

To the Parents and School Children

If you would catch a train start in time. No matter how fast you run if you start too late. If you would win a prize in the School Children's Industrial Contest next year, begin now. Parents, if you would have your children grow up to be industrious, law-abiding, useful citizens, winners in the race of life, start them early in the right direction.

We are all agreed that an education is an essential to success, but what is education? True education is that which fits us for the duties of life. The old pedagogical idea was to cram the child with text-books. The new idea is that we must know how to apply our knowledge to practical uses—that we must know how to use the hand with the head. Thus the need for, and popularity of, industrial education along with the "mental cramming."

Though started late and with lack of organization in many instances, the result of the State-wide movement inaugurated this year are quite encouraging, and inspires us all, I trust, to greater efforts the coming year. Many of your children entered this contest this year, and whether they won a prize or not they are all stronger in every way from the exercise and experience, and what they have learned to do with their hands will always be an available and valuable asset. We hope to have every school boy and girl in the State receive a personal benefit by entering this contest this year. Will you co-operate by giving your children an opportunity—by giving them a little ground to cultivate, and starting them in the chicken business in a small way, and perhaps giving the boy a brood sow or a pig to feed? And most important of all by allowing them to have as their very own the profits of their effort? Very much depends upon the parents as to how great a success can be made of this movement.

POULTRY THE SPECIALTY.

While it is not the intention to slight any of the other lines of activity taken up this year, it is the plan to make poultry-raising the leading feature of the school children's contest the coming year. There is scarcely a boy or girl in city, village or country, but what could take care of a few chickens or ducks without interference with their school or other work. It costs the State about \$9.60 a pupil each year to carry on our public school system, and it is our ambition to have the school children increase the production of poultry and eggs enough to cover that expense. Children, wouldn't you be proud to be able to say "It doesn't cost the State anything to educate us. We pay the bill with our chickens and eggs?" The result is easily possible, and to reach it each school boy and girl would only have to keep a few fowls. I do not know of anything that would attract more favorable attention to Oregon than the fact that all her school children are raising poultry and producing thereby more than enough wealth to meet the expense of the public school system.

The poultry on the farm is a secondary consideration with most people. Little attention is paid to it as a rule and its importance and possibilities are not conceived. We have no reliable statistics later than those of the U. S. census for the year 1899.

That year there were 7,709,970 dozens of eggs produced in Oregon, which, at an average price of 25 cents, were worth \$1,927,492.50. The value of all poultry raised in the State in 1899 was \$826,687. The poultry product that year was worth considerable more than either of the following products, viz: Animals slaughtered, hops, fruits of all kinds, and was almost equal to the oats crop in value, and was almost a third as great as the wheat crop. Since 1899 there has been a big increase in the production of poultry and eggs, but there has also been a big increase in consumption, and last year there was about a million dollars' worth of poultry and eggs shipped into Portland from the east. That million dollars might just as well go into the pockets of the school boys and girls of Oregon as to the farmers of the east, and while you are earning it you will be occupying part of your time in healthful and interesting pastime and be learning how to do something worth while—how to do business, to depend upon your own efforts and to be an important factor in society.

An elementary poultry bulletin will be issued by the Oregon Agricultural College after a little, which will give valuable information upon how to raise and care for poultry. In the meantime be talking it over with your parents and making preparations for starting a little flock, if you have not already got one. Get a little garden patch ready to plant also, and win some of the fine prizes that will be offered this year, both at your local fair and at the State Fair.

County Educational Board Holds Meeting.

The county educational board held a meeting at the office of County Superintendent H. C. Seymour, Saturday, Nov. 16, and arranged for the annual convention of the school officers of Polk county, to be held in the county court house on Saturday, Dec. 14, beginning at 10 p. m.

Also voted to change the plan of the educational rallies so that more would be held and to have less districts in a rally, in order to take the meeting closer to the people, it being arranged to hold afternoon meetings, in place of all day meetings, thus saving the ladies of the different sections the trouble of preparing lunches for so many, although they have arranged so that if any district should insist on an all days meeting, that it shall be given them.

Many of these meetings will be held on Friday afternoons, thus getting all of the parents and members of the board of the district together at the school house, and then discussing matters that pertain to that district, also by these smaller meetings and in nearly each district it is thought that the home and the school will become closer together, which is the main object in the meetings.

The following are the dates assigned to the different sections and districts, with the chairman of the district where the meeting is held as chairman of the meeting.

All dates are subject to change if the people of the district desire some other date.

Saturday, Nov. 23—Spring Valley, Lone Star, at Spring Valley; Saturday, Nov. 23—Mountain View, Popcorn, at Mountain View; Saturday, Nov. 30—Smithfield, Polk Station, at Smithfield; Saturday, Nov. 30—Suver, Valley View, at Suver; Friday, Dec. 6—Cochran; Friday,

Dec. 6—Pioneer; Saturday, Dec. 7—Montgomery, McTimmonds Valley, at Montgomery; Saturday, Dec. 7—Zena, Lincoln, at Zena; Friday, Dec. 13—Greenwood; Friday, Dec. 13—Hopville; Saturday, Dec. 14—School Officers Convention, Dallas; Friday, Jan. 10—Guthrie; Friday, Jan. 10—Bridgeport; Saturday, Jan. 11—Oak Grove, Crowley, at Oak Grove; Saturday, Jan. 11—Buena Vista; Friday, Jan. 17—Liberty; Friday, Jan. 17—Oak Dale; Friday, Jan. 24—Rickreall; Friday, Jan. 24—Oak Point; Saturday, Jan. 25—Antioch, Sunnyslope, Mistletoe, at Antioch; Saturday, Jan. 25—Parker, Highland, at Highland; Friday, Jan. 31—Lewisville; Friday, Jan. 31—Oakhurst; Saturday, Feb. 1—Buell, Gooseneck, at Buell; Saturday, Feb. 1—Ballston, Enterprise, at Ballston; Friday, Feb. 7—Brush College; Friday, Feb. 7—Harmony; Saturday, Feb. 8—Salt Creek, Upper Salt Creek, Concord, Orchards, at Salt Creek; Pedee, Cherry Grove, Maple Grove, Fir Grove, at Pedee; Friday, Feb. 14—Red Prairie; Eola; Saturday, Feb. 15—Perrydale, Broadmead, at Perrydale; Butler, Fern, at Butler; Friday, Feb. 21—Fairview; Elkins; Friday, Feb. 28—North Dallas; Saturday, March 1—Bethel, McCoy, at Bethel; Saturday, March 8—Airlie, Ward, at Airlie; Friday, March 14—West Salem; Saturday, March 15—Rogue River, Valley Junction, at Rogue River.

Supervisor H. H. Parsons and one member of the educational board will attend one meeting and Supt. H. C. Seymour and one member of the educational board will attend another when two meetings occur on the same date.

It has been the plan of the board to place these meetings in all sections of the county, but they will hold meetings at any place that may ask for one, also if the above dates are not satisfactory to the conditions of the place given they will change the date if possible.

By all co-operating in these meetings as they have in the past rallies they will do a vast amount of good for the schools of the county.

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