

The Herald

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The purchase by the city at a special meeting of the council last week, of a chemical engine is one of the best moves ever made in the town of Monmouth. It will give us protection against small fires and we will be able to control what otherwise might be big conflagrations. The council is to be congratulated on taking the matter in hand and acting in its own initiative. Children ask their parents what to do as a usual thing, until they become of legal age, after which they ask for advice, but are supposed to be intelligent enough to carry on ordinary business affairs without the intervention of parental authority. So it is with a city council. The people have elected the members believing that they have the necessary qualifications to go ahead and do the best for the welfare of the city. We do not believe in plunging a city into debt unnecessarily, but we do believe that there are times when a reasonable indebtedness is a good thing. Conservatism is good, but ultra-conservatism is just as bad as plunging and oftentimes worse. It is a trite saying "that he who hesitates is lost," and it is applicable to the deeds of the city councils and other public corporations of the country as well as to individuals and private concerns. The people should stand back of the council in all that pertains to the public good. The next thing to be done is to organize a fire company. There is abundant material for a good volunteer company and the citizens will no doubt be perfectly willing to donate enough to purchase uniforms for the boys as soon as the organization is perfected. Another thing necessary will be a place to house the engine when it gets here. This matter should be looked after at the next meeting of the council. With a well organized volunteer fire department and a good chemical engine the chances for a destructive fire will be lessened more than 200 per cent. Boost for a good fire department for Monmouth.

It may be well to state at this time that the Herald is the only paper issued in this county that opposes the licensed saloon, or any other kind. The paper in Independence is dominated by the leading saloonkeeper of the town and the conduct of the owner of the paper is too well known to need comment, yet he has the temerity to claim that his paper is the best in the county. It may be the best for the class to which he belongs. Independence is a nice town and has many nice people living in it, who do not endorse the saloon nor the open violation of law

that is going on daily. It has been reported that one saloon man has stated that he intended to continue running his saloon, law or no law, and to all appearances he is doing so. Independence has been handicapped for years by such people, but it is only a matter of time when retribution will overtake them, then the better element will find that their endeavors have not been in vain. With many natural advantages the town should grow and flourish and blossom as the rose and when it is cleansed of the malignant ulcers that have for so many years infested it, there is no reason to doubt that it will rise superior to its past history and be one of the leading towns of the Willamette valley. In fact it has made rapid strides in that direction since the county went dry. It is to be hoped that in the coming years the two towns will grow and build towards each other so that in time they may become one flourishing city with but a single aim and that the best interests of the whole city.

Let the local option forces look well to their interests for the saloon people are working steadily to overthrow the good work that has been done in this state at the last election and place the dry counties in the wet column in 1910. While it may look as if there was nothing doing there is plenty of work being done and that of the best kind for results, for the saloon forces. They have the money and are not afraid to spend it while it is notorious that the friends of temperance do not spend much money and then as a rule at the very last day. Build up the local paper that works for your interests and you will reap results.

School Report

Report of the schools of Polk County for the school month ending March 19, 1909.

Number of schools in session.	61
No. of pupils remaining last mo.	1248 1099 2347
No. of new pupils registered during the month	18 25 43
No. pupils leaving one school and entering another	25 33 58
No. of pupils having been dropped and then readmitted	95 88 183
Total No. registered during mo.	386 1242 2621
No. of pupils dropped during mo.	208 148 356
No. of pupils remaining Feb. 19.	1178 1097 2275
No. of pupils on register since beginning of school not registered in any other school	1442 1269 2711
No. of pupils registered in some other school	89 104 193
No. of pupils over 4 and under 6	14 17 31
No. of pupils over 6 and under 9	396 339 735
No. of pupils over 9 and under 12	384 247 731
No. of pupils over 12 and under 14	254 256 510
No. of pupils over 14 and under 20	381 310 691
Total	1442 1269 2711
No. of days taught during mo.	18
Whole No. of days attendance	41256
Whole No. of days absence	2492
Whole No. of times late	413
No. pupils neither absent or tardy	1198
Average No. of pupils belonging	2430
Average daily attendance	2262
Per cent of attendance	94.7
No. of visits by parents	91
No. visits by members of board	20

The following schools are placed on the roll of honor for attendance, having made a per cent of 95 or more:— Zena, Smithfield, Lewisville, Ballston, Monmouth, Perrydale, Gooseneck, Cochran, Rickreall, Oak Point, Elkins, Independence, Buell, Popcorn, Harmony, Upper Salt Creek, Greenwood, Etna, Fir Grove, Sunny Slope, Lone Star, McCoy, Teals (100 per cent), Falls City, Mountain View, Rock Creek (100 per cent), Rogue River Valley.

The following schools were placed on the roll of honor for having had no tardies:— Smithfield, Bridgeport, Lewisville, Fir Grove, Brush College, Buena Vista, Upper Salt Creek, Enterprise, Concord, Teals, Rock Creek Mistletoe.

H. C. Seymour,
School Superintendent of Polk County, Oregon.

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