

THE HERALD.

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W. C. BYRD, CHAS. W. BYRD, Editors.

THE HERALD has, several times this spring and summer, called attention to the inefficiency of our town to cope with accidental or incendiary fire.

If some two or three prominent men of the town would take it upon themselves to agitate the necessity of, at least, good flues in the buildings, then, we are told, the insurance company will insure our property at reasonable rates.

In relation to fire the business men of our town are acting more like school-boys than sensible men.

In case a fire would break out, what would we do? Stand and gape at each other like idiots, or run around excitedly, gather up a few buckets, give a whole budget of orders, and the result would be a loss to the town of enough dollars, if properly invested before any fire, to give us ample protection.

Then why is it we do not see that every house has a good flue? so that property owners, who desire to do so, can insure their property.

Last Monday, Judge Shields dropped his official robes and donned the garb of a private citizen, and his successor, Wm. Miller, took the oath of office and stepped into a very responsible position, but more of him presently.

Judge Shields has made an able and efficient officer, and one whom the citizens of our county were, and should be, proud of. Judge Shields is the only appointee made by Gov. Penneyer, who did not offer himself as a candidate, in the recent county election, had he offered himself he, no doubt would have been elected, by a large majority for we think that his impartial discharge of the duties of the office of county judge made him many friends among all classes in the county.

He had an eye single to the good of the citizens, and for the benefit of the county. A gentleman in every respect, and holding himself above and superior, to any political trickery, or subsidy policy, to further his own aspirations or political ambitions. Honest in all business transactions; when duty called he cheerfully followed; never hesitating a moment to express his opinion on any public question and always ready to condemn a fraud. Every one knew how he stood. Judge, we bid you a kind adieu, officially, for the present, hoping that your ways may be ways of peace and pleasantness.

Now after a short salutory to our present county judge, Wm. Miller, we close this article.

The voters of Harney county gave you a handsome majority, the largest, except one, of any candidate before the people; clearly showing their confidence in your ability and integrity, and we believe you will not forfeit that confidence. We knew you when you were justice of the peace in Burns precinct, how well you did your duty, being the first in our precinct who, under all circumstances, did what you deemed just and right. We are well aware of the fact that riotous conduct received a check during your term of office, which check had only been feebly applied previous to that time, and we trust that a similar course of conduct will actuate you in your present position, and may you have the nerve to grapple every difficulty, stamping upon every transaction of yours, the truth of your fidelity and honesty of purpose.

The large congregation, and the attention given Elder Wakefield, last Sunday, show plainly that the people of Burns and vicinity appreciate the gospel, and when the conference can afford to send, on this circuit, talent, it will be paid for. But if the Methodist conference think Harney valley in the back woods, and an ignorant mob, who have not sense, or are not morally capable of judging a sermon, and too deeply dyed with sin and misdemeanor to be affected and made better men and women, it is very much mistaken. The citizens of our country are intelligent, capable, and know when they hear a good sermon.

We do not dictate to conference, and command them what to do, neither do we allow the conference to dictate to us and say we must take what they see proper to give and be thankful. We guess we are not a thankful people, at least Harney valley people never thank any

one, corporation, or society for something without value.

When we go to church, if we do not learn anything, we want at least to be interested. We can assure conference of one thing certain, and that is, the better the talent the better the pay.

THE Ontario mail route is said to be a daily mail from the railroad to Burns, and so registered. Let us look into this mail business somewhat. The government thinks that Burns is getting their mail daily from the railroad, the last mail we received at Burns over the Ontario mail line was on the first day of July, and to-day (Wednesday) is the ninth, eight days without our daily, or what should be our daily mail. Is the Ontario route of any advantage to Burns, or the people living on the line? We think we would be better off without it, we get our mail three times a week by way of Canyon City, and the Ontario supposed daily line, interferes very much with us getting our mail by way of Canyon City.

