

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Managed by the Polk County Teachers' Association, and devoted to the advancement of the Public Schools.

EDITED BY PROF. T. A. HAYES, Independence, Oregon.

All communications relating to this work must be addressed to the editor of this department.

Polk County Teachers Association met at Bethel May 11, and was called to order at 11 o'clock by Pres. Reynolds. The program was begun with a greeting song by 16 of the school pupils.

"A Plea for the Pupil" was a neat little paper by Mrs. Taggart who holds the teachers profession second to none. Teachers spend three times as much time with pupils as the parent, twenty-four times as much as the preacher and therefore should be the highest educator both intellectually and morally. As a rule teachers can not be made.

Miss Anna Powell being absent Prof. Reynolds opened the discussion of spelling. He thinks we have too much of written spelling.

Pres. Chapman thinks that as pupils are psychologically divided into two classes, the eye minded and the ear minded, by using either method exclusively we ignore about one-half of the class.

A very pleasing quartette was then sung by some of the Bethel people and the discussion was continued by Mrs. Taggart, Messrs. Parker, Cornutt, Fulkerson and Reynolds. By motion Prof. Reynolds was requested to relate the experience of "Dodd" Weaver with Amos Wapps.

After a song the association adjourned for dinner and too much cannot be said for the hospitality of the Bethel people. A large bower had been prepared under which the table fairly groaned beneath turkey, cake, six decked pies and all other such things that make the hungry pedagogue delectable that it is good to be here.

At 1:25 Supt. Hutchinson and Pres. Campbell were in sight dirtier but wiser men, for they had spent the time since 9 a. m. endeavoring to persuade piecemeal to take them from Dallas to Bethel. After many congratulations on their success (?) at wheeling they were fed and the association continued its work.

Five little girls sang a very pretty song, after which Prof. Parker introduced the subject of geography. He says that geography includes more than memorizing capes, bays, counties, capitals, etc.

The child has already studied geography when he comes to school. The child in his first lessons should be taught the school ground and district. Geography should be taught on a broader basis than our textbooks give. Should get selections from newspapers, etc.

The association then listened to a well rendered solo, "Indian Summer" by Miss Ruby Reese.

Pres. Campbell then suggested that we need more library in school to supplement our geography work.

Pres. Chapman said that a leader should always teach by why a thing is so. Example, Why does the Willamette river rise in the Three Sisters; why does it flow north; why is the Willamette valley fertile; why is Portland 12 miles from the Columbia?

Miss Lizzie Richardson then recited the Doctor's story after which Prof. Reynolds read his paper on "Myths and Fairytales" which was so full of good, that by vote it was requested for publication in these columns.

A motion song by ten little girls was an admirable exhibition of what may be done with small pupils by proper direction.

Pres. Chapman took a few minutes to explain the University of Oregon and its workings.

Moved and carried that the next meeting be held in Dallas the third Saturday in October. Moved and carried that a vote of thanks be tendered the people for their hospitality and attendance at this meeting. Moved and carried that a committee of three be appointed to report at the next meeting on an outline work for next year Supt. Hutchinson, Pres. Campbell and Prof. Hayes were appointed such committee and the association adjourned by motion.

W. L. REYNOLDS, Pres.

L. L. SWANN, Sec.

REPORTS.

EAST SALT CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Number enrolled 27
Average daily attendance 20
Per cent of attendance 74

There has not been a case of

tardiness during the term, that is, during the past two months, the time which the school has been in session. I have a very good department, and find this a very pleasant place to teach.

L. M. MURRAY, Teacher.

PARKER PUBLIC SCHOOL.

For the month ending May 3, 1895:
Number days taught 20
" attendance 308
" absence 31
" tardies 1
" enrolled 17
Average number belonging 15
" daily attendance 15

Those neither absent nor tardy during the month are: Nannie Chambers, Belle and Tommie Calbreath, Fannie, Sarah, Nellie and Mary Helmick, Ralph Davidson, Jennie, Tom and Mary Kerr.

NETTIE CROSBY, Teacher.

INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

For the month ending May 10, 1895:
Number days attendance 451
" absence 271
" tardies 1
" enrolled, boys 124, girls 142, total 266
Average number belonging 261
" daily attendance 251
Per cent of attendance 96
Number cases corporal punishment 0

T. A. HAYES, Prin.

OAK POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

For the month ending May 3, 1895:
Number days attendance 259
" absence 47
" enrolled 18
Average daily attendance 18

Names on the roll of honor are: Jennie and Savannah Grigsby, May and Jessie Howard, Lee Russell, Frankie, Mae and Lorena Webster and Gracie Jones.

MAUDE BROOKS, Teacher.

LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOL.

For the month ending May 3, 1895:
Number days attendance 243
" absence 114
" enrolled 12
Average daily attendance 12

Those neither absent nor tardy are: John Benson, Earley Kibbey, Pearl McBe, Wallace McDonald, Johnny Galbraith, Lena Douglas and Annie Galbraith.

THE POLK COUNTY PRESS.

News Items and Editorial Expressions.

(Itemizer.)

The longest youngster in this region is Charlie Bricker, who stretches up 6½ feet and is still growing. Age sixteen.

T. L. McEldowney, who formerly resided near the Elkins school house, died recently in Washington county.

A few years ago John Penninger came here from Kansas and first settled on Mill creek, but afterward moved to Dallas. Some three years ago they went back to their old eastern home and now the news comes that Mrs. Penninger is dead. Their home paper says she was held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends. Mrs. Morgan Blair, of Dallas, and Mrs. Thos. Ellis, of Mill creek, are her daughters.

Rev. Barton Riggs, of Salem, preached at Perrydale last Sunday. Many of his audience had known him from childhood.

Prof. P. L. Campbell and D. P. Stouffer are assisting Superintendent Hutchinson in the teachers' examination, there being ten applicants; Mrs. J. A. Cramer, Miss Hingsworth, Ora Towns, Mary Harris, Etta Hibbard, Mabel Cobb, Lute Chapin, Alva Miner, H. C. Skinner and Mr. Burgess.

(Transcript.)

It is seldom that two men are so well pleased with a trade as Messrs. Woods and Tuttle. Mr. Woods thinks he has the best place in town and Mr. Tuttle wouldn't trade back for a thousand dollars to boot.

Assessor Beckett is hurrying up Polk's assessment as rapidly as possible.

The Dallas city band has been engaged to go to Salem May 16th to take position in the parade of the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge.

Grand Master Parker made his last official visit of his term to McCoy lodge last Saturday evening. He was accompanied by Messrs. B. F. Mulkey, F. J. Chapman, H. Morrison and A. V. R. Snyder and with several from Amity and the McCoy brethren had a fine time, winding up with a good supper at Merritt's hotel. Next week Mr. Parker will turn his office over to Bro. Stites of Albany.

Chester Gardner's folks have a

nice little girl baby since Thursday last.

(Observer.)

Probate court—Estate of H. H. Clodfelter, citation issued pending order for sale of real estate. Estate of Esther J. Hastings, R. Hastings appointed administrator, Frank Gilliam, Andrew Hannum and Evan Evans appraisers. P. Holman estate, petition for sale of real property granted. Guardianship of minor heirs of H. D. Price, deceased, annual account filed.

Clark Groves is now established in the livery business at the Pioneer barn, having moved here from Independence last week.

Dr. H. B. Stanley has returned from a several months' stay in California, looking hale and hearty.

It is very apparent that there is going to be a dead lock in our city council over the election of a councilman to succeed L. N. Woods in the 2nd ward. At the last meeting five ballots were taken and no election—well let the fun go on. Although we fear the republican side of the house is a little too tight to accomplish anything; we will bet that they will be heard from later on.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Kozer left on Tuesday's train for their old home in Pennsylvania. For several years Mr. Kozer has been prominently identified with Dallas' business interests, and has ever proven himself an affable gentleman. During their residence here he and his estimable wife made a host of friends, and their departure is a matter of much regret.

One Constipation.

One evening just about dark I rode up to a cabin in the Tennessee mountains and asked to stay all night.

"I'm sorry, mister," said a woman who had responded to my "hello," "but yer can't stay here."

"Why not?" I asked. "I'll pay for it."

"Tain't the pay I'm afeared of, mister," she said, "but ther ain't no men folks in the house, and we can't keep you."

"What am I to do?" I asked helplessly.

"Go on to the next place, I reckon."

