

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

CHARLES EDWARD HICKS

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A CALL FOR ACTION

The future of Independence lies within her schools. Surely we are not to be the last of all the towns of this great and progressive valley to throw open our doors to the incoming population. It is increasing and faster than we are prepared to take care of it. Independence is growing. To meet the increasing population our buildings for school purposes must be enlarged, our grounds extended, our teaching force increased and our courses of instruction made to comprehend larger scope. We are teaching eleven grades in our schools. Owing to cramped accommodations and inadequate teaching force the pupils in the upper grades are to an extent neglected in their work. The building at this time has no room for library and laboratory work. The recitation room is not ample for the work of the classes and to facilitate in the accommodation of this work the office of the principal is being utilized for recitation purposes which is still inadequate to the occasion. The future, next year, will offer conditions more embarrassing than at the present time. The class of graduates from the eighth grade will overflow the high school room and accommodations for recitations will be next

to impossible.

At the present time there are enrolled in our schools about 360 pupils and only on account of sickness and removals has it been possible to obtain seating capacity for them. Especially is this true in the lower grades. This is ruinous to the health of body and mind of any persons and especially of children ranging in ages from six to twelve years. At this age children are in need of especial care and training, lots of good breathing space together with physical exercise to develop the senses which lie dormant at that age.

Cattle of the fields require shelter, swine their sty, the dog his kennel at night, and these are provided by the husbandman of the farm. As much attention should be given the boys and girls whose minds thirst for knowledge. They are the men and women of tomorrow, who will have the administration of affairs of the state of Oregon in years to come.

The tide is fast coming and let us do while we can, Independence must grow. Comparison of census of years past prove that it has grown. All Oregon is growing and the demands for extension of schooling facilities is upon every town and district of the state.

And now to the remedy. The problem offers different solutions. One is to enlarge the present buildings and grounds. The majority of towns are building new buildings rather than annexing to their present structures. The situation in Independence would seem to demand a new building since it is not so arranged as to accommodate an addition. A forceful suggestion is the building of a high school building, and the suggestion is good. Grounds are obtainable, and if nothing more than a building of four or six rooms, conditions for the present at least would be alleviated. Plans of such a structure could be made that additional rooms could be added as needs demand.

The meeting which is to take place tonight at the public school building here should be attended by every parent of Independence. It will afford a chance to study conditions as they exist. The solution of the matter of larger and more extensive educational facilities demands their attendance tonight. This condition must be met. The solution is pressing upon the people of Independence as never before. The people of Independence must act in this matter tonight.

SAMUEL HILL

Samuel Hill, a wealthy resident of Seattle, who is spending his wealth trying to educate the people of the United States to the necessity and advantages of good public highways and who is recognized as the greatest promoter of interest in good roads, passed through the Willamette valley last week, making speeches at most of the important cities, including Albany and Salem. He has spent many years studying methods of road-building in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, besides nearly every state in the Union. He has been a resident of the Pacific coast almost twenty years and has done more for the improvement of the highways of Washington than any other man or set of men, that state now having some of the best roads of the country. Some of his remarks are worth serious meditation. For instance:

"Good roads are of five times more importance to the country than protective tariff."

"Good streets to a town are what show windows are to the stores."

"Good roads lessen cost of transportation of farm products to market."

He is soon to visit Ottawa, Canada, by special invitation of the Dominion parliament, to address that body on the subject of his life's study.

Mr. Hill has just returned to this country from England, making in all thirty-three trips to that country in the interest of preparation to devote his life to the agitation and building of improved public highways. His visit to the valley will cause a considerable awakening of interest in the betterment of our public highways—a subject of first importance

in every community of the entire country. The same care should be exercised in the construction of public highways that is observed and followed in the grading of rights-of-way for railroads. Why not? They are used more and travel upon them is under less favorable circumstances. They accommodate a larger area of country than do the railroads. They are the feeders of the railroads and developers of the commonwealth. They have never been overdone.

SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT.

At Condon, Gilliam county, an attempt was made last week to tear away the corner stone of the new county high school building and steal the coins deposited there at the laying of the corner stone. It is a case in which, to secure by theft the money deposited there, thieves would do work amounting to three times its value to secure it, even at the risk of a long penitentiary term, to say nothing of the mutilating of such a monument of public enterprise. It would have been the same, perhaps, had the robbery of this paltry sum of \$2.00 contemplated the destruction of the building. Given an offer at honest labor with rewards greater than that offered in the theft of the coins deposited in the corner stone it would no doubt be spurned. Idleness breeds a specimen of humanity which stoops to acts of just such depravity.

The offense is greater than if the chimneys were torn away and the brick sold or the shingles stripped from the roof and bartered. Striking at the very foundation of a public institution of such noble purport betrays the lowest type of American citizenship. Pity that society should suffer investment of a class so forgetful of public welfare and so stricken with greed and selfishness.

Hillman of Deschutes fame received a body blow from the Evening Telegram a few days ago when that paper exposed the exploitation project by

showing it up to be located on a barren tract with little evidence of a town, surrounded by a waste of sagebrush. It is heralded by the promoters as the leading city of the Deschutes valley. It is characterized by the Telegram as a dream of the promoters. It would possibly have been the metropolis of the Deschutes providing the crop of suckers had held out before the exposure of the Telegram cut them off. Unlike a central station in a telephone office a newspaper is privileged to cut in even if the "line is busy." It will probably not be as busy at Hillman after the Telegram's "most cruel cut of all."

Prof. McIntosh complains that a number of pupils of Independence schools have been absent from school work. The law of compulsory education requires that all pupils who have reached the age of nine years must attend school regularly during the whole time the school is in session. After the child reaches the age of fourteen years he is not required to attend provided he is regularly and lawfully engaged in some useful employment. When the truancy of the child amounts in the aggregate to seven half days during any four or less number of consecutive weeks the teacher is required to report the truancy of the child to the district boundary board. They will send an order to the truancy officer to investigate the case. Several of such cases have been reported and will be looked after by the truancy board. In connection with this matter it is well to state that failure to comply with this law on the part of the board of directors, clerks, teachers or any other officer who neglects to do his duty in such case, a fine of \$5 to \$20 may be imposed by the district boundary board.

Mayor Rodgers of Salem may resign, in which case he is likely to be succeeded by Charles L. McNary, who

seems to be the unanimous choice of Salem and whom the Enterprise hastens to recommend. Mayor Rodgers will assign as an excuse, should he resign, press of private affairs and a resolve to visit the holy lands in the very near future. The mayor is the most popular man in Salem today and deservedly so.

Chambers & McCune of Albany claim that 205 pairs of shoes were sold by their establishment on the opening day of their annual clearance sale. At times it was impossible to get standing room in this department. The event was advertised in nearly all nearby newspapers.

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