

Polk County's Rural Schools

gun in this county five years ago and has been worked out, not only in this county but two years ago was adopted by the state department as a state plan of standardization, and since then has made such a wonderful part of the educational exhibit at the Panama-Pacific exposition and has been adopted by the school people of many counties in other states. This plan has the following points for its requirements this year:

- Flag—Must be flying, weather permitting.
- School House—Properly lighted.
- Equipment—Teacher's desk and chair; desks for pupils properly adapted and placed; suitable blackboards, window shades in good condition.
- Heating and Ventilating—Jacketed stove properly situated, minimum requirement; window boards or some other approved method of ventilating.
- Rooms—Attractive at all times.
- Standard Picture—One new one, unless three are already in the room, framed.
- Grounds—To be clean, free from paper, etc. At least three features of play apparatus. Walks if necessary.
- Sanitation—Pure drinking water, either drinking fountain or covered tank and individual drinking cups, individual family or paper towels.
- Outbuildings—At least two good ones, to be sanitary at all times and free from marks.
- Teacher—Must maintain good order at all times, supervise the play ground; have her work well prepared; follow state course of study; take at least one educational journal; have program posted in room; keep register in good condition; be neat in attire.
- Library—Good selection of books from state list. Case for the books. Books kept upright in good condition.

schools in this county which won all of the points for standardization. We are expecting many more this year. The real object of standardization is that each district may compare itself with the other districts of the county. Thus, if they are ahead of the other districts, they get credit for that. If they find themselves behind in any way, their local pride causes them to get busy and earn these points and come up to the other districts. Standardization has surely worked wonders for the schools of Polk county.



BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL HOUSE.
Model One Room School Building of the U. S., According to the National Bureau of Education.

Parent-Teachers' Clubs.
The state department of education for several years has been urging the organization of Parent-Teachers' associations, and Polk county has made great progress in this. We have forty-nine Parent-Teacher associations in the county at the present time and majority of them are doing some excellent work. They hold their meetings generally about once a month. At these meetings they have program, rendered by the local people of the community, and discuss questions pertaining to their community or county interests, and also in many speakers from the state schools, state superintendent's office and other places. These speakers give them much outside help which they could not otherwise secure. The associations are making many betterments in school work and backing up their teachers and school boards in every way that is giving Polk county equal co-operation, of which every loyal citizen in the county should be proud. Every progressive school district should have a Parent-Teacher association, and each person in the district should take part in this work, making their school house a real community center, which it should be.

Industrial Clubs.
The Industrial club work in the county has received the loyal support of the teachers, school boards and parents generally. This work is simply an advancement over the old plan of the school fair. It means that the child gets much more out of it than merely raising the pumpkin and exhibiting it. The different projects which are taken up are as follows: Corn growing, potato growing,

vegetable gardening, poultry raising, pig raising, dairy herd record work, seed grain selection, fruit growing, baking, canning, sewing, farm and home handicraft, rural home beautification and the agricultural club. The child keeps a record of the work that he or she has done. Also a record of the cost of production and the proceeds received. This means that the child will learn to raise or produce the article at a profit, if possible.

This work is handled through the county superintendent's office, the state superintendent's office and the Oregon Agricultural college, co-operating with the U. S. government. Bulletins are sent to these children direct from the college and the government, and they receive help from the state leader and his assistants in the Oregon Agricultural college and the two field workers from the state superintendent's office.

The children of Polk county have gone into this work with a zest that means much. Two years ago out of the ten capital prizes offered at the state fair, which consisted of a trip to the Panama-Pacific exposition with all expenses paid, four were won by Polk county boys and girls as follows: Baking, Francelle Hawley; canning, Jessie Key; sewing, May E. McDonald; pig raising, Kenneth Bursell. This year out of the twenty-one capital prizes offered at the state fair, which consisted of a scholarship in the summer school at the O. A. C. for two weeks, with all expenses paid, seven were won by Polk county boys and girls as follows: Dairy herd record work, Earl Cooley; pig feeding contest, single pig, Harold Reynolds; pig feeding contest, sow and litter, Warren McGowan; seed grain selection, Lennie Bowles; sewing, May E. McDonald; poultry raising, Hazel Bursell; vegetable gardening, Homer Bursell.

Two years ago at the state fair Polk county took first place for general school exhibit and this year took first place for the same. The children of the county are getting into the industrial work this year much stronger than ever before, and we are predicting a greater exhibit at the county and state fairs this coming year than at any time in the past.

