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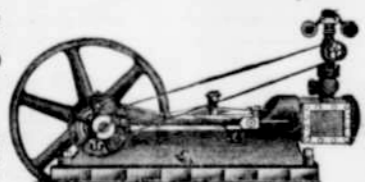
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RURAL SCHOOL RURAL HOME

SHOULD BE CLOSELY UNITED

Would Not Abolish County Supervisor—Takes Issue With County Superintendent Baker on Subject

Editor of the Coquille Herald—I read with interest in a recent issue of the Herald a communication from our newly elected superintendent of schools, Mr. Baker. Now I am a well-wisher of Mr. Baker and from what I have heard of his ideas, as reflected by his personal friends, I am extremely hopeful that he will inaugurate an era of genuine rural school supervision, especially rural school supervision, which will produce some other result than drilling the pupils in just so many pages of just such text books sufficient for them to pass examinations advancing them from grade to grade. I am still hopeful that Mr. Baker will put a little ginger into his job, and awaken in the inadequate and ill-equipped teaching force in the county new ideals for their own advancement, and fill them with new ambitions for the children who so vitally depend on them for mental stimulus.

Especially I wish to see the rural school closely tied to the rural home. I wish to see the boys and girls of the county taught in such a manner as make them realize the value of books as related to the concrete and practical problems of their farm homes. I should like to see, for instance, a few school teachers with energy and practical knowledge enough to lease a small field adjacent to the school grounds and teach the pupils to grow things upon it charging them with their appropriate share of the rent and giving them the proceeds. I should like to see rural schools where a boy could learn how and actually make a table or a Morris chair and be able to trace out all relations of that piece of furniture to mathematics and geography and lumbering and saw-milling. I would have the girls be able to make a loaf of bread and figure out how much it cost and comprehend the relationship between that loaf and the song of the binder in eastern Oregon or the Dakotas.

Such schools are not impossible. It is not an impracticable ideal that I am voicing. This new vision of education is in the air. The old cut and dried graded system is under fire and should be superseded by method which brings knowledge in more vital relationship with the concrete and the practical.

But how make a beginning here in Coos county? I answer, to begin with, we must have a man who will go out with the zeal of an apostle to inspire the teachers and educate the parents—especially educate the parents. He must be a man of tact and, as well when occasion arises, he must be a fighter, capable of standing between a board of fool directors and a weak-kneed teacher.

The man to do that job in Coos county will have to hit the trail and go right out among the farmer folks and live. There will be districts that will need the services of such a man not once a year, or once a term, but weekly until it can be re-organized and started right.

Now, I come to the point at which I seem to be at issue with Mr. Baker. He presents some figures and makes some statements in regard to the office of assistant supervisor which are undoubtedly right so far as the preceding year was concerned. We may admit that the work of the assistant supervisor was expensive and more ornamental than useful. But that is not the point. The office towards which Mr. Baker takes such a belligerent attitude was created in each county and designed exclusively for the purpose of giving rural schools adequate supervision. And we want rural school supervision and, as far as I can see, we are not going to advance our interests in this direction any by throwing the office overboard. It looks to me like common sense to fill the office with the right kind of a man and mount him on a cayuse and say to him "There's your field, go to it."

Mr. Baker talks about economy, but the fact is, the difficulty would be to obtain a man at \$1200 a year who would be big enough for the job. I don't believe the people of Coos county would begrudge the money, if we could only get a man for the job who could deliver the goods.

I, for one, do not think Mr. Baker put the question fairly to us by pointing out to us what a luxury this extra supervisor had been, and by assuming that an extra supervisor must continue to be a costly and ornamental luxury. Should he not rather have said to us, "here is an office that has in the past been farcical and expensive in operation, but it may be made useful giving value received. Do you wish a rural supervisor or not? If you do, I will endeavor to so fill it and so oversee the work as to obtain results."

If Mr. Baker thinks a rural supervisor unnecessary, will he kindly tell us how he plans to do the necessary work. Does he assume that the children in the rural schools should be content in the future, as in the past, with the leadership of immature girls, themselves little educated, except for an occasional perfunctory visit of the county superintendent?

Possibly Mr. Baker has some adequate plan of supervision. If so we would all be interested to know. I am sure. But, before we cast aside anything that makes possible the improvement of rural schools, let us take a careful inventory of the situation. Especially let us discover whether or not there is anything else in view that may help us out of our difficulties.

FOUGHT WITH KNIVES.

Sensational Duel in Arkansas' First State Legislature.

During the session of the first legislature that convened after Arkansas became a state, the new capitol, then still in an uncompleted condition, received a baptism of blood when, in 1837, J. J. Anthony, representative from Randolph county, was slain in a knife duel by John Wilson, speaker of the house of representatives, during an open session of the house.