"How far is it?"

"Two miles or sitch a matter."

"But it is dark," I urged. "I never was here before, and I'll be sure to lose the road."

"I reckon ther's a chance up that," she said, and then more encouragingly, "but hit's sitch a ternal bad road, mister, that you'll be glad you lost hit afore you've gone a mile, and I didn't say another word.—Detroit Free Press.

One Curious Holiday Custom.

A curious instance of holiday interchange of greeting was spoken of recently. Two women had been in the habit of sending each other Christmas cards, although there was little other correspondence. Finally one woman died. The next Christmas the survivor, feeling very sorry for the widow bereft of her friend, sent him a card, although their acquaintance was of the slightest. The next year he sent one too. Now, each Christmas one comes from him, and one goes to him, without any word of greeting or thanks between them. He is an old man, and when the card ceases to come it will be known that he is dead. Not till then probably will the custom die out.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Maoris.

A writer in a magazine speaks highly in praise of the Maoris. The women, he says, are a potent factor in his land life and must not be forgotten. Liquid dark eyes, soft voices, affectionate and merry dispositions, light brown skins of ivory smoothness and gracefulness in every movement are their most striking characteristics. The men and women are graceful, probably because of the prevalence of dancing and bathing.

National Manners A-traveling.

It is curious to watch on board a steamer how the men of different nationalities behave to a lady no longer young who is traveling alone. The Frenchman is absolutely rude if he gets the chance; the German simply takes no notice; the Austrian is frigidly polite; the Englishman takes trouble to be kind if his aid is solicited; the American is kind from habit and without effort; the British colonist attentive, because women of any kind are scarce in his country.—Pall Mall Budget.

The Instinct Remains.

Rapacious birds and beasts retain their love of destroying even after years of confinement, and it is a well acknowledged fact that among these rapacious animals of a menagerie which are reared in confinement we find the most ferocious and destructive examples if they once escape and become aware of their power.

Parkman's Hard Lot.

He could command for work not more than one-twentieth of the time which other men have, and for 10 years—from 1853 to 1863—he could not work at all. From his return from the west in 1846 to the day of his death, Nov. 8, 1893, he never knew a day when he was an entirely well man. He spent some months at a water cure in Northampton without benefit. The physician urged him to prepare to die, but Parkman replied that he should not die, even if he did not get well.

At a later date he went to Paris to consult Dr. Brown-Séquard, who for three months tested him for insanity, but finally told him that his head was perfectly sound and that he could do nothing for him. The doctors all told him that he must not work, and he once said to me that if he had followed their instructions he could never have written his books. The situation was desperate. For a great part of the time he could not read continuously for more than five minutes without straining his eyes, and it was impossible for him to write or read for long periods.—McClure's Magazine.

Crystallized Platinum.

The artificial preparation of crystals of platinum and palladium is a comparatively easy achievement in the sphere of chemistry. A ribbon of pure metal is stretched horizontally between two binding screws and on the ribbon finely powdered topaz is dusted, an electric current being then passed through the ribbon of a degree of strength sufficient to raise it to a bright red heat. In the course of about half an hour, on examining the ribbon with a microscope, it is found that very small brilliant crystals cling here and there to projecting points of partially decomposed topaz. Under these conditions, if the heat be maintained, the crystals steadily increase in size, and in about two hours' time some will have attained to a growth of about 0.1 mm. The crystals are opaque and show a high metallic luster, like that of clean mercury.—New York Sun.

Dr. Holmes Answers Four Questions.

A young man ambitious for success wrote to Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes propounding four questions which are often asked of public men, and the distinguished poet's answers are not without interest for their conciseness:

My Dear Sir—I must answer your questions, if at all, in my own hand, as my assistant is absent at this time.

First—A young man of good taste and good principles may safely go to see a good actor in a good play.

Second—The best three books? The Bible, Shakespeare's plays and a good dictionary, any Worcester or Webster.

Third—To obtain "real success" (real work) concentration on some useful calling adapted to his abilities.

Fourth—Should he smoke? Certainly not. It is liable to injure the sight, to render the nerves unstable, to enfeeble the will and enslave the nature to an insidious habit likely to stand in the way of duty to be performed. Yours very truly,

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Diet For Greek Athletes.