School rallies were originated in the county during the administration of Superintendent C. L. Starr and the habit has spread until the last few years a school rally has been held in every school district in the county each year, and many districts are asking for the second rally. At these rallies a program is rendered by the children of the school and discussions pertaining to the betterment of the conditions of the district and community interests are discussed. Frequently some outside speaker is present, giving an address on such topics as pertain to school interests. The teachers, patrons and school boards look forward to their rally with pleasure, as it means much to their community.

The High Schools.
The high schools of the county have been making rapid progress during the past few years and the following ones have been standardized by the state board of education as standard four year high schools: Airlie, Monmouth, Independence, Falls City, Dallas, Ballston, Bethel and several others will be standardized in a very short time. Nearly every child in Polk county can now attend a high school and stay at home at night. This means a great deal to the parents and also to the children, and means much for the general educational interests of the county.

The general qualifications of the teachers of the county are becoming better. Many of them are taking special work during the summer, thus preparing themselves to become better teachers. Others are stopping for a year or two and taking work in the Normal schools or colleges.

The school population of the county at the present time is about 5300. The general school levy of the county for

been in the county for several years. The school boards are gradually adopting the plan of employing a teacher who makes good just as long as they can keep her, realizing that a teacher does better work the second, third or fourth years. This is a good sign and indicates the general progressiveness of the school boards of the county, which was also demonstrated at the last school officers' convention when they passed a resolution allowing every teacher in the county to spend one day visiting some other teacher in the county who is doing similar work, the visits to be made under the direction of the county school superintendent. They believe that by the teachers doing this, they will be able to do better work in the school room.

Teachers' Examinations.
A teachers' examination is in progress at the court house, the following being the week's program:

- Commencing Wednesday, December 15, 1915, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, December 18, 1915, at 4 o'clock p. m.
- Wednesday Forenoon—Writing, U. S. history.
- Wednesday Afternoon—Reading, physiology, composition, methods in reading, methods in arithmetic.
- Thursday Forenoon—Arithmetic, history of education, psychology, methods in geography.
- Thursday Afternoon—Grammar, geography, American literature, physics, methods in language, thesis for primary certificate, science of education.
- Friday Forenoon—Theory and practice, orthography, physical geography, English literature, chemistry, history of education.
- Friday Afternoon—School law, geology, algebra, civil government, childhood and adolescence.
- Saturday Forenoon—Geometry, botany, school administration.
- Saturday Afternoon—General history, bookkeeping, methods.

"UNCLE TIP" GRAVES PASSES.

H. T. Graves, well-known and respected resident of Yamhill county, passed to his final reward on Sunday afternoon at his home near Sheridan. "Uncle Tip," as he was familiarly known, leaves perhaps as many friends to mourn his death as any other man in this part of the valley. He was an uncle of Carl Graves, former treasurer of Polk county, and had many other relatives in Polk and Yamhill county. He was an early settler near the Yamhill-Polk county line, and all of the old timers were numbered among his friends and associates. His acquaintance in Dallas was almost as extensive as in the Yamhill county communities. "Uncle Tip" is to be buried today at 11 o'clock, with services from his home near Sheridan. Mr. Graves was about 75 years old at the time of his death.

Walter L. Tooze, Jr., has been refitting his law offices in the National bank building with a new set of books to accommodate his law library. The shelves extend to the ceiling on all sides of the main office room. Mr. Tooze has recently added several hundred books to his library.

J. C. Talbott of Falls City was a visitor in the city on Tuesday.



C. L. STARR
Who Introduced School Rallies in Polk County.

common and high school purposes is \$57,000 and many of the school districts vote a special tax all of the way from a tenth of a mill to 15 mills to be used for improvements and maintaining their schools.

There are over 150 teachers employed in the county during the year and many of these are teachers who have

being made to the following districts: Oreochards, Airlie, Spring Valley, Every school from the house to the house to the majority of these applied with suit- their school.

county has been spelling contest- eted for the pas the children hav their spelling, be also, as the chi a home at night and recorded according to rules specified by Oregon state library and required by law.

Attendance—Average 92 per cent for year and not to exceed two per cent in tardiness per year.

Length of Term—Not less than eight months of school each year.

Last year there were fifty-six

Woman's Club

(Craven)
A number of pleasant social evenings were enjoyed by the members of the young women's department, who were of great assistance to the organization in furnishing music and other entertainment for the general meetings.

