

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

TWICE A WEEK

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Official paper of the Town of Gresham
Official paper of the Town of Fairview.

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FIFTY-SEVEN BILLIONS.

The 65th congress appropriated fifty-seven billion dollars. Shades of that "old billion dollar" congress that is everlastingly wasted by democratic politicians. Remember the talk of lynching the spendthrift legislators?

"War emergency" is the answer. Nineteen months of war. Another year or two of war emergency appropriations would surely have busted U. S.

No one begrudges a cent for legitimate expenditure, but congress can and should give an accounting. The people have a right to it. Responsibility should be fixed for every item which represents waste or worse. Some of these vague "world problems" can wait, while we straighten out a problem or two at home. "What do we care for expenses—we have plenty of them?" Still a kick in the old joke, isn't there?

NEVER AGAIN!

A Missouri democrat who recently delivered an address before the Rotary club, of Dallas, Texas, told his hearers that if any of them wanted his youngest child to be able to say he had ever seen a democratic president, he should take the baby to Washington and let him look at Mr. Wilson before his present term expires, because the chance would never come again.—National Republican.

VICTORY ROSE FESTIVAL.

Portland's Victory Rose Festival, June 11, 12 and 13, will be the biggest ever. It is announced that sailors will be featured in the parades, the jockies having heretofore received scant notice in the homecoming celebrations.

We can thank Mr. Bureson for having killed the government ownership bug. Who wants to prove that the government can run anything at less cost with better service? That idea is in the discard, along with the claim that two can live as cheaply as one. Fond and popular fallacies, both of them.

Salvation Army Drive.

To carry on its work in Oregon the Salvation Army will launch a drive for funds next month, June 22 to 30. The quota is \$250,000, announces O. C. Bortzmeier, financial executive of the army. Backed by an executive committee of public-spirited men and women from all parts of the state, and by the Elks of Oregon, there should be little difficulty in raising the amount.

The army plans "full speed ahead" for home work in the state, now that war time demands are over.

Been vaccinated lately? An epidemic of smallpox is reported at Multnomah Farm.

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS SAYS CLEAN CEMETERY

With Memorial Day approaching the suggestion has come from the officers of the Women's Relief Corps that the people of Gresham clean up their lots in the cemetery. If this labor of love is left until the last minute, much confusion will result and much of the impressiveness of the occasion will be lost.

The G. A. R. and Relief Corps will hold fitting memorial ceremonies there again this year. A feature of the program will be the erection of two mounds, one in memory of the unknown dead of the civil war, and the other for the unknown dead of the present war. Space has been allotted for the mounds by Frank Escobar, caretaker at the cemetery.

Not many people remember that the local cemetery was set aside as a free burying ground when land was given for school purposes. It is, therefore, a public trust—a part of the school district property, and it should be a matter of pride with the townspeople to keep it in good condition, particularly for Memorial Day.

Wild Flower Calendar.

Bleeding hearts have been plentiful all month, Robert Wright and Charles Weldon bringing some as late as the 23d of April. The first ones were brought in the 2d of the month by Charles. Clair Burch brought the first strawberry blossoms, the first service berry and the first fir cones and wild iris. Charles Weldon elderberry; Frederick Bachill cedar cones; LaDessa Davies, wild phlox, honey suckle, horsetail in the second stage, and service berry. LaDessa always knows the common name for her finds. Lorena Peterson brought wild cherry, and Marian Smith wild peas. Others who brought flowers were Edith Soderquist, Marvin Lundquist and Richard Beadle. A walk up the Butte will pay anyone just now. There are all sorts of wild flowers coming out that the third grade enthusiasts have not yet discovered.

Bids on Road Work.

M. M. Squire has returned from a trip to Albany, Salem, Eugene and other points along the Pacific highway. With several associates he is interested in the highway construction program now under way, and is understood to have placed bids for building stretches of the roads in the Willamette valley.

Misses Schrepel Arrive.

The Misses Schrepel have taken possession of their new home here on Wallula Heights, recently purchased of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hessel. The Hessels are domiciled at the Congdon hotel, pending the building of a new home for themselves on Powell street not far from their former location.

Pleasant Valley Visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rolfe, of Spokane, are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Campbell in Pleasant Valley. They are delighted with eastern Multnomah, and are looking for a permanent location here.

Dancing Party.

