

EXCELLENCE OF SCHOOLS MAKES BEND A DESIRABLE HOME TOWN

PRINCIPAL SHOUSE TELLS OF LARGE ATTENDANCE, HOW GRADUATES MAKE GOOD and of FIGURES SHOWING MANY YOUNG FAMILIES HERE---SCHOOL FINANCES ARE SATISFACTORY.

Mr. J. B. Shouse, writer of this article, is the principal of the Bend schools, and as such is especially qualified to describe accurately just what the town has in educational facilities.



BEND SCHOOL BUILDING.

Bend School District No. 12 is a wealthy district; with an assessed valuation of over \$1,000,000 it can afford first class accommodations at a relatively low rate of taxation. Not only is it a wealthy district but it also enumerates a considerably larger number of children of legal school age than any other one of Crook county's eighty-five to ninety districts.

The school census of 1912 showed 487 children of school age; the actual total enrollment for the year just closed was 505; even excluding duplicates the number of children in attendance upon the schools of District No. 12 approximates the census figures; when one considers that the census includes children of the age of four years and over, many of whom are too young to attend school, it becomes evident that the attendance at school is actually greater than the census would warrant.

The chief problem in the management of school affairs in Bend has been, from the standpoint of the teaching staff, the assimilation of the constantly incoming stream of new pupils; these pupils come from all parts of the United States, from all kinds and conditions of schools, and create a real problem in the matter of graduation. Whether or not the situation is capably handled can perhaps be well judged from the repeated remark of one of our teachers to the effect that almost uniformly she finds the incoming children less well prepared for their work than those children who have done the work of the preceding grade right here in Bend.

Another aspect of the problem is that of room and equipment; generous provision of one year fails utterly to suffice for the larger numbers of the succeeding year, so that the housing problem is continually recurring; the past year alone witnessed the addition of three teachers to the number employed.

Finances in Good Shape.

This constant growth necessitates constant outlay for equipment as well as for running expenses; the cost of maintenance of the schools of the district for the year just closed was nearly \$15,000; yet in spite of this condition the district treasury shows a cash balance of almost \$9000. With only a small outstanding bond issue not immediately due, it may be said that District No. 12 is in first class financial condition.

The record of the Bend High School is something of which the town may be proud. Every member of the graduating class of 1912 entered college last fall; all but one member of the graduating class of the preceding year was at the same time in college. During the past school year Bend graduates or former High School pupils to the number of five attended the Agricultural College, three were at the State University and two were attending Whitman College. At the same time a member of the first graduating class of the Bend High School, having completed her college course at the State University, was teaching English and History in the High School; another graduate taught in the grades below high school during the preceding year and will return during the coming year. Miss Emily Schreder, who won a \$200 scholarship last year in competition with all girl graduates of the state for that year, has remained in Eugene for the summer session of the University. The graduating class of this year, consisting of seven young men of unusual ability and maturity, was in itself an excellent showing. Not only are Bend High School graduates admitted without examination and without condition at the state schools for higher education but it must be noted that at least four were admitted last fall with a semester's advanced standing.

Growth at Bottom.

One of the very interesting aspects

of the school situation in Bend is the fact that it manifests an unusual growth at the bottom. Over ninety pupils were enrolled in the first grade during the past year. A disproportionate enrollment in the lowest grades, as compared with the higher, indicates not merely that the older children of the newly incoming families are more likely to fall to attend school than are the younger ones, but probably indicates more surely that the population of Bend consists to an unusual degree of people who have not yet reached the middle years of life and who will therefore spend the very prime of life in Bend during the period of its early growth.

I like to call attention to the attendance records of the children as an indication of their interest and that of their parents. Taking the attendance of the school as a whole there was not more than one month during the past school year when the percent of attendance was lower than 92 1/2; that was the month when an order for vaccination, with its attendant discomforts, caused an unusually low attendance. The following pupils were neither absent nor tardy during the year and were enrolled every day of the year: Ivan McGillivray, Hazel Thorson, Eddie Brosterhous, Ivan Lehman, Ethel Brown. The high school lost by death two of its members during the past year; up to the time of final departure from school neither one had been absent or tardy during the year, nor had either one been absent or tardy during the preceding year. One high school pupil has succeeded in making the excellent record of two years perfect attendance during her first two years in high school; during each year moreover she has consistently obtained the best marks in her class.

Headed Their Class.

Last fall the following pupils had the expenditure of \$5 each in some permanent fixture for their respective grades, said fixture to bear the name of the donor in recognition of having stood at the head of his class during the preceding year: Susie Kelley, John True, Nina Spining, Virginia Averill, Isaac Bedell, Beryl Wing, Minnie Linster. During the past semester those who made the best records in their grades from the eighth downward in order were: Margaret Thompson, 8th; Marie Brosterhous, 7th; Gladys Fleming, A 6th; Isaac Bedell, B 6th; Cecil French, A 5th; Dona Fleming, B 5th; Charles Winter, A 4th; Mildred Hoover, B 4th; averages below the fourth grade not being computed.

