Santiam News

...n Independent

...at Scio, Oregon, as second-class ...il matter.

...Y FRIDAY BY
...GGER
...OPRIETOR.

...PTION RATES:

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... each insertion, per inch	15
...s locals per line first insertion	10
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...time standing ads, contracts made on application.

...E ELECTORATE WILL DECIDE

...ctors will have to pass upon the normal schools ...fall. It will be remembered that our last ...refused to provide a maintainance fund for these ...and since that time they have had but a desultory ...each of these schools, individually, are ap... for support.

...of most people, is considered as ...people think that too ...ucational purposes, ...ople these schools ...a permanent ...ing furnishes ...what was

...measures ...and towns ...who have a ...eir reinstate ...have been so ...erected and ...th... that they look ...right. They think they ...cause on account of school ...have purchased property in these favored ...other words, they are akin, in spirit, to the public ...ce having been supported by the state they have ...on to support themsilves.

...these normal school counties, providing these ...n taken on by the state, like Benton and ...ill get back from the state treasury as ...ey than they pay to it, should be a suffi... ...eir action at the present time. They ... upon the state's pay roll. Certainly, this ... splendid financial engineering for these five ...ed counties, but it is a little tough, in a financial ...for the other counties of the state.

...de from the financial viewpoint, there is an injustice ...ing contemplated to a vast majority of our boys and girls, which ought not to be permitted. For every one boy or girl who attends college, there are nine who must be content ...on the public schools can give them. Now ...e state applied all the money it ex... ...oses for the benefit of the public ...hools would or could be made ...ne boys and girls would be ... Their educational advantages ...arged. But if we maintain a ... these nine boys and girls are defrauded ...stly their due, that the one boy or girl may re... ...e than what is justly due. This is unfair and is a ...ature which should appeal to every taxpayer in the state, whether he has children to educate or not.

Oregon has enacted a law, whereby every county may maintain a high school system. This law is such that four or five school districts may form a high school district for union high school purposes, in which each district interested may exercise equal control and share the expense; or any district which may have a suitable building can maintain a high school and the county is required to provide a maintninance therefor at a pro rata expense per pupil. These laws, if placed in operation, will place a high school education within the reach of hearly every boy and girl in the state.

To illustrate: Scio has maintained a county high school during the past year. Pupils from four or five adjoining districts have attended. In fact, all pupils from these adjoining districts, who have passed the eighth grade have, we believe, taken advantage of this opportunity to receive advanced instruction. They have received the ninth and tenth grade instruction during the past year and are ready to take up the eleventh and twelfth grade work, with the coming school year. Now but few of these pupils could or would have attended college at Eugene or Corvallis, or any of the normal schools, had they been in operation.

Eighth grade work would have completed their education at school. Their parents could not afford to send them off to college, but they could and did send them to the high school at Scio. An advantage in education is thus given to these boys and girls which, otherwise, they would not get. They are better prepared for the battle of life, because of the high school in Scio. And what is true of Scio and vicinity, can be made true in any other town and vicinity in the state. Every county can establish a high school system, if it will. The law has given them the authority to do so if they will.

Linn and Lane counties are the pioneers in the establishment of these county high schools. Lane was first, but Linn was a close second and Scio was the instignator for its adoption in Linn. Now, we submit, is it right to require these two counties, which are now maintaining their own high schools, to help maintain high schools for Polk, Jackson and Umatilla counties? High schools are all that the normals have hitherto been and it is all that they will, probably, amount to in the future, if again undertaken by the state.

All education, the NEWS will freely admit, is meritorious. Boys and girls who desire advanced educational instruction, should be encouraged in every reasonable way. But there is a limit to the cost, which the people can afford to pay, for the most meritorious of propositions. The state is now overloaded with colleges. To increase the burden by taking on colleges at Monmouth, Ashland and Weston, would be manifestly unfair to the counties which are endeavoring to help themselves.

