

# Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXII.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1907.

No. 50.

## A VISITOR PRAISES OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Credit Due to Good School Board and Corps of Excellent Teachers.

Mr. Editor—A friend said to me the other day "Grants Pass may well be proud of her public schools, taken all in all they compare favorably with any of like grades on this coast surely and at the present rate of progress they will soon rank among the best of the country over." It pleased me to have my friend say this, for he is a close observer, besides he had voiced my own opinion fully.

It goes without saying, this gives well deserved praise to our excellent school board for the broad, generous policy and good business methods shown in their efforts to give us of the best, a policy that has looked beyond the present and works for the future as well. We are provided with buildings which meet present needs—two of which are up-to-date in design for the work and of architectural beauty—our buildings are all of them brick structures and well located. The older or high school building, although large, will doubtless in a few years give place to a structure modern and up-to-date in facilities as are the Riverside and East buildings. Our able superintendent, who by his masterly alignment of the educational forces put in his hands is laying foundations broad and deep for that splendid structure we call Education, he well merits our recognition and sympathetic approval. His fine corps of teachers, many of whom have the capacity for higher positions than they are called to fill here are doing a work the value of which for the rising generation we cannot too highly prize. Running through all the grades and the high school there is to be noted a fine, loyal school spirit, always the outcome of firm, kindly discipline, the backbone of all attainment.

Doubtless we do not all of us know that our high school has already an equipment for those who desire a college course but little inferior to that of many of the academies and preparatory schools both in the East and the West.

The natural sciences are ably taught the varied mathematics, history, English literature and other branches of the more technical or practical nature and other studies for the strictly classical courses are taught very thoroughly. These include Latin, also Greek if desired—the equipment for all these is excellent. Geography now has a place in the curriculum—music is yet to have place. The piano forte has been purchased for the school and will prove an interesting factor, stimulative and helpful.

The nucleus for a library is established—here are to be found many of the leading magazines, books of travel, some of a scientific character, historical biographical, etc., etc. Valuable contributions are from time to time made by friends. Entertainments are gotten up at times in the interest of this institution and in the distant future our schools will be equipped with a good, well-selected library. This is but an imperfect sketch of the fine, growing educational plant.

## HOOD RIVER IN A SCALE PANIC

Consignment of Nursery Stock Is Found Infested With San Jose Scale.

Hood River fruit growers are considerably agitated over the fact that a big consignment of tree that was recently received by a local nurseryman were found to be infested with San Jose scale. When they found that the famous apple orchards of Hood River valley were menaced by the presence of this dread pest they insisted that prompt action be taken to avoid the possibility of such a calamity. Conny Fruit Inspector G. R. Castner was notified of the presence of the scale and examined the condition and State Horticultural Commissioner R. H. Weber of The Dalles was communicated with and the nurseryman ordered not to permit their disposal.

The trees are said to have been received from an extensive grower of nursery stock in the Willamette valley, who admits that the trees showed indications of scale, but says they were dipped in a solution which is supposed to kill any infection of this kind and that they had been passed upon by the state inspector for that district. Before prohibiting the sale of the trees Commissioner Weber placed several of them under a powerful microscope and says he discovered the presence of several live scale. He states that as one female will propagate 6,000,000 young in a season the trees, if planted are liable to infect all the orchards in the valley. None of them will be sold and it is expected that they will be destroyed.

While growers admit that the sale of the trees ought not to be allowed they say that the matter is unfortunate and comes at a very inopportune time, as it is about time for the Spring setting and for some time it has been almost impossible to secure young trees for that purpose. During the past two months there has been no nursery stock for sale in the valley and dealers elsewhere have been unable to supply the great demand for nursery stock. Many acres which have been cleared during the Winter and put in condition for the Spring setting will have to lie fallow until next Fall unless nursery stock can be secured and at present there is no indication as to where it can be obtained. Growers are offering a premium for healthy stock and are scouring the country to secure it. Notwithstanding their dilemma the decision of the county fruit inspector meets with popular approval and they say that rather than take any chances they are willing to let their land go unplanted until they can secure healthy trees.

