

## Eastern Clackamas News

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## Must be Faced

The newspaper that criticises educational expenses usually finds that it has taken hold of something hot.

And for this reason many a newspaper passes it up—it doesn't like the gaff.

But right now when everybody knows that new standards have got to be found, and expenses have to correspond, we might just as well face school expenses with the rest.

Special school levies of the state total over \$9,000,000. Add the regular school taxes and the levy for the elementary state schools, and we have the huge aggregate of \$11,082,491.44.

These figures are given out from state officials at Salem.

Educational facilities are about the last place to cut, but the side lines—the extras, will simply have to take their part in readjustment, because the people simply cannot stand them.

The above is from the Oregon City *Banner-Courier*, and the point is well taken. The editor of the NEWS has always stood for liberality in matters of education, but there is reason in all things. The tendency is now to spend money recklessly on what are luxuries in education. The educational system is becoming too diverse, and the consequence is the pupils are not sufficiently grounded in fundamentals. Competent teachers with adequate salaries should be provided, but cut down on educational shock absorbers.

## Commencement

The Estacada High School Class of 1921 will hold its commencement exercises on Wednesday evening, when it will make its final bow to the public, and be dismissed with the customary diplomas. Commencement seems a strange name to apply to a conclusion of an educational period. But like the scriptural time computation of evening and morning making a day, instead of the reverse order, it indicates an important truth that each new period is born of the womb of the past.

When the newly fledged graduates step off the platform they be-

gin life anew. All what has gone before is, as it were, a prenatal experience. And as in physical life, some are born strong and healthy, some weak and sickly, all depending on prenatal conditions, so with them. Their diplomas will not tell the story, but their future careers will provide the acid test, and the former will be worth just what they have cost. If they do not represent the fruit of toil, study and application, they will be worth less than scraps of paper. Practical life is a hard task master and cannot be hoodwinked. It has no mercy on incompetency.

The poet sings:

"That men may rise on stepping stones  
Of their dead selves to higher things."

And in bidding God speed to the young people of the class of 1921, we hope that on the stepping stones of their school years in Estacada, they may rise to the higher things which the future may afford them opportunity to attain. *Palmas qui meruit ferat.*

## An Ominous Condition

Joseph Cook, who in former years was a well-known lecturer before high brow audiences at Boston, in one of his lectures, made the assertion that the downfall of the powerful Roman empire began with the issuance of its first lax divorce law. This was the symptom of social decay which was due to a moral decline brought about by increase of wealth and luxurious living. Rome became great on Spartan simplicity, when she had "to fight to win the prize," and endure hardness. But when her lines were cast in softer places, she morally and physically flabby, so degeneration set in which proved her undoing. *Haec fabula docet.*

History is repeating itself in our midst. From Monday's *Oregonian*, the following is taken which should make us pause:

Bishop Moreland, who presents statistics of increase in the total number of divorces and in the rate of divorces in the United States in the past twenty years—an increase far out of proportion to the increase of population of the country at the same time—discloses that the total for 1910 was 61,698; for 1920 it was 132,753, or almost double. In the decade 1901-1910 the total was 733,895; for the present decade 1,149,696, the increase being again far greater than is accounted for by increase of population. The total number of divorced persons involve for the two decades is 3,767,182. The figures are made even more significant, however, by inclusion of 1,318,514 minor and 500,000 adult children in the total, making a grand total of 5,585,696 individuals directly involved.

Bishop Moreland, who is the Bishop of the Sacramento diocese

(Episcopal), has made a study of this matter for years, and is an authority on the subject. If this goes on, Macaulay's New Zealander won't have to go as far as London, to view the remains of what was once a powerful nation.

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## FORDS! FORDS! FORDS!

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