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NO. 27

THE HIGH SCHOOL SITE

An Open Letter From the School Board.

A VOTE ON WEDNESDAY

There Will Be No Further Delays if the School Board's Plan is Endorsed.

To the Legal Voters of School District No. 29:—

The matter of the erection of a high school building this season having become involved in litigation of doubtful duration (a condition which has and will continue to prove disastrous to the growth and prosperity of our city,) the school board has decided to grant the petition calling for an election to purchase another school site. In order that the public may have a thorough understanding of the present status of the matter, we deem it proper to give a complete statement of what has been accomplished.

On November 17, 1909, an election was held for the purpose of voting a tax to meet the current school expenses for the present year. After the business had been transacted for which the meeting was called the matter of building a high school was taken up and discussed. By unanimous expression of this meeting, the board of directors were requested to look up a suitable location for a high school building, and call a meeting for purchasing the same. In accordance with this request, the board immediately began investigation of a location suitable for the construction of such building. Naturally many problems arose as to the selection of such a site; the more prominent being, drainage, convenience, relative position to other schools in the town; relative position to close adjoining districts; separating the larger pupils from the smaller, and removing them from the business center of the city; last, but by no means least, a slightly location. Eleven available tracts were found, practically all of which had some objectionable features. The fact that our district had become sufficiently large in population to entitle us to the rank of first class, made it imperatively necessary to select sites in such locations as would meet the future demands of the district, in such a way as would be most convenient for ward schools. The present centrally located building, being arranged and equipped for the grades renders it impractical for a high school without expensive rearrangements, while its position makes it convenient for the small children of the North and West portions of the district, and will conveniently meet the needs of these parts of the district until our population has increased and extended in both directions. The most densely populated part of the district being to the southeast, will certainly be the first to require a grade building. To meet this apparently early demand for a graded school, the board decided to recommend the purchase of the Switzer property, as the most suitable for that portion of the town and district.

In the important matter of drainage, sightliness, accessibility, not only to our own district but to those adjacent, and the valuable importance of a beautiful grove of native trees, which would require twenty years to produce on other locations, also the redeeming feature

of being sufficiently far from the business portion of the town to remove many evil influence from the pupils, seemed an overwhelming preponderance of good qualities in favor of the Corbett tract for a high school building. Its purchase was accordingly recommended by the board.

On December 30, 1909, at the largest school meeting ever held up to that time, the recommendations of the board were adopted, and its policy as to the division of the district and the location of school houses, was endorsed. The business transacted at this meeting, was pronounced illegal by many, some of whom were not present at the meeting.

Immediately after the meeting, the board placed all records of the proceedings in the hands of some of the most competent attorneys in the state. These attorneys pronounced these proceedings legal.

On investigation, the school board became convinced that school warrants for such a large amount were practically unobtainable. An election was then called and bonds voted by an overwhelming majority, notwithstanding the fact that most strenuous efforts were made to defeat them by those who were opposed to previous proceedings. Believing this to be a strong endorsement of previous proceedings, the board consummated the purchase of the Corbett tract, in order to hasten the construction of the building.

Mandamus and injunction proceedings were immediately instituted against the board, the outcome of which confirms the legality of all previous proceedings. Notwithstanding these suits, the board has succeeded in selecting plans for the building, has advertised for the sale of the bonds, and is now advertising for bids for the construction of the building. Work on construction may commence just as soon as the people either endorse or reject what has already been accomplished.

In the judgment of the board it is absolutely unnecessary for the district to purchase another site, as asked for in the petition, in addition to the two recently selected. The plans selected for the building can be carried out on the site already selected at a saving of \$4,000.00 in the construction of the building alone, rather than on sites which are not so favorably located for drainage.

The board feels that it has acted unselfishly for the very best interests of the district, both present and future, in a financial way and otherwise, and leaves the matter in the hands of the people, confident that the action of the board, declared by the court's decision to be legal, will be endorsed by the people.

Very respectfully yours,
T. E. WRIGHT,
J. C. HODSON,
J. L. VANBLARICOM,
Board of Directors.