Hammock, the photographer now has two young lady helpers and can attend to any amount of work promptly. Come and see what we have for you. Opposite post office.

but I have thought it would be well in view of the fact that we so often hear of the things we do not have in Grants Pass, to call to mind the things we do have, that from these we may get courage to attempt good work on other lines.

CITIZEN.

## GRANTS PASS HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Musical.

On Friday evening a musical was given for the benefit of the High School piano. The program which was beautifully rendered was as follows:

Piano duet... Wina and Errol Gilkey  
Piano solo... Pauline Coe  
Vocal duet... Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Bates  
Piano solo... Ailma Wolke  
Piano solo... H. L. Andrews  
Violin solo... Laoceta Mangum  
Violin solo... Marion Clarke  
Vocal solo with violin obligato... Miss Nina Paddock, Miss Burton  
Piano solo... Flava Hackett  
Piano solo... Victor Newell  
Piano duet... Clare Kremer and Besse Davis

### Debate.

The long looked for March 23d is near at hand. On that evening the debate between the High Schools of Salem and Grants Pass will take place at the opera house in this city. This will be the final debate of the year and will determine the championship of the Western Oregon Debating League. It promises to be a very close and interesting contest as each team has already won a victory this year and neither met defeat. The question to be debated is "Resolved, That the Railroads of the United States should be owned and operated by the Government." The Grants Pass team, consisting of Herbert Gilkey, Harold O'Neill and Randall Hood, will support the negative. The Salem team is also all boys, one of whom, William J. Perkins was formerly of Grants Pass.

As Salem has one of the largest High Schools in the state it is certainly an honor to debate with her, but we intend to let her know that there is something doing in Grants Pass. No one can afford to miss the opportunity of hearing this debate and the opera house should be crowded to its fullest extent.

The First Year Latin class has lost another student. Every scholar who drops out is greatly missed. We hope that no one else will desert us.

### Girl's Basket Ball Game.

'Tis a Monday night and the game at the hall, by the Basket Ball Girls is open to all. Hark! Hear he shrill whistle! The game is begun. The ball goes up high—no victory won. But as it comes down, Lydia gives it a bat and makes it go flying while one girl falls flat. Now, Anna May has it, she throws 'way across, but back, back to the other side it is tossed. Lydia tries for a basket, the victory is won. The crowd is just roaring—they think this such fun. The next Addie hits it and Pearl would catch, but Clara is ready—they make a good match. Now, Pearl gets the ball, and a basket is made—by accident though, as somebody said. The game thus progresses, excitement and mirth, keeps the spectators laughing for all they are worth. There's often a foul and a cross of the line, but when the game's ended it stands six to nine.

### Reflection of the Old High School Piano.

When I was it, They used me,  
And just how much they abused me  
They never knew.

For years and years they've played me  
And on, such tones they made me  
Give out to them.

And ne'er a reproof was heard from me  
When each in turn would drum me—  
For I was it.

But they beat all the time out of me,  
Then scornfully said they did not love me,  
'Cause I was old.

So a new one came in place of me,  
Rough by the door they shove me  
Out into the hall.

In this cold place they leave me,  
Knowing not how much they grieve me,  
By their scorn.

Listen! Softly my rival's notes float to me,  
If only out the window they had thrown me—  
Where I could not hear!

Oh New Piano, take this advice from me—  
"When for drumming your notes will hum be  
You'll not be it!"

### School Spirit.

The victorious return of our debating team signaled a marked revival of school spirit in the High School,

which lasted for several weeks. The monotony of school life was occasionally enlivened by the permission to vent our feelings in the school yell and in various other ways it was made manifest to all that something unusual had already, now is, or would happen in the future. But yelling isn't the only way to show High School Spirit. We now have in the assembly room a new piano of which I am sure we are all very proud and yet there were hardly a dozen High School pupils to the musicale last Friday evening, which was given to raise funds to pay for the piano. On last Monday evening both of our Basket Ball teams gave another exceptionally good exhibition of their prowess. The boys game was one of the most closely contested and highly interesting games of the season, one that would have amply repaid anyone for his trouble in going to see it, yet here, as at the musicale, the High School pupils were a minus quantity. The faithful few were in attendance but the hopeless majority were the—knobs where. The debate on March 23 will be an excellent opportunity to show both kinds of spirit. Each one can do his part by coming and giving his material support and afterwards join in the yells.