This calls to attention the fact that during the past year the division of grades into A and B classes, with half yearly intervals, was established. With a system of half yearly promotions it becomes much easier to place pupils who have come from schools that are slightly different from those of Oregon in gradations. This system also offers the advantage that when a pupil fails of promotion he is retarded only a half year in his progress instead of a whole year. At the annual business meeting of the district recently held, sentiment favored the provision of free text books for pupils below high school grades; this will doubtless prove to be a matter of real economy; many a family purchases annually a number of text books which are used for a time and then laid aside for ever; with the ownership in the hands of the district these books will be used until actually worn out, and under the supervision of teachers, as they will be, will probably receive much better care than do books of private ownership. This should prove an advantage particularly to those ranchers who are temporarily residents of town and who hesitate to expend money for books for short periods of attendance. The tax levy necessary to provide free books will be only a fraction of one mill. The introduction of the custom of free books will not necessitate their use by those who prefer to provide their own texts; many families probably will choose to purchase books required for their children.

Six Churches Care For Town's Spiritual Growth

Four church organizations, each with a substantial building and a considerable membership, are represented in Bend, and two that do not yet have buildings. Along with the commercial interests of the town, the churches are developing and expanding. In a material way, they have made much progress during the last twelve months, two of them completing excellent houses of worship. These were the Presbyterians and Methodists.

The Presbyterians have a building constructed of stone which cost approximately \$7000. This is the first stone church, not only in Bend, but also in all Central Oregon. It is located quite centrally and is a very handsome building. One of its most striking features is the art glass windows. The auditorium is large, and there is an adjoining Sunday school room connected with it by folding doors which can be thrown back at any time it is desired to increase the seating capacity of the auditorium. A kitchen is provided to be used in connection with social functions at the church, and the pastor has a comfortable study. In the rear of the pulpit is the choir loft, with space left for the installation of a pipe organ at a later date. The building is heated by hot air, the furnace being located in the basement.

The stone used is the pink variety quarried here. Trimmings of black and brown add much to the attractiveness of the edifice.

During the construction of the church the Presbyterian congrega-

tion has held services in the Star and Dream Theatres. The pastor is Rev. I. I. Gorby, Ph. D.

The Methodists have an attractive frame building of bungalow type which was completed last August. It is intended as a temporary structure to be used until the congregation finds itself able to erect a brick or stone building on the front of the lot which it has on Ohio street. The cost of the present edifice was about \$1500. It contains one large room, having a seating capacity of about 150. The seats are handsome opera chairs.

The Methodist pastor is Rev. E. C. Newham. His entire time is given to this field, as is also the case with the Presbyterian and Baptist pastors.

The Baptists and Catholics have buildings which have been in use for some years, but each still meeting the needs of the congregations.

Rev. E. G. Judd is the Baptist pastor and has as his assistant Miss Winifred Elyea.

Father Luke Sheehan is in charge of the Catholic church work in Bend, his field also including other Central Oregon towns.

The Episcopalians have a church site here but have not yet built on it. There are a number of persons of this faith in Bend and it is probable that a building will be erected within the next year or two.

A new congregation has been formed in Bend this year, this being the Church of the Brethren or Dunkards, with Ira H. Fox as minister. Services are held every two weeks in the Methodist church in the afternoon.

TWO CHURCH BUILDINGS ERECTED DURING PAST YEAR.



First Presbyterian Church, Built of Native Stone.



Present Home of Methodist Church to Be Replaced Later by Permanent Building.

STATISTICS SHOW ATTRACTIONS HERE FOR HEALTH SEEKERS

Dr. U. C. Coe, writer of this article, is a physician who has practiced at Bend for eight years. A graduate of the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, and of broad experience in general medical and surgical work, his statements may be regarded as authoritative.

Central Oregon is notable for its sunshine and climate. It has an annual rainfall of from twelve to fifteen inches and an even balance of seasons. There is enough of summer and winter, spring and fall to give variety and vigor to the climate and no season of the year is extreme. The summers do not get so hot nor the winters so cold as to be unpleasant. When the weather is the warmest, the nights are always cool enough to permit of a good night's rest, and during the coldest weather when the nights are cold the days are usually bright and sunny though sometimes cold.

The air is so pure and dry that neither heat nor cold are so noticeable as in localities where the humidity of the atmosphere is greater. In fact the climate is one of the best and most healthful to be found in the temperate zone, if we are to judge from health statistics, which should be the best gauge to go by. Crook county is remarkably free from pulmonary, bronchial, catarrhal, and rheumatic affections, and especially the west side of the county.

Many people now in this section who have suffered from catarrh, hay fever, bronchitis and rheumatism and have changed climates several times for the purpose of benefiting their ailments find relief and benefit here. Many cases of tuberculosis which have come here from other climates have derived far more benefit during their sojourn here than they received in other places highly recommended. There have been few cases of tuberculosis which have had their inception here. Most of the cases of death from tuberculosis reported to the secretary of the health board have been those coming here for the benefit of this climate, after the disease had reached the incurable stage.

Statistics Are Gratifying.

