

Hundreds Hear Talk On Unionizing Schools

Speakers From Gresham, Salem and Banks Explain Advantages and Benefits

MORE THAN 700 PEOPLE ATTEND

The largest crowd that ever assembled at the Aurora band hall—more than 700 people—listened to a clear exposition of the union high school idea Saturday night. E. E. Elliott, of the State board of vocational education, of Salem, Elmer Goodwin, of Gresham, principal of Union high school No. 2, of Multnomah county, and Principal Santee, of the Banks Union high school, and Messrs. Bents and Schwab, of the Aurora school board, explained the merits of the proposal to organize a union district here.

Mr. Elliott showed how the movement to combine small districts into larger ones for high school purposes is developing all over America, and explained how the state and federal governments are co-operating with such high schools, under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes act, to pay two-thirds of the salaries of the agricultural, farm, shop, domestic science, and other vocational teachers in such schools.

Mr. Santee explained how the Banks Union high school was organized, how it met the problems that arose, and how they solved them successfully, under more adverse conditions than prevail here.

Mr. Goodwin, who has been principal of Union high school No. 2, Multnomah county, at Gresham, for several years, made the chief address of the evening. He showed the overwhelming advantages of a strong school over the weak local school, both to the student and the taxpayer. The Gresham Union high school (No. 2, Multnomah) started in 1915 with 107 students and an assessed valuation of less than \$2,000,000. Last year it had 204 students. This year it has 240. Its assessed valuation is 2,939,000. Its large main school building cost \$23,500. Two bungalow additions cost about \$6000, and the grounds \$2,400, and other buildings \$2000.

Gresham, the central district, contributed the site of 4 acres worth \$2,500. (Aurora offers building and site, worth \$25,000, for the free use of the Union district forever). It was shown clearly that a \$25,000 building and 5-acre site is ample to accommodate 200 pupils. It was also shown that the Union high school district will not be responsible for the bonded debt of the Aurora district, and that it cannot become responsible for such debt.

The millage tax for maintenance of the Gresham Union high school amounts to about 5 1/2 mills, and about 1 1/2 mills to pay on the bonded indebtedness. (At Aurora there will be no bonded indebtedness for the union district and five mills the first year will easily maintain the school and 2 mills easily equip it. Thereafter the cost will depend upon the growth of the school.)

Mr. Goodwin was astonished when informed that the Aurora district offers \$25,000 for building and site. He knows of no instances in the country where such a generous offer has been made. A \$22,000 building, with the addition of two bungalow structures at a cost of about \$6,000 last year, has been ample to accommodate the big enrollment at Gresham, though the rapid growth of that

Clackamas County Gravel Contract Signed Up

Amos Kauffman has contracted with Edwin Netter, E. E. Brattl, and W. P. Wurster for the taking of gravel from the bed of Pudding River on their land for use on the Barlow-Monitor market roads and on the laterals joining that road. Clackamas county will buy the gravel from Kauffman. The bunkers will be placed upon the Netter farm. The contract covers a period of two years.

R. W. Zimmerman, F. E. Mills and Mr. Watt are the supervisors who will have charge of the graveling of the various roads of the market-road district. Messrs. Zimmerman and Mills have been tireless in their efforts to secure the gravel supply and complete the contract. It is probable that about 5000 yards will be used this season. It is expected that hauling will cost 25 cents for the first mile with a slight reduction thereafter. The cost per yard of the gravel has not been made public.

splendid school will soon require additional quarters. (The Aurora building will furnish all space needed for six or seven years unless unforeseen growth of the school occurs.) Mr. Goodwin foresees a future for a union high school here fully equal to Gresham. Given good teachers, good courses, good equipment, such a school cannot fail to succeed. The proposed district has a large enough assessed valuation to support a strong school with a small levy, making all conditions remarkably favorable here—where the initial cost of building and grounds is assured by the Aurora district alone.

