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REGULAR PORTLAND LETTER

Eventful Week In Central Oregon

IMMENSE INQUIRY COMES FROM EUROPE

Threshermen's Convention at Albany, June 2nd and 3d

Portland, Ore., May 17.—Central Oregon has lived an eventful life the past two weeks, first with a series of development meetings planned by the commercial organizations at Bend, Prineville, Burns, Prairie City and Enterprise, and then in entertaining Louis W. Hill and his party who made a leisurely trip through the region in automobiles, and everywhere received welcomes that would put to shame the conventional receptions of the large cities.

Most interesting single feature of all was the award of contract for a mammoth bridge over the Columbia at Celilo Falls for the Oregon Trunk. The cost will be approximately \$1,500,000, there will be 29 spans to the structure and it must be completed by January 1, 1912. The total length is 3960 feet, or more than three-quarters of a mile. The longest span is 350 feet.

Foreign mail of the Oregon Development League increases at a rate that can best be described as appalling for those who must answer the inquiry. Saturday morning's delivery included letters from Russia, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, Philippines, Italy, Honduras and Sweden, as well as those from all parts of North America.

Oregon feels complimented in naming of the two magnificent new steamers of the San Francisco and Portland Steamship Company to ply between the two cities. "The Beaver" and "The Bear" are twin vessels, modern and luxurious in the extreme. Last Thursday "The Bear" had a "boat-warming" at Portland, and from two o'clock in the afternoon until nine in the evening entertained hundreds of visitors.

A party of 30 Minnesota bankers and a second party of prominent Wisconsin business men, the latter travelling under the auspices of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, will arrive in Portland during the first week in June. They plan to see Oregon thoroughly after participating in the Rose Festival.

Every thresherman and farmer in Oregon is invited to attend the Threshermen's convention to be held at Albany June 2nd and 3d. Secretary Bates states that it will be the largest gathering of agriculturists in Oregon this year. The United States government has arranged to send two of its best men from Washington, the Governor of the state will be present and the program for the two days is replete with the best that money could obtain. The Commercial Club of Albany will furnish a big banquet at noon of the 3d, to the delegates on the Court House lawn. Both the O. R. & N. and S. P. lines and branches have made a one-and-one-third rate on the certificate

plan and a ten days limit will be given to the Eastern Oregon contingent that they may stop over at Portland for the Rose Festival the following week.

NORMAL IS NEEDED

"We are needing teachers," so says the Woodburn Independent. "The Monmouth Normal has been turning out the right material and supplying our wants—not simply giving students an education. The Independent is not in favor of too many state schools, especially at this period of the life of the commonwealth, but it believes that this institution should receive financial support from the state of Oregon. Yes, such an institution that is furnishing trained teachers for our public schools is assuredly worthy of the support of the voters at the polls."

Prohibition Contest at McMinnville, Oregon

The Pacific States Oratorical Contest will be held in McMinnville, May 30, 1910.

Representatives from Southern California, Northern California, Washington, Idaho and Oregon will at that time compete for the honor of representing the section at the Biennial contest to be held at Valparaiso, Indiana, this summer. The successful orator will receive \$75 in gold, and together with Mr. W. E. Guynn of Pacific University, will represent the West.

Preparations are also being made to have a Prohibition Convention here on the same day, at which some of the best speakers of the state will be present.

At least four colleges of Oregon will compete in a tennis tournament on the college grounds the same day. This tournament is open to all who desire to enter.

Carroll Hill Woody, class of '11, McMinnville College, won the State Contest some weeks ago, and will represent the colleges of Oregon in the coming contest. Mr. Woody is the son of Dr. C. A. Woody, superintendent of the Baptist Home Missions on the Pacific Coast at Portland. It is hoped both delegates to the National Contest will be from Oregon.

Mr. Woody delivered his oration before a large gathering of citizens recently, and won high commendation.

Zook the Painter, will hang your paper.

O. M. Lehman and wife of Monmouth Heights were doing business in town Friday. Mr. Lehman says vegetation is booming in his section, and grain looking good although he reports one small field or lot of about six acres which was damaged by the severe winter. By the way while in town the question of weight came up and the pair repaired to a pair of scales where correct registering is done and—well, when they came to town it was Mr. and Mrs. Lehman but when they returned homeward it was Mrs. and Mr. Lehman, the latter having the best of the argument by some 15 pounds. Combined weight, 446 1-2 lbs.

THE RURAL SCHOOL PROBLEM

The Necessity of Cooperation and Trained Teachers

[BY EUGENE L THORP]

A study of the difference between the rural schools and those of the larger cities leads to the reference that the former are not receiving an equitable share in the dispensing of knowledge. The scrutiny reveals the fact that the children of the country, although entitled to an equal opportunity and an equal division of culture, are yet enabled to only secure the rudimentary fragments of a complete elementary education. There are wide differences between the city schools and those of the isolated country district that are apparent to everyone, yet no remedy has been applied. It is true that some have been proposed, notably the consolidation of rural districts, that of conservatism, lethargy or ignorance of the people living in the country districts have yet to be overcome before such a movement can be brought about.

