

PRACTICAL NEEDS OF STUDENT ARE AIM OF EUGENE SCHOOLS

Annual Report of W. R. Rutherford, City Superintendent Shows How National Crisis Is Being Met by Institution.

That the main object of the schools of Eugene are the training of the youth of today for practical life and for service to his country is shown by the report of W. R. Rutherford, city superintendent of schools, which was presented to the school board at its meeting Wednesday evening. The report especially emphasizes the need of this work and tells of the efforts being made to

meet the need. The report in part follows:

"The events of the past year have been a supreme test of American life and American institutions, and many lessons which we have failed to learn in times of peace have been thrust upon us so forcefully that they cannot be disregarded. Every virtue in our national life and in its institutions has shown forth in a way that leaves little room for pessimism, but every deficiency has also been so mercilessly revealed that we see on every hand new problems which we cannot honestly ignore nor neglect if we are to perform in the fullest sense the service which must fall upon us now and in the eventful years that lie ahead.

"None of our institutions bears a more important relation to our national life than public education and its institution has been put to a severe test during the year just past. The intelligent patriotism and resolute morale of our citizenship has been a glorious tribute to the public school which makes American citizens of all who come within its influence regardless of their race or land of birth. The magnificent response to the nation's

needs and the significant failure of the same plans and propaganda which have so seriously menaced less enlightened countries has been the strongest possible proof of the need for an enlightened citizenship. The keen intelligence and fine adaptability shown by our young men in mastering every branch of military service have been a revelation, largely due to universal education.

"The same events which have shown so strikingly the wonderful influence of our schools have revealed deficiencies which those responsible for them must meet. Never before have we so fully realized that every person, physically sound and prepared to do his full measure of the nation's work is a national asset, while every bit of physical weakness and personal inefficiency are liabilities which weigh heavily against our nation's chances for success, at a time when every bit of the aggregate strength of our people is necessary to meet our national problems. In the past we have been too prone to look upon the health or training of a child as an individual matter, for which his parents are largely responsible and in which we have little interest, but in the light of present circumstances we see it more clearly as a problem of community and national interest. The public school is the only agency through which all the children of all the people may be reached and it must not be permitted to neglect any phase of its work necessary for producing healthy, efficient and intelligent citizens fit to bear the country's burdens and fight its battles when the need arises.

Tells Greatest Needs.

"I believe that five of the greatest present needs in education revealed to us and to others all over this country, by the test of war conditions, are the following:

- "1. A more thorough health program, particularly for elementary schools.
- "2. Greater emphasis in high school upon the fundamental subjects needed in the common business of life.
- "3. More and better vocational courses.
- "4. Military training in connection with schools.
- "5. A more systematic organization for selecting and carrying on the war projects done in the schools.

"I shall begin this report by a statement of what we have been able to do in meeting each of these five problems and with recommendations for meeting them more thoroughly in the future.

Health Work Is Important.

"Never before has the full importance of physical fitness been brought so forcibly to our attention as during the past year, when the value of every young man to his country has depended upon his physique, and so large a percentage have been found to be disqualified by physical defects which might easily have been remedied in childhood. Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls now in the public schools may be made men and women fit for any service, but may become a national liability if health is not made one of the prime objects of the schools, for the school is the only agency through which they may all be reached.

"Although we have had scarcely any funds for health work, the exceptional co-operation of our local physicians has enabled us to make a good beginning. With their help we were able to make, last year, a thorough examination of every child in our elementary schools, and they also treated free of charge cases where the parents were unable to pay for needed treatment. The condition of each child was recorded on a permanent health record, together with thorough measurements including height and weight, lung capacity, etc., and notices of all serious defects were sent to parents. This year the physician went again to the schools and with the aid of a school nurse, who was employed for about two months at the close of the year, all the new children in school were thoroughly examined. All those found with defects of a serious nature last year were re-examined and results checked up. It was found that the examination of last year had produced excellent results; that many of the remediable defects such as adenoids, diseased tonsils, etc., had been corrected after parents received the first notification, and that the children as a whole were found in better condition. One of the best effects of this work has been to arouse, on the part of the regular teachers, a fine interest in the health and development of children and this year a series of lectures arranged especially for them by Dr. D. W. DeBusk of the University of Oregon has given them a much better knowledge of the physical welfare of their pupils.

