. All wood cash on delivery. Phone 492. 103-1f.

If you have land you wish surveyed see S. B. Taylor, C. E., city hall, Dallas, phone 791. Dependable work at reasonable prices. 58-1f.

The Sterling Furniture company frames pictures. 64-1f.

We are apt to neglect looking after this important matter, for the reason that children very seldom detect eye trouble themselves until it is apparent to everyone.

Ford owners, take your repair work to the Ford Garage, C. J. Shreeve.

Drs. Lowe & Turner, eye specialists of Portland, will be in Falls City again Wednesday, October 27, at Falls City hotel.

Observer want ads, do the biz.

Imperial Hotel Closed.

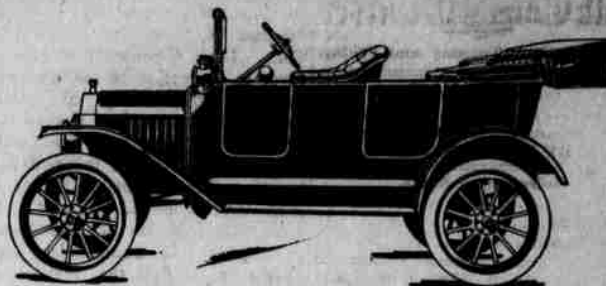
The Imperial hotel was closed to guests yesterday morning, and its reopening is indefinite. The owner of the building, J. W. Crider, is in California.

Eyes and Nerves.

Leading nerve specialists of New York and Chicago have been investigating the effects of eyestrain on the human system and have found it to be the cause of most headaches, weak and watery eyes, conjunctivitis, iritis and many reflex nervous disorders. Dr. Freeze, a leading eye specialist of Portland, claims that he has been proving these statements in his practice for the past twelve years, having had some very remarkable results in relieving eyestrain. The doctor will make his regular trip to Dallas next Thursday, stopping at the Imperial hotel, where everybody is welcome to talk over their eye troubles.

Apples Cheap.

Buy either first grade or unbruised culls of grower; phone South 151. 66-2f.



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