Why? Because the supposition is, that the Ontario is a daily line and we will get our mail daily, and our mail is sent on that line, to lay between here and the railroad for six, eight, or ten days, and accumulate at points on the route, until the citizens hire teams to go out and gather it up and bring it in, and when sent for, find it thrown loosely into rooms, barns, outhouses and etc. Now if we are correctly informed this is about the truth of the matter, and unless there is a change for the better would not the people of Burns, living on the line of the route be better off if the government would suspend the route entirely? for then it would not exist to fool the citizens.

Our Band.

There is no question of the fact but that our Band has done good work for our town, and is one of the main factors in any public enterprise or gathering that we have, and from what we sometimes hear on the street, remarks are made that would lead persons to think and believe the Band to be of little value in any respect. Now, the boys don't kick at poor pay and broken promises, but when their efforts are not properly appreciated, and slurring remarks made, such as "the hand boys want to hog it all," etc., in the very face of the facts which are the contrary, for the band boys have never made a dollar of pleasure spending money yet; what little has been paid them for their services has gone for music and instructions. As yet they have not been able, out of the proceeds of any money taken in for music, to buy a uniform. There is an old saying, "give the devil his dues."

The Band has been, and is, of great benefit to the town, and let us help them what we can, because they frequently neglect their private business, deprive themselves of personal pleasure, and actually married men, who are members of the Band, are sometimes compelled to neglect their families and their wives, in order to please and accommodate the public; for the husband is the proper escort of the wife, and upon all public occasions the wife has to take care of herself, besides she has the care of the family for the time being.

President Menendez died suddenly June 25, soon after the conclusion of a banquet given on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the entrance of General Menendez into San Salvador and the defeat of the Fealdivar faction. During the panic caused by the president's death General Marco and several other officers were killed at the barracks. General Carlos Ezeta, leader of the forces, is now in command. All is quiet at present.

The great and only Bill Nye has this to say of the salvation army: "when they know the great adversary of souls as well as I do they would not try to scare him with a cross-eyed woman or hive him and his host by beating the tamborine, the scab-but and the landlord. Humanity, charity, soft soap and unselfishness will do more toward giving Satan "tired feeling" than all the loud onion-flavored hosannas of misguided men and bleating women who seek to harass the hosts of hell with a bass drum, while their own children, with empty stomachs and unlaundried noses, weep at home".

To the School Officers and Teachers of Harney County.

The object of this letter is to present for the consideration of the educators, and friends of education, of Harney county, a few suggestions as to the mode of advancing a step educationally. The fact that properly graded schools have many advantages over the common mixed or ungraded schools, is one that admits of no reasonable doubt. The superior efficiency of the city schools has fully demonstrated the advantages of system in the teacher's work over the laxity of the common district school, but it is not thought that we are fully prepared as yet to undertake the regular and systematic grading of the schools of our county, therefore a substitute is proposed which will accomplish about the same as the graded school, and which can be adopted with but little or no inconvenience, expense, or loss of time on the part of teacher, School Board, or students; it is simply a course of study. The advantages of a course of study have been well discussed and are generally every where conceded. How to arrive at a course adapted to the requirements of rural districts, has been a problem surrounded by a maze of difficulties. Variation of length of school terms, frequent changes of teachers and many other things contribute to the perplexities of the question it is true, but we believe that the teachers and officers of educational matters in Harney county, will solve the problem and are ready and willing to take the step that will raise our schools from their somewhat perplexed situation to the plane of the graded school. Our schools must have an objective point towards which the united efforts of our teachers should be directed. The time has passed when pupils can be allowed to drift along with the tide of personal preference. In pursuance of our plan, the district schools of our county must be well balanced. Our pupils should be able to read and write fairly the English language, as well as work problems in arithmetic. The course of training undertaken should definitely answer the question, "what is a common school education." To insure this end there must be a common plan of work, definitely arranged, so as to meet the ordinary conditions of our district schools. The courses of study for the city schools do not fit these conditions. Time in them is an element, while in the district or rural school, the ability of the pupil, his intellectual growth, is the standard from which to determine his advancement from one step to another. Many counties of other States have adopted a course of study from which a vast amount of good has been derived and if good has been done in these counties by such action, why may it not be done in our county. The organization of ungraded schools demands these essentials.