In the course of a debate on a trivial matter Anthony offered a resolution, which was construed as a thrust at Speaker Wilson. The speaker became enraged and ordered Anthony to take his seat. Anthony refused to do so. This enraged Wilson still more, and, leaving the chair, he advanced down the aisle toward Anthony, drawing a knife as he did so. Anthony stated he had acted in jest, but Wilson refused to be pacified.

Anthony then also drew a knife and stepped from behind his desk to await Wilson's onslaught. Grandson D. Royston, who sat near by, thrust a chair between the combatants, but the latter struck at each other over the obstacle. Suddenly Anthony's knife was struck from his hand, and he was left defenseless. Wilson raised the chair and plunged his knife into Anthony's body, Anthony expiring almost instantly.

Speaker Wilson was immediately expelled from the house and Grandson D. Royston was elected speaker in his place. Wilson was indicted, but when tried in Salline county on a charge of venue he was acquitted on the ground of excusable homicide. The killing and the subsequent acquittal of Wilson caused a tremendous sensation throughout the state.—Farm and Ranch.

DEFIED THE KAISER.

A Pilot Who Knew His Business and Had Lots of Nerve.

In a fit of impatience because the speed of his yacht was slowed down on entering a certain harbor, the German emperor on one occasion tried to assert his authority and rang the bell for "Full speed ahead." To his great surprise, the pilot, an old Norwegian named Nordhaus, who knew the dangerous character of the channel, placed himself in the way and, leaning over the wheel, called down the tube to the engine room, "Half speed ahead—never mind the bell!"

"What! You dare to countermand my orders?" cried the impetuous monarch, again ringing the bell.

"Disregard the bell," calmly repeated Nordhaus through the tube.

For a moment the kaiser glared at the intrepid pilot, and then, drawing himself up to his full height, said majestically, "Go below, sir, and report yourself under arrest."

"Leave the bridge!" thundered the Norwegian grimly, as he grasped the wheel more firmly. "This ship is in my charge, and I'll have no interference with my orders from emperor or senator!"

The officers on deck hurried silently aft, wishing luck to the sturdy old sea dog, who, knowing that he had the law as well as common sense on his side, stood at his post unshaken by threats, unheeding commands, and steered the Hohenzollern safely into port.

The next day the emperor came to his senses and decorated the pilot—the king at the wheel—with one grade of the Order of the Black Eagle and also appointed him his life pilot in Norwegian waters.—Pearson's Weekly.

KEEPING HELP ON THE FARM

One of the greatest problems on the farm is keeping help. Living near a city has its disadvantages. The boys who "hire out," find the long drive irksome after a day in the field.

Helpers in the house are scarce. Girls who must earn their own way prefer town life every time. There are so many entertaining things to offset the drawbacks that they have no trouble in making a choice. There are picture shows, theaters and congenial companions.

Why cannot farming communities have a hall where young and old may be amused and instructed, and better yet, get together? If the short hours advocated by farm life "uplifters" are granted, something must be provided for the hours between supper and bedtime.—Farm and Home.

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OLY PETRELS.

Various sea birds, especially the petrels, contain a large amount of oil in their tissues, and for this reason are greatly valued by the inhabitants of the Scottish coast, who obtain from them "oil" for their lamps, down for their beds, a delicacy for their table, a balm for their wounds and a medicine for their distemper." On the island of St. Kilda as many as 20,000 birds are killed in the one week of the year when this killing is legal. So rich in oil are some of these birds that their bodies can be used as lamps if wicks are passed through them.—London Live Stock Journal.

EARLY WELFARE WORK.

The "sick fund" among factory employees was known as far back as the first quarter of the nineteenth century. A manufacturing company at Dover having established it for the benefit of employees. A hospital for factory operatives was established in Lowell in 1839. The charges were \$4 a week for the men and \$3 for the women. If they were not able to pay, the employing corporation became responsible.—New York Evening Post.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

French Chauffeur (to deaf farmer on a Maine road)—Can you tell me, sare, vere I get some of ze gazzoline? Farmer (with his hand to his ear)—Hey? French Chauffeur—Non, non, non! Not ze hay—ze gazzoline. Zizz eez a motor-car, not a horse.—Exchange.

DISCOVERED.

Wife—What would you do, George, if you were left a widower? Hub—Oh, I suppose the same as you would if you were left a widow. Wife—You horrid wretch! And you told me you could never care for anybody else.—Boston Transcript.

THE DEAR GIRL.

"Wife, why don't you make some flannel socks?"
"I will if you wish it," said the bride.
"Shall I use red or white flannel?"—Kansas City Journal.

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