Church Notes.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

The theme for the morning service at the Baptist church next Sunday morning will be, "A Religion for Young Men." In the evening the subject will be, "The Royal Friend." All are welcome.

METH. EPIS. CHURCH.

Preaching next Sabbath morning and evening. In the morning the subject will be, "Hunting for Mules but Finding a Kingdom." Epworth League 7 p.m. All are invited.

P. C. WINS THE DEBATE

A Battle Royal With The Albany College Team.

THE DES MOINES PLAN

Home Team Takes Affirmative Albany Visitors Make Good Showing.

One of the most interesting and spectacular debates ever held in Newberg was listened to by an eager audience in the college chapel on Friday night of last week, when the home college team crossed swords with the Albany College team, defeating the latter and thus winning the championship in the "Collegiate Debating League of Oregon."

Rev. John F. Lyons, pastor of the Presbyterian church presided

and in his introductory remarks said that he must take a middle of the road course, since his loyalty to his home town naturally impeded him to hope for victory to come to the home team, while his loyalty to his own church school made him hold out a like hope for the visiting team.

The question was: Resolved that all cities of the United States having a population of 25,000 or more should have a commission form of government, similar to that of Des Moines, Iowa.

The home team, composed of Roy Fitch, leader, Bruce Douglas and Harvey Wright took the affirmative, while Albany, represented by Grover C. Birchett, leader, Miss Lucile Hart and Alexander McLean stood for the negative.

Bruce Douglas opened the debate by making a clear and concise statement of the question and following with a well rounded speech, made at random from notes, and ringing in a surprise on his hearers who had not before heard him in public.

Harvey Wright also warmed up to his subject, carrying things by storm in neatly turning the tables against the visitors by showing up the fallacies of their own chart, which they hung on the wall just in good time for him and before their man had an opportunity to refer to it, and also by making good use of a chart he had in readiness to spring at the right moment.

It only remained for Roy Fitch to put on the finishing touches in his rebuttal, which he did to a turn, and the victory was won. Mr. Fitch is a born debater, at perfect ease before an audience and the array of facts he had at his command showed that he had made a close study of all phases of the question.

Mr. Birchett, the leader of the visiting team has fine delivery and his knowledge of the different sides of the question was also worthy of note. He made a splendid impression.

Miss Hart is also a forceful speaker and proved to be a worthy representative for her college. Mr. McLean was a little handicapped in his delivery, but his speech showed that he had been a diligent student in making preparation for the fray.

The judges were Galloway of Washington High School, Portland; Veatch, Hill Military Academy, and Kirk of Willamette University. Galloway voted for Albany while the other two stood for P. C.

The home team speaks in the highest terms of the visiting team, saying it was a real pleasure to meet young people of their kind in debate. A reception was

held for the two teams following the rendering of the decision by the judges.

Pacific College Notes.

The Junior preparatory class took a delightful walk one afternoon this week with Prof. Brindon as chaperon. Several interesting pictures were taken.

Rose Winters and Hazel Newlin were visitors at the college during the past week.

Rev. Stannard gave a good chapel talk on "Friendship" last Friday.

All the students and professors are exceedingly happy over the victory won by our debating team last Friday night in the college chapel. This gives P. C. the championship in the debating league. A reception was given by the Earonian Literary Society to the two contesting teams after the debate.

The Music Department opened the work of the spring term last week with by far the largest registration in its history. The usual weekly pupils' recitals will be held throughout the term with studies in musical history, with a prize offered for the best examination paper at the end of the term. Last term's prizes were won by Nellie Reuter and Esther Hodson. Already a number of recitals and contests are planned for the term. In the course of a month a MacDowell recital will be given by the faculty and during the spring two recitals by advanced pupils, the first by Miss Katherine Romig, soprano, and Miss Reuter, pianist; the second by Mr. Elmer A. Buehler, baritone, who holds a position in the choir of the First Presbyterian Church at Salem under Prof. Hull's direction. In addition to this and whatever may be later planned will be the usual public recitals at the end of the term. The work of payments on the college piano is progressing rapidly and the faculty is highly pleased with the result of the year's work.