The Woman's club has nearly one hundred enthusiastic members, all of whom are willing workers for the good of the community and fully appreciate the kindness of the public and press.

Permanent Club Exhibit Placed.

Secretary U. S. Loughary of the Commercial club has arranged a very attractive window display in the club's office to display many of the prize winning crops and products of Polk county. The exhibit was taken from the county's harvests that were collected for the various fairs last fall and their arrangement into a permanent Commercial club display is a feature that has not been tried before. Grains and grasses, as well as fruits and other farm, orchard and factory products comprise the exhibit as arranged by the secretary.

Monmouth Banker Honored.

Ira C. Powell, president of the First National bank of Monmouth, was honored by a reception Thursday by the Independent Order Oddfellows' lodge there. Mr. Powell has been an Oddfellow for 25 years and was presented with a jewel by the members. Rev. K. K. Sickafosse made the presentation speech.



Library Building—Woman's Club Headquarters.

THE RED CROSS SEAL.

Sale Should Be Large to Aid Noble Work.
If you use Red Cross Christmas seals on your holiday letters and packages they will do this for you:

Help in the nation-wide fight to wipe out tuberculosis, a preventable disease whose cost to the people of the United States is nearly equal to the total taxes raised in duty and internal revenue combined.

Help to cut down the present death rate from tuberculosis, which is one in every ten of the white race. The seals only cost one cent each and every cent that you spend for a seal makes you a crusader against tuberculosis.

The seals act as messengers of mercy by helping to care for the 1,250,000 people in the United States who are infected with tuberculosis, 500,000 of whom are bedridden.

Stop and realize that one-fourth of all preventable deaths are due to tuberculosis and that this disease cannot be stamped out unless you do your part.

Boost Red Cross Christmas seals.

They are on sale at the drug stores and Hayter's book store.

Officers Are Elected.

The Loyal Women's Bible class of the Christian church held their monthly business meeting Friday at the home of Mrs. B. Y. Allen. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. W. W. Dawson; vice-president, Mrs. J. E. Bloom; secretary, Mrs. H. E. Hinman; treasurer, Mrs. Ira Wess; teacher, Mrs. A. N. Newbill.

Vacation Starts Today.

Both the Oregon Normal school and the training school will close today for the Christmas vacation and will convene Monday, January 3.

Monmouth Election.

Monmouth's city election will be held December 20 to elect a mayor, two councilmen, recorder, marshal and treasurer.

Attorney Holmes of McMinnville was transacting legal business in Dallas on Wednesday.

The W. C. T. U.

The Dallas Woman's Christian Temperance union, although unusually active during the past twelve-month, has made little "noise" about its efforts, but has accomplished what it considers as being excellent work in all departments. The members are earnest in their endeavors to banish intoxicants from the land, and to that end have exerted their influence at all times and under all conditions. The meetings of the year have been well attended and from a financial standpoint the organization is in excellent condition. Regular sessions are held semi-monthly, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The organization at this time has something over one hundred members, be-

sides which there is a flourishing young woman's department with a goodly membership and a large attendance upon its meetings. Mrs. A. S. Campbell is president, and displays much interest in the work, thus extending its influence for good among the cold water advocates. For the coming year the W. C. T. U. has well defined plans for extending the work of the various departments, and that the future gives good promise for the ladies of the white ribbon goes without saying. The influence exerted by this organization has been felt quite largely throughout the community life of Dallas, and more especially among the young people, around whom it would throw a better moral atmosphere.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Oscar Hayter, has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Polk, administrator of the estate of Thaddeus Clark Shaffer, deceased, and has qualified.

All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present them, duly verified, with the proper vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice, to the said administrator at his law offices in the Dallas City Bank Building, in said County of Polk.

Dated and first published, November 23, 1915.

OSCAR HAYTER,
Administrator of the estate of Thaddeus Clark Shaffer, deceased.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Polk, her Final Account as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of John Ferguson, Deceased, and that said Court has fixed Monday, January 3, 1916, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day as the time and the County Court Room in the County Court House, in Dallas, in Polk County, Oregon, the place for hearing said Final Account and all objections thereto.

Dated at Dallas, Oregon, November 29, 1915. MARY FERGUSON,
Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of John Ferguson, Deceased.

The Observer, a Twice-a-Week paper, costs no more than a weekly.