A normal course of instruction is, no doubt, a valuable adjunct to the boy or girl who is fitting himself or herself for the vocation of a teacher. A man or woman cannot be too well prepared for the life work he or she undertakes. But the history of our normal schools of the past is, not fifty per cent of their granuates follow teaching as a life work. They use it as a stepping stone for something better. A larger salary in other lines, is something which, even, the normally educated teacher at state expense cannot nor will not resist. So, unless the teachers, which the state educates are required to give a specific number of years in the public schools in return for the free technical education given them, the state is the loser. She has educated teachers who refused to teach. This is true of the past and will be true of the future, if normal instruction is again undertaken by the state.

But, for that matter, the state is now educating doctors, lawyers, dentists, druggists, civil engineers, electricians, blacksmiths, carpenters, printers, housekeepers, farmers, dairymen, etc. The graduates of these specialties give the state nothing in return for their instruction, except good citizenship. The county high school can do equally as much, so far as they go.

As a matter of fact, the state made a grave mistake when it undertook college work. It could not do so except in violation of the state constitution and without especially favoring certain localities and persons. Our present state colleges secured their establishment through a political conspiracy to which the normal school counties were a party. Even the teachers in these colleges, especially the leading ones, have secured their positions because of the political pull which they could wield. At least, we know that a number of them have secured their positions in this manner.

The state cannot correct this mistake by increasing the disease, which would result if the normals are again taken on. State tax moneys can only be expended equitably, through the medium of the public schools, that is to say for school purposes. Every voter, if he will be honest with himself and his neighbor, will admit the justness of this contention.

ARE MAKING A MISTAKE

When the town of Scio was located, the locators must have been men of farseeing judgement. Of all portions of the forks of the Santiam, no spot seems so admirably situated for the location of a country town. Two railroads are in operation within three miles of Scio, yet no point on either line seems able to attract business nor residence away from the spot originally selected and set apart for a town by the early settlers.

Nevertheless the excellence of the location, Scio has not made the growth which other towns, less favorably located in the Willamette valley, have made. Nevertheless there is not a healthier country town in the state, nor one which has a larger territory to draw from, with all of the roads north, east and south and with a downhill grade leading into Scio, she has been at a practical standstill for many years, so far as increasing in population, number of residences and business houses are concerned. Nor is there any more business transacted here now, than there was a quarter of a century ago. There is a plain reason for this handicap which, everybody knows, is lack of direct railway connection. People, who are accustomed to modern railway conveniences, will not select a town for a home, where these conveniences do not exist. For this reason, property values in our town are much below values in towns of the valley which do have these modern conveniences.

Now, it is evident that if a railroad should be brought into town, our property values would, at once, be doubled, business would increase and manufacturing industries would soon be undertaken. Everybody knows that these results would soon follow the building of a railway into town. Yet a few people, who had subscribed to the subsidy fund of the late railroad project and who refused to pay their subscriptions, have caused the defeat of an enterprise which would have been of financial benefit, not only to themselves, but to every property owner in Scio and vicinity. They have prevented Scio from being placed upon the railroad map; they have blocked the progress of our town; they have prevented the future success of our fair, of our condenserv and of any other enterprise which direct railway connection whuld have caused to be inaugurated. This is a grave responsibility to assume and, we hope, under further consideration, they will conclude to make good the sums which they agreed to pay. They should remember that our future development, as a community, rests upon ourselves and that, if we ever take our proper place in the march of development, it will be through our own endeavors.

Arrangements had been made by the promoters of the railroad enterprise, to obtain ties, steel, spikes, etc., at unusually good figures. The condensery people had arranged to supply the $5000 or $6000 necessary to ensure the building of the line. All that remained necessary was for subscribers to come through with the payment of their subscriptions. Are we not acting unwisely to allow this sure source of development to become a failure? Are we not cutting off our noses to spite our faces?

Portland people are dissatisfied with the awards made at the late rose show in that city. There was dissatisfaction with the awards made at the late rose show in Scio and, we presume, awards at any exhibitions of this character where there is competition, are sure to be a source of dissatisfaction. Exhibitors are sure to be of different opinions to those of the committee which make the awards. The only just and safe method is to make the awards upon merit alone, regardless as to who the exhibitors may be. Personal favoritism in making awards, will wreck any competitive exhibition, no matter of what character it may be.

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