THE MOOTED QUESTION

Statement From Petitioners in High School Contention

TO THE LEGAL TAX PAYERS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 29, NEWBERG, OREGON:

The Directors of Newberg School District No. 29, finding that the arbitrary position, which they have held, in regard to the location of the proposed high school was absolutely untenable, and being advised by the most prominent attorneys of the state that they would be beaten both in the circuit and supreme courts of the state, and would be compelled to call a school meeting in accordance with the petition signed by 271 legal voters of the district, agreed before the circuit court in session at McMinnville April 15, to call a meeting as the petitioners requested and such meeting will be held at 2 p. m. April 27th at the school house.

This was not a magnanimous concession, as the school board would like people to believe, but was a forced proposition, and was agreed to after much advice had been sought, and after the school board had found that they were strictly outside the pale of the law and that they would be absolutely forced and compelled to call a meeting and place the matter before the people as they had been requested to do.

The people of this district know without being told whether or

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not there was any conniving on the part of the school board to foist the Corbett tract onto the district. They also know the import of the lengthy speech made by one of the members of the board at the school meeting held Nov. 17, 1909, and the relative long time consumed in making said speech. It is also known whether or not the board made any special effort to get lowest prices on the other ten tracts of land proposed for school sites. These are matters which it is believed are thoroughly understood by the majority of the voters of this district and no comment is necessary.

The people may not know, however, that the board, after receiving the first petition of 255 names asking that a meeting be called, asked advice of Attorney Montague, of Portland, who is considered one of the best attorneys in the state, and that Attorney Montague advised the board that the best thing for the board to do was to call a meeting and comply with the petition. The people, possibly, do not know that the board's attorney admitted before the court that there was no legal obstacle in the way of the board calling a school meeting in accordance with the request of the petitioners of the last petition. It is an absolute fact that the inexperience of the board in such matters caused them to commit many errors which made the bond issue unsalable until they were corrected by subsequent board meetings, and that until such meetings were held and the corrections made it would have been impossible to have sold the bonds.

The City of Newberg is now a widely scattered community and there is no reasonable reason why a high school should be built clear to one side of the district, and also to the extreme east side of the town and thereby tend to scatter the city more than at present, and incidentally cause the city to uselessly expend large sums of money for fire protection, lights, etc. In the matter of sewer construction alone, we believe that it will cost the city several thousands of dollars more to properly sewer the Cor-

bett tract and vicinity than would be required to sewer a district within the city proper. We believe the Corbett tract never was the choice of the majority of the voters of the district for a high school and that it is not at the present time; that it is not an equitable location and that almost any location within the city proper would suit the majority of the people a great deal better than would the Corbett tract.

The school law plainly states that when one-third of the legal voters of a district petition a school board for a meeting that they shall call such meeting. This is a plain statement and can be easily verified by reading the Oregon school law.

Why did the school board seek to avoid calling this meeting? The law was plain in the case. One prominent attorney advised them to call the meeting, why hunt other attorneys?

What difference did it make to the board where the school was built if the people were satisfied? If the people wanted the Corbett tract what harm would it have done to have called the meeting long ago and settled the matter for once and all time? Were the directors afraid that the people would not sanction the Corbett tract and would select some other tract? This last is the most natural presumption in view of their strenuous efforts put forth and scattered legal advice sought in endeavoring to avoid calling a meeting.

DR. HARRY A. LITTLEFIELD
JOHN LARKIN
AND OTHERS REPRESENTING
RECENT PETITIONS.

A Card of Thanks.

We hereby express our gratitude to the many friends who gave sympathy and aid during our trouble and sorrow occasioned by the sickness and death of our baby.

D. L. KLOCK AND FAMILY.

Spread down some newspapers on which to kneel when you are planting the garden or flower beds. They may save you a cold or rheumatism in your knees, besides keeping your dress clean.