On Friday, the teachers are going to visit the Medford Schools and as school could not keep without teachers we will have a vacation. To most of the students it is a great disappointment as you can easily imagine.

The Grants Pass Boy's Basket Ball Team goes to Medford on Friday to beat the Medford boys.

### Botany Excursion.

On Wednesday afternoon, the members of the Botany class made a last excursion with Mr. Harrison. Shortly before the last class period, we were informed that we were to take another of those so much desired excursions, and feeling very important, we started on our way. As we all wanted to visit the reservoir, our teacher consented and soon we were nearing the woods in the west part of the city. We noted the scarcity of vegetation, analyzed a few flowers and then found ourselves at the foot of the reservoir. Seeing no way to climb to the top we went on down to the tunnel, were kindly invited in and told to stand near the wall and not get frightened when the car came down. Suddenly we heard a terrible noise and in an instant the car shot by us like a whirlwind. But this was not the worst thing that happened. We were then told to climb up the track; this looked somewhat risky to some of us, but seeing no other way out of it we started up. All succeeded in reaching the top with the exception of two, who collapsed when they reached the highest point. There they sat, half way from either end, until one of the men assisted them on.

After seeing all the sights, we ran, rather than walked down the hill and were soon seen approaching the school building, thinking ourselves a great deal wiser.

The reception tendered the Seniors and the debating team on Wednesday evening, March 13th by Prof. A. E. Harrison at his home on Seventh street, was a very enjoyable affair. Among the games which enlivened the evening was a list of conundrums entitled "Some celebrities" to be answered by the names of those present; these were very clever and interesting. In the course of the evening Herbert Gilkey, as spokesman, presented Mr. Harrison with a fountain pen as a token from those present, expressing their appreciation of his efforts on their behalf. Light refreshments were served and all spent a pleasant evening. The fortunate ones were the Misses Amy Isaacs, Ella Savage, Nina Paddock, Esther Holloway, Annabella Liethe, Wilna Gilkey and Bessie Liethe and Messrs. Fritz Dean Randall Hood Harold O'Neill and Herbert Gilkey.

A Burlesque in the Opera House by the Men of Bethany Church. Date, March 29. If you want a good, hearty laugh, come out that night. If you think it's wicked to laugh, stay at home that night. 3-1 It.

BARTLETT PEARS—Several thousand strictly first-class, one year old Bartlett Pear Trees 4 to 6 feet high. Also Walnuts and ornamental trees, shrubs and roses. J. B. Pilkington, nurseryman, Portland, Ore.

## IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL LAW

Truant Law is Made More Rigorous—District High Schools.

Two of the most important amendments made to the school law by the recent legislature were those of making the truant law more rigorous and providing for district high schools. Oregon now has the strictest compulsory educational law of any state in the United States and after May, when it goes into effect there will be a hurrying into school of the scores of boys and girls now loafing on the streets or working in the various towns in Oregon for the punishment is so severe on both parents and children that they will not care to incur its enforcement.

The following are the requirements of the law:

"All children between the ages of 9 and 14 years must go to public school all the term. The Children from 14 to 16 must either work or go to school. The exception to these requirements are children in private schools, pupils physically unable to attend, pupils under 10 living more than one and one-half miles from school, pupils of any age living more than three miles from school and pupils under private tutors at home. The steps for the enforcement of the law are as follows:

1. Appointment of truant officers in each district.
2. First-class districts have power to call on police.
3. County Superintendent furnishes officers with a list of teachers.
4. Teacher compares record with census each month.
5. Teacher reports delinquents to secretary of boundary board.
6. Secretary reports to truant office.
7. Officer notifies parents and teachers.
8. Officer makes complaint to Justice of Peace.
9. Justice issues warrant and conducts trial. The punishment for truancy is a fine of from \$5 to \$20 or imprisonment of from two to 10 days and all officers, including the School Superintendent and teachers, may be fined from \$5 to \$20 for failure to perform the duties incumbent on them under the act.

