

# The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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**T. L. DUGGER**  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL VS. THE COLLEGE

THE NEWS is in receipt of President Kerr's report, of his administration to the Board of Regents of the Oregon Agricultural College. The report appears to be exhaustive. The president has, evidently, taken the Board of Regents into his confidence, and has given all the information pertaining to O. A. C. that he possesses. It includes the reports of the chief of the experiment station and treasurer as well; besides the salary list of the teaching, station and administration forces. The report requires a volume of 255 pages. Much of the report is taken up in making a comparison between O. A. C. and educational institutions of other states. These comparisons are made for two purposes, evidently; To show the efficiency of the present management, and to show the features in which the Oregon institution fails to come up to the standard set up by other states. Undoubtedly President Kerr is an able man for the position he occupies; especially in the organization of the work and from a spectacular viewpoint is making an immense success of O. A. C. But there is an other viewpoint besides that of the spectacular, which should engage the attention of our legislators.

Without doubt the intellectual progress of the people of Oregon depends upon our public schools. Just in proportion to their efficiency will the educational interest of Oregon be advanced. Let all of our state colleges be filled with students to their utmost capacity and but a very small per cent. of the boys and girls of Oregon would be included. Someone has stated that not above 5 per cent. of our boys and girls receive a college training. Assuming, this statement to be a fact, our legislature should give its attention to the educational welfare of the 95 per cent. rather than that of the 5 per cent. Taking the present legislative session as a sample, what is the proportion of attention given by our law makers to the public schools and to the colleges?

One bill relative to the public schools, we believe, has become a law, viz: that requiring six months school to be taught in each district. This is all. No provision, whatever, has been made for the increase of the salary of the country teacher. He or she must be content with the \$300 to \$600 salary, per year, else go into some other more lucrative business. The state provides just the beggarly \$8 to \$9 per pupil for the public school, leaving the necessary balance to the generosity of the counties, towns and school district.

On the other hand now fares the colleges which educate the five per cent? Oregon University has a continuous appropriation of \$250,000 biennially. O. A. C. is asking for \$360,000 and the three normals for \$106,000 each. Add these various appropriations together and we have the enormous sum of \$928,000. And this is not all. O. A. C. gets biennially from the Federal government \$100,000. The interest on the University and Agricultural college funds amount to, probably, \$60,000 biennially, and the matriculation fees of students, to not less than \$100,000 every two years. Add all these sums and we have a grand total of \$1,188,000 and dividing this sum into two equal parts and we have the annual cost of our state colleges. Again dividing the annual cost by the reported 2000 students and we have the cost per student, which amounts to \$297. Here we have the annual cost of the college student to the state. Compare this cost of the education of 5 per cent. of our boys and girls at the state colleges, with that of the other 95 per cent. who must be content with what the public schools can and do give—\$297 versus \$9.

This is the grounds for the NEWS' opposition to the state colleges. We are doing too much for the state college and too little for the public schools. And is it to be wondered at? At every session of the legislature a strong lobby can be found at the state capitol, in the interest of the state colleges; but who ever heard of a lobby in the interest of public schools?

Personally we have nothing whatever to say for or against any of the other state colleges.

for that matter, further than to say all of them are costing too much for the benefit returned. They are costing near six times as much, per student as private colleges charge their students.

Our contention is that our present educational system is wrong in its arrangement. The logical outcome will be to build up an educational aristocracy among our people, a system of "grafting" on the part of our college faculties and a deterioration of our public schools.

If possible we would have the system changed. We would abolish the state college and establish, in lieu thereof, a high school system; which would place a high school education within the reach of every boy and girl within the state.

No honest man will dispute the justice of this contention. We are only urging that the state college shall not be supported to the detriment of the public school. But it may be claimed that we can have both. Add if you will ten or fifteen mills, for the benefit of our public schools, to the state tax levy. The result would be a diminution of population instead of an increase.

"You can not spend too much money for educational purposes", said a man with whom we were conversing on this subject, some time ago. You can spend too much money for any purpose, if you spend it illadvisedly. We want our state to develop and increase in population and wealth. A firstclass public school system, which we have not at the present time, and a reasonable rate of taxation, are features that will hasten that result.

A state college system, if properly managed, is most valuable for those that can avail themselves of its benefit. But how is it for those who cannot avail themselves of its benefits? And 95 per cent. of our people cannot so avail themselves.

President Kerr is, no doubt doing as good work at Corvallis as any other man could do. But it is very evident, from his report, that he is building up a most expensive institution over there. The question is: Can the taxpayers of Oregon afford the expense and is it just for 95 boys and girls to be compelled to have only a very ordinary common school education, in order that 5 boys and girls shall have a college education?

Another feature: Fully one sixth or more of the students who attend our state colleges, hail from the counties wherein the college is located and a very large per cent. from the town which gives the college a home. Also, property values in the college towns are fully 25 percent. higher, than they otherwise would be. For this reason and the further fact, for what students spend in college towns, makes the citizens of these towns enthusiastic supporters of their respective colleges.

The day is not far distant when the people, through the medium of the referendum, will give these colleges a setback which will moderate their demands of these colleges upon the state treasury.