Diet for athletes among the Greeks was a very different thing from that proscribed for our prizefighters. The Greek candidate for a prize at the games was put on a diet of no wheat, cheese, dry figs, boiled grain, milk and warm water, but allowed no meat whatever, and on this apparently simple diet great efficiency in athletic sports was attained.—Philadelphia Press.

An Ancient Maiden's Courtship.

She was a spinster of only two certain age. Her long, pale face was surmounted by a magnificently luxurious red wig; her body figure stood 5 feet 11½ in her maidenly gaiters, and her relatives had long been persuaded that only death could deprive them of her.

Mr. Jones was a dear neighbor and a mild man. When his wife fell ill, Miss Samantha was most attentive. When Mrs. Jones departed then did the spinster recognize the rising of that tide in her affairs which was to lead her on to—Mr. Jones.

So persistently and warmly did she console the widower that he lived in an atmosphere lurid with her wig and was swallowed in the vortex of her fascinations without a murmur. From the grave she led him at once to the altar, and three hours after Mrs. Jones the first left her home for the last time Mrs. Jones the second crossed the threshold a triumphant bride.

It is recorded of the dazed bridegroom that, when asked if he would take Samantha for his wife, he answered mournfully:

"I suppose I might as well. 'Pears like the Lord'll never quit tromping on my feelings."—New York Journal.

Quite Right.

A funny incident, accompanied by a witty retort, was enjoyed by the crowd was surging out of one of the theaters. In front of a party of gentlemen was a man with his coat collar turned up about his ears. "Why, there is B—," said one of the party.

"He doesn't seem to see us. I guess I'll wake him up." At the same time and without stopping to think he stepped forward and hit the bundled up individual a terrific slap on the back. The man turned around as he received the blow and closed to the astonished eyes of the hilarious gentleman the face of a total stranger.

He hesitated a moment before the calm and inquiring gaze of the man in front, and then stepping forward said, "I beg your pardon, sir; but, to tell the truth, I took you for another man."

"I am," was the quiet reply.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

A Handsome Tree.

One of the handsomest trees in the botanic gardens of Washington is a European hornbeam which was planted by Mr. Smith, the superintendent, about 25 years ago. It is very symmetrical in shape, and its branches spread out over a circle 50 feet in diameter. It has a stout trunk which breaks into a number of large limbs some four feet above the ground, although a distinct central stem continues much higher. The trunk measures six feet in circumference at its smallest point.—New York Post.

Riches and Virtue.

I cannot call riches by a better name than the baggage of virtue. The Roman word is better—impedimenta. For as baggage is to an army so are riches to virtue.—Bacon.

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Banishing Ghosts.

One Petrus Thyrova, a doctor of theology, is authority for a quaint method of banishing ghosts from haunted houses. This remedy, discussed in his work, "Loca Infesta," published at Cologne in 1598, is no less than taking the earthly tenement formerly occupied by the offensive ghost and burying it under the hearthstone. "Damn and swear at them," says the learned Petrus, "as of no use"—nor does he approve of throwing black beans at the ghosts, which he holds to be a pagan practice and therefore reprehensible. The practice of burying the late body of the ghost he thinks "savory of superstition." The hearth itself as no ordinary against spirits, nor can it prevent them from galling about. They are not the kind of people to be kept from molesting us merely because their bodies are under the hearth. The skeletons which are occasionally found beneath the hearths of old English houses are supposed to have been placed there with the idea of warding off ghostly visits.

Forging a Telegram.

The English law against forging a telegram—that is, sending one in the name of a person who is not cognizant of the fact—reads, "Every person who forges, or willfully and without due authority alters a telegram, or utters a telegram knowing the same to be forged, or willfully and without due authority alters, or who transmits by telegraph as a telegram, or utters as a telegram any message or communication which he knows to be not a telegram, shall, whether he had or had not an intent to defraud, be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to a fine of £10 and imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a term not exceeding 6 months."—New York Sun.

Factory Whistles.

A manufacturing company in Wilmington, Del., stopped its whistle 13 years ago because it was complained of as a nuisance, and at the same time informed its workmen that any man who was late would be fined 25 cents. In all the years since then only two men have been fined for tardiness, and the question is asked, "What seed is there for a noisy whistle to all employees to work anywhere?"—Wilmington Letter.

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