The following are the principal features of the law providing for district high schools:

Two or more districts may unite in founding a high school and all districts thus interested in a high school will be exempt from a county high school tax. The chief incentive for the establishment of these schools, however, lies in the fact that a pupil may demand his school money from any district which does not maintain a high school and go elsewhere to school.

Several changes in the laws governing teachers' salaries and qualifications are made. Under the old law a teacher could secure a third-grade certificate in one county and then secure another third-grade in another county, if not able to qualify for a second grade certificate. This cannot be done now. The same condition prevails in regard to second grade certificates, with the result that a teacher must keep studying in order to raise the grade of his certificate. A teacher must also pass in two additional branches—physical geography and English literature—in order to secure a first grade certificate.

While these changes mean more work for teachers, they are given large salaries by the provision that districts must apply at least 85 percent of the amount received from the county and state school fund for teachers' salaries. As the amount appropriated by the county has been increased from \$6 to \$7 per capita, it means a substantial increase in salaries.

Hereafter districts are compelled to

## THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE PROPOSITION

County Court Seeking to Know Wishes of Tax Payers—Alive to People's Interest.

Editor Courier—As some of our citizens seem to misunderstand the Court House proposition that is being voted on, I wish to place the matter before your readers in its proper light.

It has been intimated that the county officials are trying to force the building of a new court house to the neglect of other needed improvements. This is very far from being the case. In fact, it is not the proposition of the commissioners court.

At our last term of court, we appointed a committee to make an estimate of such repairs as were needed and report at the April term. This committee after careful investigation found that the house needed a new roof, additional rooms, another vault, replastering, and repainting and that the cost would be at least \$3000.

Also, while we were making these estimates, quite a number of taxpayers suggested the advisability of selling the old house and building a new one. So, on this suggestion, we simply asked the taxpayers of the county what they thought about it. And now that a majority have voted against the proposition to build a new house, we will report accordingly.

As to the bridge across Rogue river, we have just had the under part inspected and have spoken to a bridge expert to inspect the upper timbers, which shows that we are not blind to the interest of the traveling public. As to the Present Owner Book lately made by Dorance E. Dotson, it cost about \$150 and is up-to-date in every particular.

I mention these facts in order that the people may see that the present county officials are fully alive to the fact that they are servants of the people, and that the people have a right to expect efficient service. It is not our business to advertise the mistakes of the past, but it is our business and our duty to carefully look into all of the details of county work, and to fully protect every interest.

Very respectfully,  
STEPHEN JEWELL.

Let us make your picture—we guarantee to please you.—Hammock's Photo and Art Studio. 3-15 2t

have four months school in each year instead of three as under the old law. More money will be provided for the districts by the county for now in making the tax levy the county court is required to make the levy large enough to raise for apportionment to the various districts of the county an amount that will give each district \$7 for each person between the ages of 4 and 20 years. Under the old law the amount was \$6 per capita of school children. This new law will especially benefit country districts that make no tax levy and have little school for now they will pay more school tax and have more school even though the mossback element may not like it.

## Get Ready For Spring

### HOUSE FIXTURES

Have on a few prices that will very much reduce the cost of making the HOME look new. Note these reductions for they are not ordinary, and are for now

Wall papers, regular 35c values for.....25c

" " " 25c " .....18c

A few special numbers in choice

patterns of carpets, regular 75c for.....52 1/2c

Regular \$1.25 values for.....90c

1 1/2 yard carpet rugs worth \$2.50 for.....\$1.75

Comfortors, regular \$1.50 for.....1.00

Go-Carts new 1907 Patterns Just in

Thomas & O'Neill,  
Headquarters for things for the House

## Must Be Sold Quickly

4 1/3 ACRES In the edge of Grants Pass; Cottage of 3 rooms, two small chicken houses, good sized park. About 200 well as sorted and good bearing strawberries. A number of fine young fruit trees, a portion of which are in good bearing. Two wells on place. Land is subirrigated. Excellent place for poultry and berries. Will accept \$100 down and easy terms on balance. (Owner has to go away)

PRICE ONLY \$350

TERMS

W. L. IRELAND

THE REAL ESTATE MAN

Ground Floor, Opera House Block