"A good strong union high school," said Mr. Goodwin, "is an asset to any community, to the whole union district—not the central district alone. The larger the school and the greater the variety of the subjects well taught, the more valuable the school to the district. A small high school with few teachers and no choice of subjects to meet the needs of the boys and girls along practical or vocational lines is of uncertain value, and often an unnecessary burden to the tax payers.

"Communities should no longer be measured by the old district boundary lines for school purposes. Good roads, automobiles, telephones, rural routes, and other modern conveniences are rapidly changing this ancient custom of building a wall around a district. Oregon has been a little slow in meeting the demands of modern education, but we are now getting our stride.

"The community for a first-class rural union high school should embrace all the territory surrounding the school building, that can be served conveniently by free transportation. The stronger the school the greater the benefits to all parts of the union district. Petty community jealousies should not deprive children of the opportunity of a chance for a liberal education.

"A good community school is a valuable asset financially as well as educationally. Land values in the communities joined will be increased, no matter where the property is located. Free transportation brings the school to the homes of the children."

Henry L. Bents and Chairman Schwab of the Aurora school board outlined the offer of the Aurora district to furnish building and site for the free use of the union high school district, explaining all points not clearly understood by the audience.

R. M. Rader of Fargo, with Mrs. Jack Vandeleur as accompanist, sang; also Avon Jesse, accompanied by Mrs. E. G. Robinson. The band brought together for the occasion under the leadership of Grover C. Giesy, rendered several selections which were greatly enjoyed by the audience.

After the program over 500 persons visited the I. O. O. F. hall where a lunch was served consisting of coffee, sandwiches, ice cream and cakes. About 250 others remained at the Band hall to dance.

Principal Goodwin was accompanied by Mrs. Goodwin from Gresham. They stayed at the hotel Saturday night and returned to Gresham Sunday. The Aurora people voted Mr. Goodwin a resolution of thanks for the fine address and his efforts in behalf of the union high school proposal.

Mr. Elliott returned to Salem Saturday night via the Oregon Electric. The school board and the committees in charge appreciated his kindness highly and have so expressed themselves by letter.

Mr. Santee, principal of the Banks Union high school, stayed over until Sunday, returning by the way of Portland. He expressed his willingness to aid the proposed district in every way possible. The committee have acknowledged their indebtedness to him and their appreciation of his assistance. They have also tendered their thanks to Messrs. Rader and Jesse, who sang, and to G. C. Geisy and his players.

Grange Gives Dance Dedication April 4th

The Butteville Grange fully sustained its reputation for hospitality at the opening dance last Thursday at its new hall. About 60 people from Aurora were present and enjoyed the affair greatly. Nearly 100 tickets were sold, the proceeds of both the dance and the supper being for the benefit of the grange.

The Grange Hall will be formally dedicated April 4, Saturday. Master of the state grange Spence will be present. The forenoon will be devoted to grange but the afternoon session will be open to the public.

May 2 another dance will be given at the hall to which the public is cordially invited. The Butteville grange is one of the most active organizations of its kind in the Valley and is accomplishing much good for its community.

Aurora Doubled Quota For Children's Relief

F. I. Gollehur, state manager of the European Children's Relief Fund, has written Zeno Schwab, treasurer of the Aurora committee: "This acknowledges your letter with the additional contribution to the European Children's Relief fund, for which we thank you. Aurora made a splendid showing in this work and we appreciate greatly your service in connection therewith.

Aurora contributed \$426 to the fund, nearly doubled its quota. M. D. Leabo served as chairman of the local committee to raise the funds.

Canby Gets Lights Again

The controversy between the Molalla Electric Company and the Canby city council over the installation of cut-off switches has reached the public service commission. The council refused to provide switches to cut off the current during the day, and the company refused to furnish current for street lights until the switches are provided, and last week ceased operation of the street lights.

The city appealed to the commission which ordered the company to resume operation, pending a hearing which will probably be held in a few days.

The same question arose in Aurora, but the city council recognized the justice of the company's claim that the installation of the switches should be at the cost of the city. It is understood, however, that the wiring, switches, etc., are the property of the city.