Members of the younger set enjoyed a dancing party and supper in Masonic hall Friday evening. Patrons and patronesses included Mr. and Mrs. Will Hessel, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Osburn, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Burker, Mr. and Mrs. John Cannon, Mrs. A. Hevel and Mrs. Jones.

Rebekah Jubilee.

Plans for the Rebekah jubilee this month, in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the local lodge, include some pleasing vocal numbers. Miss Gladys Michel and Mrs. E. W. Aylsworth are booked for solos, and Miss Lyons and Miss Maud Michel for a duet. There will be initiation and a banquet.

Phone Want ads to 701

Discussion of School Bill

Gresham, Ore., May 1, 1919

To the Editor:—Early in June, the people of Multnomah county, exclusive of Portland, will be called upon to approve or disapprove Senate Bill No. 45, passed by the recent legislature, which has for its purpose the combining of the fifty-five country school districts of the county into one school unit to be presided over by five directors.

The duties and powers of the "New Board" are to be the same as those now had by the local school boards, even to the employment and choice of teachers for the several schools and the purchase of fuel, apparatus, light, janitor service, etc., and the sale of lands and other property belonging to the districts, according to their judgment. The taxing power likewise is to be in their hands and they may contract indebtedness to the amount of \$100,000.00 beyond what is necessary to pay bonded debt or warrants. The debts and property of each district become the debts and property of all, and the liabilities of all become the debts of each.

By this Act, the board of five will elect all teachers for each and every school, but they are limited in their choice to such as the county school superintendent shall name. The present school boards will still exist, but their functions will pass to the county board.

The proposed plan places the selection of the textbooks in the hands of the county board. These are the cardinal features of the new law.

The proposed plan is objectionable for reasons too numerous for a single article. The chief objection is the removal of the appointment of teachers far from the people they are to serve. There can be devised no other method so good as the present. Certificates do not measure teachers' qualifications. Such can be determined only by actual service among the people where they are employed. The members of the county board cannot visit fifty-five schools with seventy-five or more teachers. Their work is gratis, and they cannot and will not give any attention to the work of the teachers. Yet they are to be empowered to employ the teachers for Gresham, Gilbert and Bull Run on the impossible theory that they better know what these several sections want than they themselves. Of course, they can choose teachers only after the school superintendent selects them. Then, after all, the selection of teachers rests entirely with the county superintendent. The superintendent by diplomacy now enjoys large powers of recommendation and choice of teachers. Such he should have. But the judgment and wishes of the local community should coincide with his own, and the people of the local district should be in strict confidence and co-operation in all selections. No superintendent can be infallible. One district having good schools for ten years never but once made a bad choice of teacher, and that was upon the advice of the superintendent of schools. At all other times they selected their own. Another important school district of Multnomah county but once in twelve years had an indifferent teacher and the was when they varied their usual custom of choosing their own teacher and accepted instead the choice of the superintendent. The proposed law is based, apparently, upon a trustful belief in the infallibility of a single man.

The proposed system lays the foundation for an autocracy which would sooner or later manifest itself and might not always remain "benevolent autocracy". If not "benevolent", the school must take what is offered, not what is desired. Teachers would often be chosen for reasons personal to the superintendent such as their loyalty to the head, or the position that they may have taken in the last campaign, and the promises given for the next. Thus would our schools be plunged head on into politics. I am sure the people will hesitate to fasten upon themselves a system under which their schools are apt to become materials for political barter.

Under the plan offered, the financial affairs of the fifty-five districts would be in charge of the county board, with the aid of its secretary, the school superintendent. This, well done, would require the major portion of our superintendent's time—time withdrawn from his supervision of our schools, and supervision is the prime purpose of the position. Thus the county unit system would so dilute and scatter the efforts of this officer as to neutralize his value. The clerk of the Portland schools handles the details of finance, while the city superintendent directs the educational affairs of the city. Each is paid a large salary and each has clerical as-

stance. The proposed plan combines for the county district all these functions in the county superintendent, while at the same time it offers to make our schools better through close supervision. Of course this overloading of the superintendent could be obviated by the employment of a small army of clerks, accountants, bookkeepers and stenographers. This probably would be done, as the county board is given ample power to do "all things necessary, etc.". The taxpayers need not be consulted, neither could they escape the penalty.

