



DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION.

State Superintendent Ackerman and County Superintendent Alderman Visit This Neighborhood and Talk Consolidation.

What is written here is largely the story of the result of the determination and efforts of one man. It is an object lesson of what one citizen, single handed, but possessed of a purpose, can accomplish. W. H. Hubbard lives some two miles west of town. He lives in the Dundee school district, but being even farther situated from the Dundee school, he is determined that his children shall have the advantages of the Newberg graded school. He has been sending them here and paying tuition. On account of congested conditions, the directors found it necessary to treble the tuition fee for outsiders this year, hoping thus to eliminate the majority. Mr. Hubbard, a man of very moderate circumstances, started his children to school here as usual. In the meantime he was figuring on a solution to the problem, and began to talk consolidation with this district. To this end he got up a petition to have the boundary lines changed. Some of his neighbors who thought him altogether too progressive, got up a counter petition asking for the formation of a new country district. With the two petitions before him, County Superintendent Alderman began to investigate. And the sequel was the presence of both state and county superintendents here Saturday—and what is hereinafter chronicled.

In the afternoon Messrs. Ackerman and Alderman, accompanied by Principal Kirk, met several of the residents of the isolated section west of town at the home of Miss J. D. Miller, to talk over with them the situation. Naturally they found some diversity of opinion. Some, like Mr. Hubbard, were anxious to be admitted to Newberg, and labored to show their neighbors the advantages of consolidation. A few however did not want to "be shown." One final argument with which one man had expostulated with Mr. Hubbard was that, "That public school's nothin' but a stufin' box fer that college anyhow."

As progressive school men, both Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Alderman are heartily in favor of the consolidation idea. The latter has but recently taken up the responsibilities of his office, but he is taking hold with an interest and vim which mean much to the schools of this county. As he declared at the public meeting in the evening, he has taken for his dominating inspiration the thought that the schools exist for children. And observing and appreciating the great disadvantages under which teacher and pupil work in the rural district, he has determined to ameliorate conditions as far as possible. He finds the solution of the problem in the consolidation of the country district with that of the town, where feasible, and along this line his efforts are to be directed, so he announces.

A public meeting was held in the college chapel in the evening, addressed by both superintendents. The audience was representative. Aside from citizens of Newberg, there were those present from surrounding districts who had heard of the agitation and wanted to learn more of the proposed system.

Superintendent Alderman, who presided, stated the case clearly and proceeded to tell why he thinks Newberg should take the lead and set the pattern in this

movement which is certainly coming. The same principles of co-operation and centralization which are being applied in business must be recognized in school work. It is inevitable. He wants to see not only the territory west of town taken in with Newberg, but also sections of that lying in other directions. As for the former section, if consolidation is not effected, a new district will have to be established and a house built for the accommodation of some twenty pupils, which he considers neither economical nor efficient.

The principal talk of the evening was given by State Superintendent J. H. Ackerman. Knowing as he did of the educational spirit of the community, he said he was glad to make arrangements to meet our people for the purpose of talking over school matters of vital interest. He thinks people nowadays accept their school advantages too much as a matter of course, forgetting that the present standard has been attained by tremendous efforts. Every advanced step has met opposition.

Confining his attention to the consolidation idea, he gave careful explanation of the system, and its operation; how regular routes are established and the contract let for transporting children to and from school; how the increased amount of taxable property largely covers the cost of transportation; how better roads result; how the desirable homeseekers are attracted; how country property increases in value; how the volume of business in town is increased, etc.

From a strictly educational standpoint, Mr. Ackerman presented forcible argument. He showed how inefficient must be the work of the teacher in the rural district who has to hear thirty recitations in a day; how advantageous it is for the country and town children to mingle in school together; how the increased attendance in the town school makes closer grading, thus assuring better work; how the larger school develops into the well established high school, affording higher educational advantages at home.

Mr. Ackerman on finishing his talk turned the meeting into an open parliament, and many were the leading questions asked in regard to the proposed system, showing that an intelligent interest had been awakened. The fact was emphasized that the idea is not new, but is in force in many eastern states. Just to the north of us in King county, Washington, the system is in successful operation in fourteen consolidated districts. Several short talks were made, and the prevailing sentiment seemed unmistakably to be in favor of the proposition, though it was thought best to proceed slowly and carefully, making a trial out west of town to begin with.

To get the movement before the public, committees were appointed from three different districts to investigate farther in regard to expense, to recommend boundary lines etc, and to confer with the Newberg school directors. For the territory west of town the committee consists of W. H. Hubbard, A. W. Towler and J. H. Bidgood; the north, D. P. Strait, E. A. Ellis and J. W. Moore; for the east, T. H. Parrish, R. L. Jones and Walter Everest. When they are ready to make recommendations, a school meeting of this district will be called to take action.

Superintendent Ackerman expressed himself as highly pleased with the meeting. He said it was not his purpose nor intention to try to force anything upon the

neighborhood, but only to suggest and explain, and that whatever action might be taken, he was confident that the meeting and exchanging of ideas had been profitable to all.

Musical Kindergarten to Open.

Arrangements are about completed for conducting a Musical Kindergarten in connection with the college Department of Music. Much time and care has been spent in preparing the material for this class. Each child will be equipped with a chart of the keyboard and another of the staff with it's lines and spaces just as found in common notation. Time, the notes, scale work and all rudiments in ordinary primary work are included.

The methods of teaching are similar to those used in general kindergarten work. Songs are taught, the words of which serve to impress the different musical ideas.

The object of this class work will be to give a strong impetus to the musical nature of the child. Experience has taught that it is a great advantage to enter musical training as early in life as possible. The child that can count to ten and repeat it's letters to G with certainty, is none too young. This will prove an excellent opportunity for laying a thorough foundation for musical knowledge and serve as excellent preparation for vocal or instrumental work.

The Kindergarten equipment will accommodate twenty pupils, consequently each class will be limited to that number. Those desiring to enlist their children

will please report early. Class rates and other particulars can be learned by calling at the studio in Miss Inglis' residence near college. Terms reasonable.

C. W. KANTNER,
Director.

A Good Opportunity

For the homeseeker to obtain a beautiful tract of land upon which he can raise fruit, vegetables, hops and raise poultry and at the same time have the conveniences of town is to purchase one of those desirable tracts of land in Sunnyside Subdivision to Newberg, all in the school district. The reasonable prices at which these five to twenty acre tracts are being sold place them within the reach of all desiring to secure a pretty suburban home, with building material lower than in most any other progressive town, enabling them to build a very pretty home at a very low cost. The indications now are that land and property of all kinds will be much higher in and around Newberg as spring approaches. See owner, Miss M. E. McDowell one mile northwest of town, for particulars.

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