Yoder Reward Fund

The following are the Aurora subscriptions to the fund for a reward for the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of S. J. Yoder of Woodburn. In case no conviction is secured within a year the money will be returned:

- B. F. Giesy \$10, S. A. Miller \$10, G. R. Watt \$5, J. G. Wurster \$2, A. H. Will \$2, G. A. Ehlen \$2.50, J. W. Sadler \$2, A. W. Kraus \$2, Stoner Bros. \$10, N. C. Wescott \$2.50, J. M. Will \$2.50, Aurora State Bank \$10, Zeno Schwab \$2.50, Henry L. Bents \$5, Geo. W. Fry \$2, Diana Snyder \$2, Walter Lettenmaier \$2, A. W. Ehlen \$2, Shimm Bros. \$2.50, E. G. Robinson \$2.50.

Hubbard contributed \$100 to the fund. Donald and other communities have also aided in raising the \$1000 offered by the citizens of Woodburn.

Choosing Seed Potatoes

Potato dealers and large growers who have made a study of seed selection say that now is the time to select potatoes for planting. "Pick out those that are smooth sound and of medium size—5 to 8 ounces. Use only such potatoes as you would buy for your own table use.

Throw away all ill-shaped, partly decayed, or discolored. Marketable potatoes may be called good seed potatoes, but the small, knotty ones that you cannot sell and that you will not eat are unfit to plant. Small potatoes from good hills (selected in the fall at digging time) may be used with good results, but little potatoes as they come from the bin or the sorter are degenerates of the worst kinds. They are scrub stock, and if planted will produce a scrub crop."

Attorney Gordon R. Watt was a business visitor at Vancouver, Monday, leaving Louis Webert in charge of the Aurora drug store.

Butteville Discusses Union High School

A well attended meeting at the Butteville school house Monday night considered the union high school plan pro and con. Napoleon Davis presented figures showing the cost of various high schools, and advised that the cost of the present project be studied closely before deciding how to vote.

Others pointed out that the most of the tax levies mentioned included the levy for grade schools as well as high schools, thus making the figures of little value for cost comparison. Mr. Davis showed that Woodburn levies a school tax of 24.9 mills, and said that about 11 mills of this is for the high school. He also declared the Union high school will need a 10-mill levy.

Subsequently it was called to the attention of the voters that if the Woodburn high school requires a 11-mill levy on a valuation of \$1,048,000, the union high school can provide equal maintenance facilities on a valuation, let us say, of \$3,000,000, with a levy of less than 4-mills. The friends of the union high school plan stated they are certain that a 5-mill levy is ample—not ten mills as Mr. Davis claims. If 10 mills are necessary on a \$3,000,000 valuation, Woodburn's necessities could not be less than 33 mills on a \$1,000,000 valuation.

Ralph Rader made a fine talk along broad educational lines, and assumed an attitude of open-mindedness upon the union high school matter, expressing the opinion that facts and figures as accurate as possible should be presented to the people. He declared education worth much sacrifice, and advised his hearers to consider benefits more than costs—when the costs are within reason.

Henry L. Bents addressed the meeting briefly assuring the audience that the friends of the union high school have nothing to conceal (as some have intimated). He answered the criticisms made, and drew forth admissions that the opposition is due mostly to fear of increased taxes, to apprehension that the school might not "be the best in the state" on the opening day, to anxiety that the Woodburn high school might be injured, and to alarm lest the district be forced to join without its consent. No other objections were encountered. Glenn Yergen, chairman of the Butteville school board presided. Those attending from Aurora were Zeno Schwab, Henry L. Bents, A. W. Kraus, G. A. Ehlen and N. C. Wescott.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Smucker went to Canby, Sunday, to see Mr. Smucker's sister Mrs. Albert Yoder, who is ill with an attack of appendicitis. She may have to undergo an operation.