This fact would be somewhat of a handicap to the showing that Crook county would make, compared with other sections of the country in the percentage of deaths occurring from

tuberculosis in the county, but even at that, the statistics compiled by the state board of health during the past five years give Crook county a splendid showing. About twenty-three per cent of all deaths occurring in the United States, as far as statistics can tell us, are due to tuberculosis. During the year of 1910 five per cent of the deaths in Crook county were from tuberculosis, and in 1911 the records show four per cent from this trouble. During 1910 Benton county had about seventeen per cent of all deaths occurring in the county due to tuberculosis. The same year Clackamas had about seventeen, Clatsop thirteen, Gilliam twenty, Hood River twelve, Klamath eleven. This comparison will give a fair idea of the beneficial effects of this climate on tubercular troubles.

There are many people living in and about Bend who have been free from hay fever for several seasons, for the first time in years. Some of these people have lived in Colorado, California and other sections of the country especially recommended for this trouble, but a great many of them have been given more relief by this climate than by any other they have tried.

Rheumatism is rather a rare disease here compared with localities having a damper climate.

The infectious fevers are not very prevalent and most cases are mild.

The water supply, coming as it does directly from the snow in the mountains, is very pure and free from typhoid or other infection. So far this section has had comparatively a very small amount of typhoid while malaria is unknown.

A volume could be written on the climatology of Central Oregon. One might go into detail but the whole story can be told in one sentence—as far as one can judge from observation and statistics, Crook county has as high a birth rate and as low a death rate in proportion to its population as any like area in the United States.

- There is excellent prospect
- for the establishment of a tubercular sanatorium in the near future although as yet no definite statement can be made. If the plan materializes, it will be
- backed by a number of prominent Portland physicians, all of whom will send their patients
- here.
- It also has been stated here
- by Bishop O'Reilly of the Catholic church that serious consideration is being given a plan to
- found a Catholic hospital here.

D. E. Hunter Gives Reasons Why Home-seekers Should Investigate Central Oregon

Mr. D. E. Hunter, writer of this article, is one of the most experienced colonization and immigration experts in the Northwest, having operated extensively in western Canada. He is a member of The Bend Company, the D. E. Hunter Realty Company and has very extensive interests in Bend.

Why should immigrants come to the Bend district of Central Oregon? The answers are varied and convincing. To go into full details, with comparisons with other sections, would require too much space. Suffice to give the fundamental answers.

In the first place, the man of moderate means—say having \$2,000 to \$5,000—finds here what I believe to be the lowest priced irrigated lands, with water rights, that are obtainable anywhere. This also applies to "dry" lands—there is a lot of excellent acreage, improved and raw, that can be had for from \$15.00 an acre to \$40.00, not to mention vast quantities of more remote sagebrush land for lower prices, and hundreds of thousands that can be had for the taking by homesteaders.

Then there is the diversity of possible products; with irrigation and dry farming so well combined, there is opportunity for a small farmer to try out practically any kind of production that seems most profitable. Beside raising crops from the soil, a perhaps more important, and certainly a provedly profitable field for attention is in four-footed crops—pigs and dairy cows, not to mention chickens.

Already many remarkable successes have been made with hogs—there is splendid money, a sure market, and good openings on a small scale as well as on a large one. Dairy cows do equally well; there is a steady and always increasing demand for cream, milk and butter. In addition to individual purchasers, prosperous creameries and a cheese factory stand ready to buy all farmers can produce.

Cheap lands and diversified production are important. As important is the market. Here, too, the outlook for the local farmer is most inviting.

Even now, with comparatively sparse population, the demand for farm products exceeds the supply.

This is especially true of pork products, beef, milk, cream, butter and eggs. What will it be when the mills create a purchasing population in Bend probably thrice as great as that of today—and that will happen that today. Right now thousands of dollars go out of the country yearly for the above products. Perhaps in a few months, certainly in a year or so, the demand will even further outstrip the supply. Today the prices for all such farm products are high; with the greater demand, the prices will be higher—and the farmers of the Bend district will be even further assured of an immediate, permanent and extremely profitable market.

Another important matter that should be considered by every land buyer in a new country is this: You are not only making money by what you produce from year to year, but you also are making money through the increase in the value of your land; for as you improve it, as settlement and development surrounds it, and as markets increase near at hand, your land grows in value.

Then there is a further consideration, which I have found a very strong drawing card when inducing immigration to northwest Canada. That is the climate. The climate of the Bend country, so far as comfort and health is concerned, certainly "can't be beat." The farmers who themselves, or whose families, suffer from nasal, bronchial or lung troubles, can head for Central Oregon with the certainty that here they will find complete relief and the happiness of restored health.

Agricultural Development of Many Localities Told in Clippings.

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set out an acre orchard, among them being peaches, apples, prunes and pears.

Hampton, April 8.—Melvin Crow recently cleared 15 acres on his place and expects to clean up the balance of 50 in the near future.

Plainview, Feb. 15.—P. Davis, while felling trees Thursday had the good luck to fell a bee tree, from which he got about 150 pounds of fine honey.