- 1. Definite government by the district Board, in prescribed regulations.
2. A good course of study.
3. Judicious classification upon that course.
4. The program of daily exercises.
5. Arrangement of examination for promotion and for completing the course.
6. Complete, yet simple, records.
Fifty-four months work, properly guided, should give the average pupil in the country school a fair knowledge of the common branches; a period of nine years of six months each. Under a well, arranged and fairly, observed course of instruction, the child who enters the rural school at six should be able to count, after years of effort, notwithstanding all the difficulties of irregular attendance, change of teachers and poor classification, a substantial and symmetrical progress, and stand at the age of fifteen with the training, the scholarship, and the ambition which the school system of the State is intended to afford the children of all the people. The course of studies which I would recommend at this time, for adoption in the schools of this county, is intended to secure for our rural schools the benefit derived from a course in city schools, without binding pupils and teachers to those rigid classifications which, though necessary and useful in graded schools are impossible in the country district. Promotions are not intended to be made necessarily by classes, but also by individuals, and without reference to stated times. The idea is to hold the individual ambitions of pupils to a

definite purpose, and yet keep the work of each so-called grade so wide in extent as to enable teachers

to combine classes without retarding the progress of any. With this basis, our course of study is arranged into three grades, each covering about eighteen months actual work. In this plan there is great freedom for the teacher in combining classes, yet the pupil is required to "balance up" at the end of three distinct periods. He cannot pass the primary grade unless he is completely prepared, as shown by examination, on the studies prescribed for that grade, but he is not bound down so closely while yet in the grade. The conditions govern the intermediate and grammar grades. Again, the promotions being less frequent and more important, may be more rigidly based upon satisfactory examinations. The pupil may complete the work in the average time or in much less. He can see before him the objective points to be gained in each branch before he can proceed onward. He knows the tests, all of which must be successively met for promotion, not necessarily at stated periods of time, but as definite measures of progress. This will tend largely to the development of individuality in the pupil. He has to cross the line fairly from step to step upward. The element of time is not considered. Examination of classes need not be held by classes at stated periods, but by individuals at such time as they may present themselves and be accepted as ready for tests of scholarship. This affords the greatest freedom to teacher and pupil. It encourages the bright ones, and stimulates the dull ones. Another strong point in favor of such a course is, that pupils who are compelled by force of circumstances to labor upon the farm or in the household, may have before them a guide to home study and instruction. With the course of study in his hand, he knows what to do, and finds out how to do it. It will thus enlarge the scope and influence of the school, by carrying it to every home, and thus gives added interest to the school. I think the simplicity of this scheme will commend it to officers, teachers and parents, and with a little explanation, every intermediate and grammar pupil will seize upon its chief features with an intelligent ambition to meet the tests of promotion and graduation. The difficulties of adjusting details need not be encountered, for there are none. The introduction of this course of studies requires but this single procedure:

- 1. The careful study of the objective points of each grade, as outlined in the closing statements of scholarship required to complete each, and as illustrated by the sample questions given.
2. The arrangement of the primary classes is then the most important work, but is certainly aided rather than hindered by the suggestions of the course.
3. The measure of intermediate pupils and of grammar pupils is given in the closing tests suggested in those grades. The question with each pupil is, "Can I pass this test for promotion to the grammar grade?" "What do I know?" "What must I yet accomplish in order to pass?" With this intelligent self-measurement instituted, corrected by the teacher, the older pupils soon find their places in the school work—and the question of classes disappears or exists only as one of convenience. The school becomes a combination of workers, classified solely for the most useful disposition of the teacher's time.
4. The fourth step is represented in the work of each pupil to acquire the scholarship, and of the teacher to give the training and instruction, stated as the measure of the grade in which he works. The classification and work of succeeding terms is a matter based on records of progress and acquired standing. The course of study herein referred to, has been arranged with special reference to the schools of Harney county and has already met with the approval of several prominent educators to whom it has been presented for criticism. The course is, as yet, not in print, but if it is the unanimous verdict of the school officers of this county, that the course shall be adopted, provided it proves upon investigation to be satisfactory, then, it will be printed and distributed liberally among school officers and teachers of our county. An earnest expression of sentiment upon the subject,

by all school officers and teachers in the county, is respectfully solicited.

Very respectfully, CHAS. NEWELL, Supt. Schools.

Bishop W. Taylor, a missionary of Africa, at a meeting of Methodist ministers in San Francisco, June 23d, in response to an invitation, spoke some time on the progress and prospects of missionary work in Africa. He said that manhood, womanhood, physically, were not inferior to those of any other country on earth. The women are very tall, straight and powerful, and able to carry great burdens. He related an instance in which a treble queen had carried a trunk thirty miles without apparent weariness after two men had given it up. He claims that more than half the population of the country are slaves; man-stealing goes the same it has for ages past; armed bands of marauders go from village to village killing and destroying the weak and carrying the able-bodied away and selling them for slaves to other tribes. He further states that strong drink is their greater enemy, destroying and killing the natives rapidly, and it is, also, a great impediment to christianity and civilization, prejudicing the people against the christian countries. The liquor coming from civilized countries, as it does, naturally turns the natives against the missionaries sent from those countries. Polyamy prevails everywhere; even infants are bought and held for wives. He thinks that in twenty years 1000 mission stations will be established in that country; he also thinks that the appointment of Stanley, as governor, is a good thing and will be satisfactory.

A special to the Republican from San Antonio, Tex., says: Reports which are absolutely reliable have reached San Antonio of secession and revolutionary movements going on in the states of Mexico bordering on the Rio Grande, and it seems the utmost folly for the papers, however friendly to Mexico and the Diaz administration, to longer suppress the news. This movement is not confined to any locality but is undoubtedly widespread, as far as the border states are concerned. Constable Martinez who has just come from Nuevo Leon, described a threatening condition of affairs all along the Rio Grande to Saltillo. He says that at nearly every station and side track, along the Mexican National railroad he saw crowds of men congregated and excitedly discussing the advisability of joining in a rebellion against the Federal government. When he left Laredo this morning a courier had just arrived bearing information of fifty men, well organized and armed, who crossed the Rio Grande from the Texas side, en route to some point in the interior of Nuevo Leon, where the revolutionary forces are massing in large numbers to march to Saltillo and route the troops there. All the telegraph lines in Mexico are under rigid control of the Federal government, and it is practically impossible to get any direct information. A practical and forcible illustration of the folly of a third party interfering with or attempting to make peace between a man and wife, was clearly shown in an affair that took place at Seattle, June 23, near the Russ hotel, on South Sixth street. As a consequence Mrs. O. E. Wiers, No. 178 South Sixth street, was hit in the mouth by J. A. Farrel and had her set of pearl white false teeth split upon the floor. Farrel was giving his wife, a variety actress, a good sound whipping, when Mrs. Wiers interfered with the result stated. Having failed to stop Farrel in the brutal assault upon his wife, Mrs. Wiers betook herself to police headquarters and made information against Farrel. An officer started in pursuit, and after chasing the man several blocks overtook and placed him under arrest. —A Covington Ky. man wife refused to sing for him, which made him very angry, he locked her up in a room, took her clothing from her, and fed her on bread and water nineteen days. At the end of that time she warbled like a bird; but to a policeman, not her husband, and the husband is now warbling to himself in the gloom of a prison cell.

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