PROCLAMATION

Clean-Up-Day Set For Friday, April 1st

The common council of the city of Aurora having designated Wednesday, April 1, 1921, as the proper day for a general clean-up of the city, for the removal of the accumulations of the waste and rubbish of the winter, both as a sanitary necessity and as means of civic improvement.

Now Therefore, I George A. Ehlen, mayor of the city of Aurora, Oregon, do hereby proclaim said date, Friday, April 1, 1921, as Spring Clean-Up Day for said city. All property owners, residents and householders are directed to gather up all rubbish, trash, litter, refuse, garbage and other waste, matter to be removed from their premises, place same in boxes or barrels, on the adjoining street curb, where the city drays or truck will haul it away. Old cans, etc., containing water should be emptied and placed upside down in the boxes or barrels. Scraps of glass must be placed in a tight box to prevent it from being scattered along the road. Use small boxes, rather than large ones, to make them easier to handle.

Considerations of health, cleanliness, safety and appearance all demand that the clean-up be thorough—on streets, alleys and vacant lots as well as on occupied premises. Hence, the hearty co-operation of all citizens is earnestly requested.

Dated at Aurora, Oregon this 24th day of March, 1921.
George A. Ehlen, Mayor.
Geo. W. Fry, City Recorder.

Cities--Not Company Must Put In Switches

The Canby News says that the Molalla Electric Company has installed "cut-out" switches for Aurora "but won't for Canby", leaving the reader to infer that the work was done without cost to Aurora.

It is a matter of record that the city of Aurora pays \$174 for the installation of the switches by which the current for the street is switched off during the day. The Molalla Electric Co. is a public utility which strictly observes the rule that there shall be no discrimination in its treatment of its patrons, whether individuals or cities.

The Aurora city council installed the switches because it was not just to make the company pay for current for 24 hours when lights are needed but 12 hours. Also the council knew that many more light bulbs burn out on a 24-hour circuit. Lamp-cost is greatly reduced by installing the cut-out switches.

High School Cost Per Student Vary Much

Some interesting figures are given as to the cost of high school education per pupil in the latest reports of the Marion county superintendents' office, for the towns now maintaining a high school in this county:

Aumsville	\$149.79
Hubbard	116.96
Turner	112.13
Salem	95.22
Jefferson	91.18
Stayton	84.14
Woodburn	82.11
Scotts Mills	74.40
Silverton	61.21

Silverton, with an assessed valuation of \$1,773,000, has the lowest per capita cost (\$61.21), while Aumsville with an assessed valuation of \$339,000, has the highest per capita cost of \$149.79. Woodburn has an assessed valuation of only \$1,043,000, with a per capita cost of \$82.11.

Take Note of This

If you contemplate taking out insurance, it is more to your interest to place it in the Aetna than elsewhere. The Aetna is entitled to your first consideration as it holds the foremost place among life insurance companies. With unequalled financial strength, its energies are continually devoted to furnishing the best security at the lowest cost to the insured.—See special agent, Chas. T. McPherson at Aurora Observer Office or Pioneer Hotel.

Trimmed Hats

A new shipment of trimmed hats, for ladies, Misses and children have just arrived. The assortment is large, the styles are neat and up-to-date, the values are better than ever.

It is the part of wisdom to look these creations over before paying high prices for hats at the millinery shops.

You are cordially invited to look over this stylish assortment of trimmed hats.

WILL-SNYDER CO.
THE STORE OF MERIT

EASTER GREETING

The Gladness, beauty and brightness of this Easter Season are fittingly typified in our rich display of bright new merchandise. All sections of the store are aglow with a wealth of interesting things for all occasions and every purpose. You may see the new things in spring dress goods.—Hosiery, laces, ribbons, under muslins and gauze, underwear, R. & G. Corsets, gloves, footwear.—In fact, every requirement can be supplied. This is the opportune hour, and this store is the logical place to outfit yourself smartly, stylishly and economically.

SADLER & KRAUS
—THE BEST FOR THE PRICE—



CIGARETTE

No cigarette has the same delicious flavor as Lucky Strike. Because Lucky Strike is the toasted cigarette.