There are other matters, too, of still more importance, chief of which is the fact that the teachers of country schools are not prepared by either education or practice in their profession to give their pupils the best there is in learning. Like all other professions, that of the teacher is based upon a knowledge of the work to be done, and like all other professions, a complete mastery of the work would never leave a teacher to be employed in a rural school, and such a teacher would be in demand in the city schools. A few do graduate from the country to the city by having shown an aptitude and capability for their work, and those who go from the country to the city are unconsciously setting an example for the boys and girls whom they have been teaching the grange injunction to stay on the farm.

In the city schools the teachers are under the efficient supervision of experienced superintendents and are thus enabled to study along with the children whom they teach. It is this supervision that has caused the city system to come to its present rank in such great contrast with those of the country.

A new teacher is never given a place in a city school. She is sent out into the country and placed in charge of an unruly class of boys and girls in the most remote district the county superintendent can find. If she makes good, she goes to another school, a little better and after years of hard work she may succeed in getting a grade in one of the big buildings, under the supervision of a principal who gets a big salary for being her boss.

The most experienced and efficient teachers should be placed in charge of the isolated schools and should be paid as much as if she were a grade teacher in the city; and the new and inexperienced teachers should be placed under the supervision of the principal for that culture and polish necessary to leave an impression

upon her pupils.

The country schools contain over 50 per cent of the children of this country and they are entitled to as much consideration as those of the city.

Now it may be thought that such a plan is impracticable. I will admit it is under our present system, but there are remedies. I have mentioned consolidation of districts as one of them. Another would be to consolidate the entire county into one district with a superintendent as at present, and a staff of assistants who could go from one school to another at frequent intervals and direct their management in accordance with a system which would serve to promote the most apt to higher positions.

And here, it occurs to me, is an opportunity to criticize the methods of all county superintendents in one important matter. I do not believe there is a set of school directors in Multnomah county who would feel independent enough to elect a new teacher without the sanction of the county superintendent, or at least without his recommendation. A teacher's certificate and work in other districts should be sufficient recommendation, but is not usually taken. Another thing: I have only criticism for the teacher that flits about frequently from place to place, never going higher up, nor have I any sympathy for the school board that makes frequent changes without any apparent reason. All these things work to the detriment of the country school. Such things are never seen in the large cities. There it is only promotion which changes the teachers of a school, and there is where the best work is always seen.

State Superintendent Ackerman recommends a modified course for rural schools, eliminating certain parts prescribed for city schools, and providing for the introduction of work, especially in the elements of agriculture and of domestic science, and such further lines of industrial education as local conditions may make feasible; and also providing work with reference to meeting the needs of children in rural communities and not with reference to preparing a small percentage to enter higher schools whose courses of study are formulated to meet the demands of a few. He would also prevent a person from teaching in a rural school who has not been specifically trained for rural work, and suggests that the normal schools should prepare such teachers, and he says that it is to the normal and agricultural schools that the rural schools will have to look for qualified teachers; and when our normal schools shall recognize this need of specially trained teachers in rural districts and shall have set about to meet and supply this demand, then will the normal school problem be effectually solved, and the normal school will have found its true mission.

In conclusion I will only say that this subject is one for serious consideration and one which cannot be treated fully in a paper of this length. There is a great change going on all the while,

INDEPENDENCE NEWS BUDGET

From Our Regular Correspondent.

DAILY HAPPENINGS IN OUR SISTER CITY

Scan This Column For News on Importance From the Riverside.

One case of scarlet fever is reported in town.

John Bohannon is the owner of a new automobile.

Mrs. G. A. Wilcow has returned from visiting at Eugene.

Charles Williams is off on a vacation and has gone to the hot springs.

Maurice Butler has returned from California much improved in health.

Mr. and Mrs. Mott went to Portland, Saturday, to visit for a few days.

J. G. Laundree of Boring is here at the bedside of his father who is quite sick.

Willie Ford and wife are moving to Portland where they will make their future home.

Miss Dortha Cooper is home to spend the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cooper.

Comet parties are the go this week, and a number of persons have arisen early to see the visitor.

The laundry roof caught on fire a few days ago but the blaze was extinguished without serious damage.

Mesdames D. A. Hodge and D. B. Taylor have returned from Portland where they spent several days last week.

Rev. Douglas of Portland, formerly M. E. pastor here, was called to preach the funeral sermon of Mrs. Stransbury who died last week.

Owing to low water in the river the Grey Eagle log boat stuck on the gravel bar at the boat landing, Saturday morning, and remained all day.

Among those visiting the Grand Lodge of Rebekahs at Eugene were Mesdames Henkle, Williams and Bohannon, delegates from the lodge here.

Miss Babe Damon was given a farewell party last week at the home of Miss Bently and Ella Brown. Miss D. went to Portland Sunday to take nursing in the Good Samaritan Hospital. She was a popular telephone girl and will be missed by her many friends.

The Indians on the Yakima reservation are petitioning the towns near them to revoke all licenses for selling liquor. They are beginning to realize that whiskey is ruining their race and are calling on their white friends to help eliminate the blighting evil.—Yamhill Record.

conditions are different every succeeding year, and with a liberal and intelligent spirit the rural schools should be equal to those of the city and have equal facilities in teachers, apparatus and money for their maintenance.—Grange Bulletin.