Plan Health Supervisor.

"Our plan for next year, of having a health director, who will have charge of the physical exercise, supervise the teaching of hygiene, and assist the physicians by frequent observations of the pupils for contagious diseases and remediable defects, will give us a very strong beginning toward adequate attention to the health of the children in our elementary schools.

"This year, also through the exceptional co-operation of our doctors, every boy in our high school has been given the regular examination given to enlisted men, and all defects which stand between him and military service have been pointed out in order that these may in so far as possible, be remedied. In connection with the military drill of the high school several of the physicians have co-operated in giving a course of lectures to the boys, which included not only first aid and emergencies, but talks on health habits and personal hygiene. This plan should be continued next year and, if possible, special classes for the boys needing corrective physical exercise should be arranged.

"One of our greatest needs is a dental clinic for the schools, and this the dentists of the city have offered to install for us if we will find a suitable office and equip it for the purpose. This generous offer should be met as soon as possible, for even the slight examination given teeth in the medical examinations has revealed hundreds of cases which seriously need attention. The many serious evils caused by neglect of the teeth are too well known to make it necessary for me to urge the importance of this matter.

"Another subject very closely related to the health of our elementary school

children is the matter of adequate play facilities in stormy weather. At the Washington and Lincoln schools the play sheds furnish to the children ample opportunity for play during every day of the year, but in the other grade schools the basements offer the only chance for play on rainy days. This year we have tried to have in each building at least one of the regular teachers who has been trained for playground work and no feature of the year has been more gratifying than the improvement of play conditions, but the problem is a difficult one in bad weather. Just as soon as funds are available for the purpose, all of our buildings should be provided with play sheds of a cheap but roomy type.

Adjust High School Courses.

"The necessary entrance of so many boys and girls of high school age into business and industrial pursuits during the past year has revealed in many cases serious deficiencies in the fundamental subjects necessary for efficient service. Two much of our high school work has been of the traditional, college entrance type and too little of it has pertained to the habits and knowledge necessary in the every-day business of life. For example, too many of our high school students graduate with a smattering of foreign language and with very little ability to write or speak their native tongue effectively. Too much science and mathematics of an abstract nature and with little application to the problems of life is studied by students who will seriously need the science of the household, of the industries and of the farm, or whose work will call for good penmanship, practical arithmetic, accounting, lettering, etc. This problem can only be partly met by the high school so long as many parents demand for their boys and girls all of the traditional subjects so long considered the only true basis of culture and mental discipline, and so long as colleges prescribe rigid requirements of an academic nature for entrance to their courses. While I do not fail to recognize the value of most of our traditional subjects I believe that under present conditions many students are spending far too large a part of their time upon work which is of little value except as a preparation for college work.

Practical Work Is Appreciated.

"During the past year we have tried to meet this problem as far as possible, and the enrollment in the more practical high school subjects has been decidedly increased, but next year more thorough provision should be made for this type of work; more students should be encouraged to enroll in these courses, and a rigid requirement should be made for every student to show a reasonable proficiency in writing, spelling and arithmetic, or to enroll in these subjects until the deficiency is removed. This will require another teacher for this type of work, but will lessen the number of classes in other subjects enough to save at least one teacher's time so it will not increase the teaching force.

Would Teach French.

"About two months ago I announced at the high school that German would be dropped and French substituted, urging all boys near the military age to enroll in this subject, and there has been quite a response to the suggestion. I believe that conversational French should be made one of our strongest courses for boys at this time, for almost every letter from our soldiers shows their great need for at least a little speaking knowledge of French.

Vocational Subjects Urged.

"Never before have we felt the need for men and women definitely prepared and skilled to do well some necessary part of the nation's work. Our high schools and colleges have done some vocational work, but a time like this which demands the most efficient service in every business and industrial enterprise as well as in the activities of war finds only a fraction of the well trained workers that such a country as our should produce. This, too, is a problem which the schools must meet.

