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HOLLY HIGH SCHOOL CONTROVERSY CONTINUED

George Finley Covers the Matter of Union in An Original and Interesting Way.

Crawfordsville, June 17.—I have noticed in a recent issue of your paper you made some comment on a recent decision rendered by Judge Kelly in regard to the Holly high school controversy.

In your comment you cast some reflection on Mr. Henry Renniger and those associated with him in opposition to the establishment of a high school at Holly.

In this matter I feel that you have done Mr. Renniger and his associates an injustice, when you accuse them of being unprogressive, and perhaps if you had known the facts in regard to the school situation in that locality, you would not have expressed yourself as you did.

While it is not my intention to enter into the controversy in any way, and I am not in the habit of discussing such matters in the newspapers, I feel that a statement of the facts as

they are understood by most of the people in that community, would be only a matter of justice to the parties referred to.

It is well known by all who are acquainted with the geography of Linn county, that the country lying between Brownsville and Sweet Home—while being an old settled country, in only sparsely settled, the Calapooia valley being only a narrow valley, and most of the surrounding country being timber and not an agricultural country.

To begin with, soon after the high school law was adopted in Linn county, School Superintendent Jackson visited Crawfordsville and brought about the establishment of a high school at Crawfordsville. So far as I know, there was no attempt to establish a Union High school, notwithstanding Crawfordsville school district has never had more than 125 people of school age, and since the establishment of the high school, has most of the time had less than 100 in that particular district. The people of Crawfordsville were assured by the superintendent (as I understand it) that a special tax would be necessary in order to maintain the school; that the money to maintain the school would come from the county high school fund. While I was not at the meeting when the

high school was established, I understand that to be the fact.

After the high school had been established, it was found that the money derived from the county school fund was not sufficient in amount to maintain the school, even with only one teacher for the four grades, and it became necessary to vote a special tax on the tax payers of Crawfordsville district to assist in paying the salary of the teacher, to rent a school room, and defray other expenses connected with the maintenance of a high school at that place.

The taxpayers of Crawfordsville did, and have since, annually voted to tax themselves to maintain the high school, the students from the surrounding districts, including Holly, having the privilege to attend the Crawfordsville high school, the taxpayers of those surrounding districts not being taxed to defray any part of the expenses of maintaining the school, though all of the districts in that part of the county were receiving the benefit.

There are seven school districts lying between the high school district of Brownsville and the high school district of Sweet Home. In these seven districts, there is assessable property amounting to over \$2,000,000.

At the annual school meeting at

Crawfordsville two years ago, the matter of establishing a union high school of all of those districts was discussed and the board was instructed to call a meeting of the several districts to take steps to bring about the establishment of a union high school, including all of the districts in that locality, which, when all combined, would not have more than enough students above the 8th grade to justify the maintenance of a high school.

The large amount of taxable property in the several districts would make it a comparatively light burden in the way of taxation, a large percentage of the property being timber land owned by non-residents.

It was understood that a meeting would be called during the fall of the year, and an endeavor made to bring about the cooperation of all of the districts in establishing a union high school.

Soon after the school meeting just mentioned, I met Mr. Henry Renniger, and also Mr. R. E. Warner of Holly, at the Pioneers' Picnic at Brownsville. I told them what had been done at the school meeting in regard to a union high school, and they asked me where the school house would be located. I told them, where the majority of the people voted for it to be. They said that was fair, and promised their active support in the undertaking.

Before the school board of Crawfordsville had taken any action, and during the busy harvest season, some of the citizens of the Holly country conceived the idea of calling a meeting of the three districts lying east of Crawfordsville, and forming a union high school, thereby cutting off the four districts lying west—from any benefit of the several townships of timber land lying east, which is subject to taxation. They gave as their reason for calling the meeting, that they feared if they went in with the other four districts, that the school house would not be located at Holly.

It is simply a question with some of them—as to where the school house should be located.

Mr. Renniger and his associates take the ground that there is not more than enough students past the 8th grade in all the districts, to maintain a successful high school, and that it is wrong to tax the non-resident timber owners to maintain a high school for the small number of children that would attend the high school comprising only the three districts that would attempt to form a union at Holly.

Those favoring the Holly high school proposition as a matter of local pride, seem to prefer a small high school at Holly, rather than a large one made up of all of the seven districts.

The population is so small and is so badly scattered that it is very difficult to carry on any public enter-

prise or institution successfully. It certainly requires the support of the entire population of the Calapooia valley to make a success of almost anything of a public nature.

Holly has a very successful grange, being supported by members from the entire surrounding country. Crawfordsville has a very successful and strong Odd Fellows lodge deriving its membership from the entire surrounding country. That locality could not maintain two successful Granges nor two successful Odd Fellow lodges.

There are six separate church organizations in that locality, all weak numerically and financially. None of them maintain a pastor; but united, they might be able to maintain a resident pastor. When there is a death or a wedding, they are compelled to import a preacher to perform the ceremony or administer the rites.

