

The Santiam News

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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OREGON NORMAL SCHOOL

Monmouth celebrated the opening of the State Normal last week in an enthusiastic manner. While the opening of this school means much locally it should also mark an advance step in Oregon's educational progress. Oregon has a great need for a first class normal school system. Whether or not there should be more than one such school maintained by the state and whether or not so small a town as Monmouth is the best possible location, are good questions for debate. But the need of the common schools of the state for better qualified teachers is self evident.

In the past it is claimed that the state has been disappointed in her normal schools. None of them could be classed as being on a par with the state normals of many of the other states. The reasons for their inferiority are immaterial at this time. What Oregon needs, what her taxpayers should provide and what every citizen should insist upon, is that the new school be made the equal of any state normal anywhere in the entire country. A high standard of work should be required of the student body and no one should be graduated who fails to measure up to the requirements. Nothing will do more for the future of the normal than that her graduates are able to "make good." Our need is not so much for more teachers but for better prepared teachers.

The state will get much more benefit from a first class normal school than from either the agricultural college or the state university. We are not to be understood as being unfavorable to the latter but if any of the state schools must be curtailed in its appropriations the normal should be the last to suffer.

The normal has but one purpose before it—to prepare thorough trained teachers for the public schools. No one should be

admitted unless she agrees to spend some time as a teacher in the public schools after receiving her training. The graduates from this school should go out to the various districts of the state and thus bring the benefit of their training to the homes of the people who by public taxes have aided in the teacher's preparation. The state gets much more benefit from her normal graduate than from the graduate of any of her other higher institutions of learning. The one spends some time in the service of the state, the other usually uses his training for private gain only.

Hence, the opening of our State Normal is of much importance to all parts of the state for if it does its work well the public schools will reap the benefit. Long live the State Normal.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL BOOKS

One of the many defects of our present school book law is the system of distribution. The companies are required to maintain but one depository in each county. This is usually at the county seat. It is readily seen how inconvenient such a plan is to most of the districts in any county. If any one elsewhere in the county is willing to accommodate the local patrons, he must sign up a contract with the state agent of the book companies. By the terms of this contract the local dealer must pay cash for all books ordered, must keep on his own hands all unsold copies, and must pay express or freight charges on less than 100 pound lots from Portland. His commission is a mere pittance.

No local dealer can afford to carry more books than are actually needed since he cannot return unsold copies but must pay cash for the same. Hence, his orders are usually under the 100 pound lot and he is out the expressage or freight unless he charges the extra cost to the pupil who buys the book. To illustrate the practical working of the Oregon system, one may take an example which came to our personal notice last year. In this case the actual cost to the pupil was \$1.55 for a book he could have had sent to him, post-paid, from the publisher for \$1.20 provided the purchaser lived anywhere outside the state. He paid the penalty of living here, however, as the company had the contract for the entire state and could enforce its demands. Had the pupil written to the company direct, he would have been referred to the state agent, who in turn would have referred him to the local dealer. The latter gets the kicks, the other fellow the profit from the red tape. We have talked with a number of local dealers and each one has said he would rather not handle the school books at all under the present arrangement and that he is often the loser because he does handle them.

As we pointed out last week we are "in for it" under the present law for another year after this at least. But unless the people who pay the bills put up a good hard kick at the next session of our legislature, the book trust will get in its work again for another six year period. In the mean time don't blame your local dealer. He wants a rest. Grind your ax for the man "higher up."

Blessings on thee, little man.
Bare-foot boy with cheek of tan.
Blessings also on they who choose
To go to Gill's to get their shoes.

LETTERS FROM OUR COUNTRY CORRESPONDENTS

Santiam Farm Topics

James Stanton and wife visited John Davenport and family of near Larwood last week.

M. C. Gaines took two loads of fat hogs to Albany the latter part of last week for which he received 8 cents per pound. The 16 head of hog weighed 3000 pounds.

Thomas Smail and family arrived home last week from the hop yards, bringing in nice returns for their time and labor.

Mrs. Martha Smith and family arrived home from the hop yards Mrs. Smith run a restaurant and came out ahead of the pickers as she had all the boarders she could feed.