"One of the hardest problems for the smaller city has been to provide adequate vocational training for its boys and girls, for the expense of this kind of work is much more than that of the ordinary academic subjects which accounts no doubt to a great extent for the large prevalence of the traditional subjects in our high school courses. Our federal government, recognizing this difficulty, has provided a large fund for the help of cities wishing to introduce thorough vocational courses. Under this act we installed during the past year the high school course in plumbing, in which half the cost of instruction is met by federal funds. This course promises to be an exceptional success, and practically all of the boys who took the work are now in Portland ship yards, earning good wages by using the elementary facts of plumbing learned this year.

Do War Work.

"One of the most striking features of educational work during the past year has been the remarkable use made of the schools all over the country in promoting the many projects of the nation's war program. The school has been discovered as a magnificent agency for war

RHEUMATIC AND KIDNEY ILLS.

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Notice to Alien Enemy Women.

All alien enemy women, natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of the German empire or of the Imperial German government, being females 14 years of age and upwards, and not naturalized citizens of the United States, residing in or near Eugene, must register with the chief of police of the city at his office in the city hall between June 17 and June 27 next. The office will be open daily from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m., except Sunday, June 23. Full particulars can be obtained by inquiry of the chief of police.

There Is No Time Like the Present

As our Sale progresses, the people of Eugene realize what such a sale at such a time really means in actual money-saving at a time when merchandise of every kind is rapidly advancing in price all over the country. Our system of buying stocks at big sacrifices in price and closing them out at **OLD WHOLESALE PRICES** and in many instances for less, should interest every one in need of Dry Goods, Shoes, Groceries, Hardware, Underwear for every member of the family, men's Suits, Shirts, Etc.

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Unusual Values Offered in All Departments—Visit the Store

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We are offering suits for men and young men, a splendid line of all kinds of hats, shirts and underwear, every item reduced in price to close out:

\$27.50 and \$30 Suits for	\$18.50
\$25 Suits being offered at	\$14.50
\$16.50 and \$20 Suits going at	\$11.50
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\$5 Silk Shirts, special	\$3.25
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\$1.25 Shirts with a few \$1.50	
Shirts in the lot—Sale Price	98c

Our 50c Shirt Counter

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We do not claim to have full stocks in this line, but we do claim to offer you the best kind of bargains in anything we have in these goods. It will pay anyone in need of furniture of any kind to call at the store and look these lines over for if we have it you get big values. Children's Chairs and Rockers Now \$1.15
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Buy Your Shoe Needs Now

And during this special offering while the selection of styles and sizes are good.

Our \$1.00 Counter

Some splendid bargains can be had in this lot where you will find shoes for every member of the family. Some are oxfords in black, tan, oxblood, white, etc., while others are in regular styles in kid and patent leather. Many of these shoes sold regularly at \$5 to \$6 while others were no more than \$2.00. Your choice \$1.00 for

Other shoes have been sorted out and put in one big lot and will be on special sale at pair \$1.50

China and Crochery

If you can use any more Haviland China, by all means take advantage of this opportunity while you can buy at below present wholesale cost. On other crockery all sale prices are one-half to one-third below regular prices.

Dry Goods at Cut Prices

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PICTURES We have marked down to close out every picture in the store; look them over, the prices are from 10c to \$22

Webster's Sale Store

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ELKS NOTICE

All patriotic Elks who love their Country and our Order are urged to be at the Club Rooms Friday evening, June 14 at 7:30 o'clock P. M. This is the date set for our "Annual Flag Day Service" commemorating the birth of the American Flag and is observed by every Elks Lodge.

Our Services will be held at the Armory this year and the general public is invited to attend. The G. A. R. and the W. R. C. are to be our especial guests. The parade will start from in front of the Elks Building at eight o'clock led by the Municipal Band, escorted by the Home Guards, University Battalion, Sheriff's Company, County and Municipal Officers and followed by the W. R. C. and G. A. R. in automobiles.

The speakers will be Judge O. H. Foster, Judge R. S. Bryson, Col. John Leader and Hon. Chas. V. Galloway of Salem Lodge 336.

Mrs. Daise Beckett Middleton will sing "The Star Spangled Banner."

GOOD Elks will remember this date and attend.

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T. O. RUSSELL, Exalted Ruler.

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