The autocratic tendencies of the measure is further shown by the measure now given out that the chief aim is to consolidate district schools. But the present law provides means of consolidation wherever the districts concerned desire it. The new law would give the county board power to force consolidation. Consolidation is often entered into under present law, but it is done by the concurrent action of the districts consolidating, that is, by mutual consent. The new method would force contracting parties against their wills if the county board deemed it advisable. Like marriage, the uniting of school districts should be had only by the action of the districts affected. Any other sort of consolidation would be disastrous. The ancient cave dwellers method of selecting his mate was by force and abduction. The method of civilization rather invites to formation of friendships and subsequent courtships as conditions precedent to marriage. The present law provides means of mutual desirable consolidation. The proposed law would compel it wherever and whenever the county board willed it. The proposed law would be a long stride into the midst of autocracy and away from democracy.

For one board to purchase all of the fuel and supplies for the county school district, as proposed, is not in the interest of economy. Investigations are now in progress in Portland to ascertain the degree of extravagance suffered by the Portland school district in the purchase of fuel, janitor service and lights during the last three years. It now seems that the amount paid will prove at least fifty thousand dollars per year beyond what should have been paid. It is safe to assert that not a single school district out of the fifty-five in the proposed county unit has paid a dollar more for fuel and other necessary supplies than what the actual market justifies. Each school district, for itself, can drive better bargains for wood, janitor service and the like, than can a single board of men, since large institutions will begin to enter the market thus afforded with results somewhat similar to those experienced by the city of Portland the past three years.

The selection of text books should remain where it is—in the hands of the State Text Book Commission. Previous to 1899 the county school superintendents selected the text books, and the disgraceful exploitation of our people by the American Book company for a quarter of a century prior is easily recalled. Inferior books were provided at prices during those paid by any other state. During this period, and for this reason, in the Educational World, Oregon was called the "Fool of the Family". It cost a tremendous fight to throw off this octopus. Under our present system, the cry of "unclean" has never been heard and we are getting good, well selected text books as cheap as we should have them.

It has been claimed by some friends of the proposed measure that a higher order of intelligence is needed in the administration of school affairs than the country district affords. This is a dangerous position, for its sponsors to take, who, while asking the support of the people for the measure are offering it as an escape from their ignorance. In a recent discussion, it was claimed that consolidation would make the schools of the county as good as the schools of the city, and at the same time build up the citizenship of the country places. Yet there are not wanting able educators who claim that in the essentials and substantial, the country schools are not one whit behind those of the cities; and as to citizenship, it has been observed that the people of the rural counties "go over the top" in every endeavor to raise money for this government in the present crisis, while the people of the large cities are making the start.

The proposed Act sprang not from the people. There was no demand for it. No members of the legislature made it an issue before election. The measure was sprung in the midst of the legislative session and in its original form was intended to become a law without referring it to the people affected. The autocratic manner in which the bill was put over suggests the degree of autocracy with which its provisions will be enforced if it should ultimately become the law. T. P. CAMPBELL.

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FOR SALE OR TRADE for light truck, one 5-year-old cow, one 3-year-old cow. Write B. F. Cook, R. A. Box 457, Gresham, Oregon.

REGISTERED ST. LANBURN BULL calf, about 2 1/2 months old, for sale. F. W. Bittner, Bull Run, phone Gresham 34x4. 19

PIGS

REGISTERED DUROC JERSEY sow, 15 months old, weight 200 pounds, ready to breed, \$45. R. F. Walters, Gresham. tf

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THOROUGHBRED WHITE LEG-horn eggs for hatching. J. O. Bothwell, R. A. Portland, phone Gresham 78x4. tf

FIVE HUNDRED 10-week old pullets for sale, \$1.25 each. H. W. Cooley, phone 434. tf

POULTRY, VEAL AND EGGS wanted. Will pay cash. Will call for them. Wilson Hotel Farm, phone Gresham 781. tf

SHEEP

FOR SALE—100 sheep of all ages, also 40 spring lambs, at stockyard prices. Henry Troge, Foster road, 1 1/2 miles south of county line. P. O. Boring, R. 3, phone Damascus 9x. 20

FIFTEEN ANGORA GOATS for sale. Phone Robert Strebin, 788. tf

REAL ESTATE, RENTALS, LOANS

For Sale.

For \$2200, the third five-acre tract south of Powell Valley road, on first road west of Gates road, all fenced and cultivated. Good well, three-room shack, small barn. Two and a half acres, including improvements, \$1500. R. F. Walters, Gresham.