Chas. F. Rendla of Lebanon was down to the Santiam Farm for a load of his fine vetch seed which he got for \$1.25 a bushel. He was well pleased with the seed.

S. W. Gaines and wife and Mr. Stanton and wife, visited at the home of M. C. Gaines of Crabtree and found Grandma Poindexter quite poorly. She is the mother of Mrs. M. C. Gaines.

Roe Shelton is quite sick and wishes to sell his farm and move to eastern Oregon for his health.

S. W. Gaines and Geo. Griffin hauled 2000 feet of lumber from Scio to build John Crabtree a new house on the old donation land claim of his father in 1846, where he wishes to live the remainder of his life.

Thomas Smail and wife visited Oscar Pomeroy of Lacombe last Saturday.

Mrs. Clara Griffin and daughter Neva Sterges, visited her brother, O. Pomeroy of near Lacombe last Sunday.

We had church services at our school house Sunday by Rev. Williams. The County Sunday School Superintendent organized a Sunday school for every second Sunday in each month.

James Stanton and wife returned to their home in Portland Monday.

Our school was opened last Monday morning by Miss Nellie Young of Lebanon.

The carpenters are building a new house for Jobe Crabtree. He will soon be on the market for a new wife, so look out for him.

Mrs. Raymond of Spokane, Wash., is visiting her son, Roy, near Franklin Butte cemetery.

Dean Tusner went to Detroit Monday to work.

PIE EATER.

Shelburn Items

A monkey was seen last Saturday by Clint Traxler while he was out plowing. It would not let him catch it or he would have had an addition to his pets.

Mrs. Taylor went to Silverton Saturday to spend a few days with relatives.

Roy Spangenberg started to high school Monday.

Rev. Ketchum of Salem, preached two very inspiring sermons at the Presbyterian church Sunday. The attendance was good both morning and evening.

A family by the name of Pickens moved into the neighborhood last week.

Bruno Knolinski began his prune picking Saturday. The recent storm damaged them somewhat.

Earnest Brant started his saw mill Wednesday after it had been closed down for some time.

Most of the farmers are busy with their fall plowing.

WOOD BEE

Shelburn Shots

The prune drier is running full time. The prune crop is good in this section this year.

All threshing in this section is finished. Not a great deal of damage is reported on account of the rains.

Marion Tindall was all doubled up Saturday and Sunday but Dr. Gooch succeeded in straightening him out.

Harry Galloway returned for a visit with home folks after an absence of 10 or 12 years.

Much wood is being shipped from here to Albany and Oregon City.

WHO?

Lacomb Items

S. Lindley of Lebanon brought over some watermelons and Lacombe is happy.

Mrs. Young of near Scio, has been visiting Mrs. Sanders.

Miss McLeod of Cripple Creek, Colo., is in charge of the primary grades in our school.

James Sylvester fell across his wagon box and broke two ribs.

Ray Peery and partner are starting in the merchandizing business with good prospects of success.

J. R. Geddes has charge of the upper grades of our school.

Bob Peery goes somewhere every Saturday evening. Where does he go?

Lacombe is on the map. She has two hotels, two churches, three stores, high school, saw mill, machine shop and Linhaven orchard tract near by.

REX.

Thomas Topics

Thomas Topics reached this office too late for publication this week. They will appear next week. —(Editor)

Our Pioneer Sketches are proving of interest to a large number of readers. We are receiving letters from other counties asking for extra copies of papers containing sketches of friends or relatives. If you have an aged friend or relative please write up a sketch at once and send to us. They will appear in the News in the order received.

W. A. Ewing and Thurman Richardson returned Wednesday from a hunting trip in Douglas county. Mr. Ewing presented the News family with a nice piece of venison to remind us of our former residence in the game region of Douglas. A fine time is reported and a large number of deer were found—and allowed to remain for other hunters to kill.

The Auctioneer

Who has cried sales successfully, who knows current values, and who is otherwise well qualified as a salesman, is the one who will get the most money for your products.

I have had the experience and believe I can render such services as will please.

B. T. Sudtell, Halsey, Ore.

Willie: "Pa!"
Pa: "Yes."
Willie: "Teacher says we're here to help others."
Pa: "Of course we are."
Willie: "Well, what are the others here for?"—Chicago News.

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