The matter is becoming serious with the taxpayer as to how the headlong extravagance in all the branches of government can be checked. Ten years ago, less than \$100,000 in taxes were collected from the people of Linn county, annually. Now more than \$225,000 is collected. If the question is asked "What more do we get for this more than doubling of our taxes?" would be difficult to answer. While we are spending more money on our public schools than formerly, this fact alone does not account for the phenomenal increase. The fact of the matter is, the prosperous times we have had for the past few years have generated a spirit of extravagance in the administration of public affairs, which, if not checked, will soon become most mischievous. It is an easy matter for official salaries to be raised, when flush times comes; but who ever heard of salaries being reduced with the advent of hard times? The burden of taxation is growing heavier, year after year. As a matter of fact unless the modest home is exempt from taxation, our people will all soon become renters. Truly the burden of government is becoming too heavy and expensive. Expensive because unnecessary offices and commissions have been grafted into our political system, which never ought to be allowed; Expensive because salaries of officials from governor down to constable are too high. This last is evident because men are always seeking the office. The office, rarely has to seek the man. There is a limit to official extravagance and which has now almost been reached. Our office holding citizens must become less greedy and more patriotic, or free government will, in time, become too burdensome to be borne.

The days of the "big stick" are almost over. President Roosevelt has done many creditable and, also, some that are very discreditable acts. His permission for the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by the Steel trust, makes one doubt if he has ever caused the prosecution of the trusts with an honest spirit. If his term of office had expired two years ago, he would have held a higher place in our estimation than is now possible.

Oregon was 50 years old, last Sunday. She is now old enough to be exempt from working the roads, or from doing military duty.

The Oregon State colleges, have an inordinate, growing appetite. They are never satisfied—never have enough.

The most welcome act of the present Oregon legislature will be its final adjournment.

## PARTYISM NO TEST

Preparatory to his speech on the occasion of the commemoration of Lincoln's centennial, President Roosevelt said to Governor Folk, who as presiding officer introduced him, that he was touched by Folk's introductory remarks, "because the kind of thing I have tried to stand for is the same kind of things that you have tried to stand for." True, and what matters it what party name either went by, or what party allegiance either professed, so long as each, as a public man in a high position, stood for the right things? Folk is a Democrat, and Aldrich is a Republican. The president is also classed as a Republican, but does Aldrich stand for the kind of things that Roosevelt stands for, as Folk does, as Chamberlain does?

The president alluded further to Secretary of War Wright, not only a Democrat, or so nominally classed, but an ex-confederate officer, of whom he said: "He does not belong to any political party, but he and I have stood for the same national principles of recent years." And so we see it, in lesser stations in public life, and in private life, throughout the country. When it comes to practical things, it is difficult to determine who is, or what is, a Democrat or a Republican.

The appeal to partyism has lost nearly all its force. A man must be judged not by what party he nominally adheres to, but by "the thing he stands for." We see Democrats and Republicans working together for right things and others for wrong things. It is not folly, therefore, for a man always to support every man in or for office solely because he is classed as a Republican or a Democrat? Oregon Journal.

## Photos.

Get the best when you are getting end get them at J. G. Crawford's studio, corner second and Lyon streets Albany, Oregon.

## Administratrix Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the county court of Linn County, Oregon, administratrix of the estate of M. W. Miller, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present same to the undersigned at her residence about five miles south West of Scio, Oregon, duly verified and with proper vouchers, as now law required, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated this 21st day of January, 1908.  
ALICE M. MILLER,  
Administratrix.  
L. L. Swan, Attorney for Administratrix.

## At Even MONEY

### A Saving

Of time, traveling expenses and fatigue can be made by using the shortest route East.

There is but one short and direct route between the West and East.

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC**  
**THE O. R. & N.**  
**Oregon Short Line**  
.....and.....  
**UNION PACIFIC**

There is unsurpassed through fast train service to Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, Chicago, with direct connections to all points East and South.

There is an abundance of matchless scenery, and an opportunity to make a daylight stopover at Salt Lake City if it is desired.

Let us tell you all about what can be done, before you purchase ticket.

T. J. DANNEN, Agent.  
West Scio

**Wm. McMurray**  
General Passenger Agent  
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## Just Arrived

Bright New Spring Goods,  
Fresh from the looms of America and Europe.  
Artistic conceptions splendidly realized,  
All redolent of the spring time and as  
Many-hued as the song birds of summer;  
Possessing, at once, an individuality  
That lures one pleasantly away  
From the tedious level of the commonplace  
And reawakens faith in too possibilities  
Of creative genius;  
Appealing not alone to the young and old  
Bloodtinging spirit of dash and chivalry  
But equal to the sedate reflections  
That mark maturer years.  
Refined in dress, symbolized along economic lines  
In recognition of the hard commonsense  
Of the great common people,  
Thus may be briefly epitomized  
The distinguishing characteristics  
Of our line of goods  
For this spring.

## Wesely AND Cain.

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SECRETARY, C. A. WARDER.

**DIRECTORS**  
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## Scio Milling Company

(SUCCESSORS TO)  
**SCIO ROLLER MILLS**  
INCORPORATED DECEMBER 28, 1904.

We do a General Custom Milling Business. Flour and Feed on Sale. Wheat Bought and Exchanged for Flour. We are in the Field for Business and Will Treat You Right.

## Hibler & Gill Co.

Are ready to furnish you with  
**Mens' High-Top Shoes**  
" **Rubber Boots**  
" **Rubber Coats**  
" **Rubber Hats**  
" **Rubbers and Umbrellas**  
" **Leather-sole Rubber Boots**

And everything for wet weather  
*Yours for business*  
**HIBLER & GILL COMPANY**

## The Righteous Man

Regardeth the life of his beast  
Those who feed SECURITY Stock  
Food are fulfilling the scripture.  
This stock food is sold on a positive  
Cash Guarantee. Read the guarantee  
on every Package. Don't be misled  
by cheap advertising, SECURITY  
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