I am not writing this letter in a spirit of criticism towards anyone, believing the motives of the different parties to be pretty much the same, and the spirit manifested by them commendable; but I am writing this simply to correct the erroneous impression that those opposing the Holly high school are opposed to progress or to higher education. They believe that if the tax payers are to be taxed to maintain a high school system in that locality, that the money should not be wasted on several inefficient schools, and that the students attending such school are entitled to good teachers and sufficient apparatus to enable them to do thorough work.

With many of us, it is immaterial as to where the school should be located. With the large amount of taxable property in that locality, the students should be conveyed to and from school, and a good school maintained at a much lower rate of taxation than most districts now pay. Unless the population increases very rapidly, there will not be enough students above the 8th grade, to maintain two successful high schools.

It is unfortunate that our county school superintendent has attempted to establish two high schools in that locality. The effort so far, has only resulted in division and animosity, when cooperation and harmony is necessary.

THEDA BARA HARD PART.

Plays Character of Great Strength and Sinister Fascination in "Kreutzer Sonata"

Theda Bara, the famous Parisian emotional actress from the Theatre Antoine, Paris, the Boulevard's playhouse of thrills, who created a veritable earthquake of comment throughout the country for her marvellously telling performance of The Vampire, in "A Fool There Was," a William Fox production, repeats her gripping characterization of that role in her rendition of Celia in the William Fox picturization of Tolstoy's "The Kreutzer Sonata." This picture version of the Russian dramatist's most vital work is directed by Herbert Brenon, and released by the Fox Film Corporation, successor to the Box Office Attraction company.

Celia Friendlander, the beautiful and ruthlessly passionate girl, who, without scruple, breaks the heart of the faithful Miriam, so that she may possess herself of Miriam's husband Gregor, the brilliant violinist, is one of the strongest screen parts ever written and in many ways the most strutting and remarkable. Miss Bara's powers, developed in the companies of Bernhardt, Jane Hading, and other famous French actresses as well as during her seasons as leading woman of the world-renowned Antoine and Gymnase Theatres, Paris, were never displayed, even in the memorable "A Fool There Was," to more transcendent advantage than in Tolstoy's great work as it is seen upon the screen. With cruel, serpent-like cunning, Celia weaves her coils about the infatuated Gregor. She casts her unbreakable spell of beauty and fascination over him until Gregor forgets everything in order that he may be in her arms. From the farm in Russia, where, as a wealthy landowner's adopted daughter, she first meets Gregor and charms him by playing "Kreutzer Sonata," to the last throbbing scene of the play where she and Gregor are trapped by Miriam and, in a scene so thrilling as to be almost painful in its intensity, meet their deserts, Miss Bara's superb art never falters, nor steps aside. Her rendition of the parts is bound to make "Kreutzer Sonata" one of the most discussed picturizations yet produced.

Col. Hofer Here—
Col. E. Hofer and son, R. M. Hofer, arrived here last evening from Newport, where they have been getting their summer cottage at Agate Beach in condition for the season. They left for Salem on the morning train.

WE SHOULD WORRY TO BE BEST SHOW YET

You can talk about vaudeville, singing and dancing, and black face comedians and any of the other things that produce good humor and with it good nature, but if you want to have a good whole-hearted laugh, be sure and see "We Should Worry" the much talked about Knights of Pythias and Albany band show which will be presented at the Albany opera house next Friday and Saturday nights under the direction of C. J. McNaughtan.

Reade Dowlin, the James Hill of the Corvallis & Eastern, plays the leading part of Jack Temple, a liar, and is sure to bring down the house with some of his funny scenes.

The work of Mrs. P. R. Kelly is too well known to need further mention but she will be seen to greater advantage in the part of Mrs. Jack Temple than ever before. It is a part that gives wide scope for her natural ability, going rapidly in a mix-up of comedy, from the sublime to the ridiculous, from laughter to tears.

There also will be a pleasant surprise for theatre goers in Miss Louise Pirtle and Miss Phyllis Goin who play the parts of Mrs. Frank Fuller and Dorothy, Mrs. Temple's sister.

As for Mrs. John Brown, Christian name Martha, who is a veritable human cyclone, it could never have been put into more capable hands than those of Miss Minerva Speer.

The remainder of the cast are all evenly balanced and with special scenery and lighting effects, pretty costumes, a twelve piece orchestra and a riot of musical specialties between acts, will produce a show worthy of any ones patronage. The seat sale opens tomorrow noon at Woodworths and a good advance is expected.

For a summer umbrella, see those new "Hull" detachable handle and suit case umbrellas in colors, at F. M. French & Son's Jewelry store. We engrave your monogram on the handle free of charge. m2711

WHEN answering classified ads, please mention the Democrat.

JUNE 24 TO BE WILSON DAY IN PORTLAND

Albany Should Unite In Making It Wilson Day Generally in Oregon.

Mayor Albee, of Portland, yesterday issued a proclamation for a Wilson day, naming June 24, when he urges all citizens to decorate their homes, and business establishments and to wear the American colors on their coat lapels, as an expression of support to the President in what ever course he may deem it wise to take in the present international crisis.

Albany should join in the demonstration. It would be well to make it a state affair. Each town, though, should on that day show its stand at the back of the president by the proper decoration.

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