FOR SALE—Ten acres, more or less, four miles northeast of Gresham, splendid location. All cleared. Good family orchard. Andrew Tollyson, R. A. Box 355, Portland. 23

ONE AND ONE-HALF LOTS, 23-room house with bath, basement, large furnace, all modern improvements, fine electric fixtures. Near O. W. P. station, Gresham. Enquire of Geo. W. Metzger, phone 326, Gresham, Oregon. tf

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SEED POTATOES, \$1 per sack this week at Grant Bell's ranch, Corbett, Ore. Phone Corbett 53.

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WANTED—Well bred, lively young dog. Good ratter essential, also Tippler pigeons. G. A. Miles, R. 4, Gresham, Roberts avenue south, phone 328. 19

FOR SALE—Rick wood delivered anywhere. Phone 27x4. M. J. Chappell. 19

FOR SALE—Loose hay. Phone 168. A. B. Conrad. 19

Selected Minnesota.

TWENTY-THREE SEED CORN for sale. J. F. Jones, across street from Union high school. Phone 518.

WANTED—Second hand dictionary stand in good condition. Phone information to the Outlook, 701.

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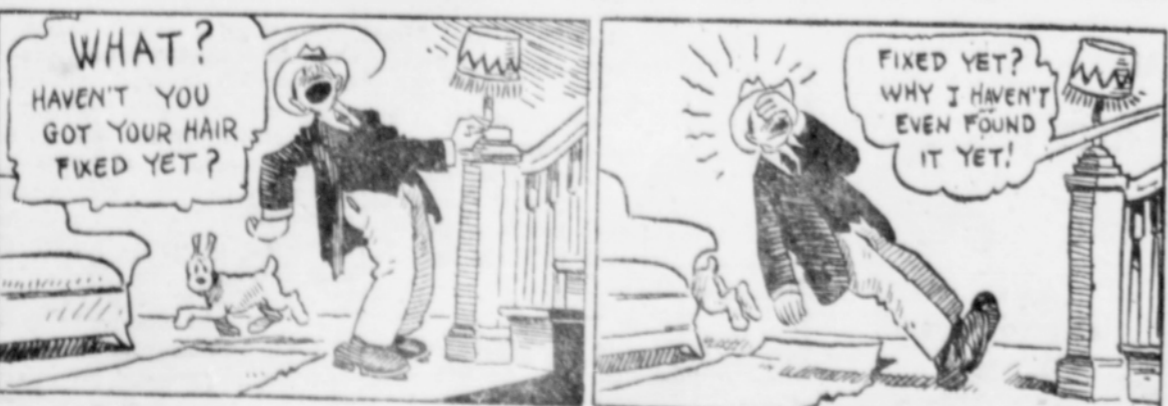
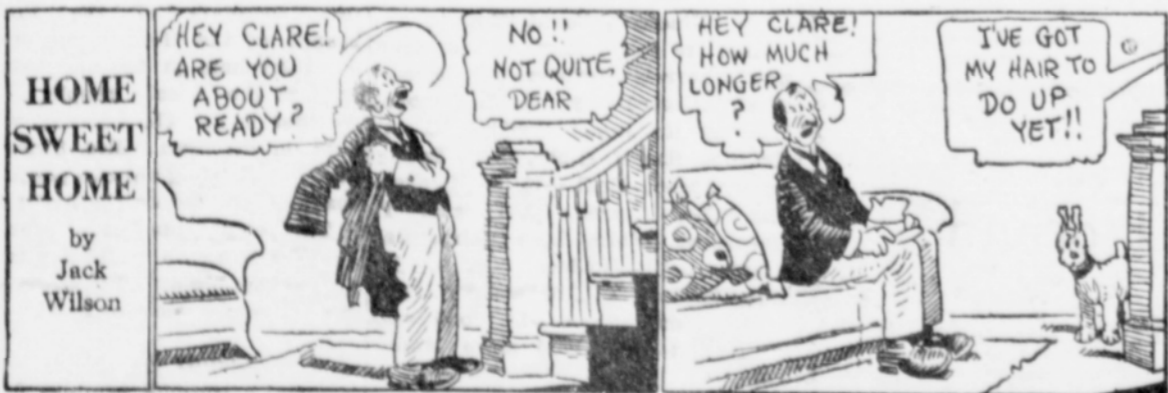
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