

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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STRIKE!

The following is from the I. W. W. publication "Gales," circulated from hand to hand by socialistic organizers and filled with contributions from Haywood, Trotzky, Lenin and other radicals who are planning the overthrow of democratic government. Our readers should know just who the enemies of our government are and what are the methods they urge in carrying out their destruction program:

"Workers of the United States, Strike! Strike!
"The Day of Labor has almost come. You can hasten its dawn—by striking!

"Strike for higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions.

"Strike for the freedom of your fellow workers who are suffering untold tortures in American dungeons because they dared disobey the conscienceless capitalists who dominate your country.

"Strike for the withdrawal of American soldiers from Russia, when they are wounding and killing the struggling people of the only labor government on earth.

"Strike for the abandonment by your rulers of the accused conspiracy to invade Mexico, overthrow its government and enslave its people.

"Strike and keep on striking. The cause of the strike is of minor importance. Get what you demand from your employers to be sure, but remember that your immediate demands are subordinate. Strikes are of primary value because they are practiced in the exercise of industrial power. Some day when you have gained sufficient experience and have accumulated sufficient power, you will initiate the final mass strike that will shatter the shackles that bind you and raze in ruins the whole structure of the system under which you are a serf.

"When that day comes, you will strike, not for temporary amelioration of your misery, but for the abolition of capitalism itself. You will claim and seize them, possess and manage them, not by voting, making speeches or dealing and dickered with politicians but—by striking!

"Politicians in the United States are speculating on the probable influence that the Non-Partisan League will exert in the 1920 presidential campaign, and beyond doubt, that influence will be considerable.

"Townley, the League's leader, who has just been sentenced to jail for being 'unpatriotic' in the war, is a political genius and with a powerful organization that represents the aspirations of thousands who are getting a glimpse of the future society, the League will make itself felt next fall. Nebraska, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Montana may easily be carried, possibly enabling the league to accomplish its desire and name Governor Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota as next president of the United States.

"But at the present rate of speed of the increasing class-consciousness of American workers, politics will be almost tabooed before the next election comes, and the Great Change will be in process through the transfer of individual power."

We eat as much in fees and soft drinks as we formerly used for candy.

Candy has become a national necessity.

Increased beet sugar production must be encouraged.

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Mother Answers "A Mother"

Troutdale, Oregon, Jan. 28.—Editor Gresham Outlook.—May one who has the following qualifications to speak on a subject of common interest have a little space in your columns to reply to an article that appeared in a recent issue of your paper.

First, I am a truly mother with children in the sixth and eighth grades, who are club members. I am a club leader. I taught school three years and have been the intimate friends and associate of teachers, in the family and out, for twenty years.

If the writer of the article derogatory to club work in general in connection with the school, had had the courage that should have gone with such convictions and had signed his or her name instead of hiding behind the common term of "A Mother," it would give a better idea whether a reply was to be made to a bit of sarcasm from some over worked school principal or to a bona fide mother. But judging the article as a whole, one might think it really written by some disgruntled mother. But we will take it in detail.

The first premise as given is absolutely correct. The second will bear a little discussion.

The common school is undoubtedly where the child is to get the fundamental principles of the three "R's" and it must be taught often times by some young girls in some places, as there are not enough old and experienced teachers to fill the positions. Unfortunately, the mothers who are supposed to have had to make a study of child nature, are seldom qualified to teach even the three "R's," so his early school training must be left to the young teacher, and strange though it may seem, nearly all of the really good teachers of today were the young inexperienced ones of yesterday, who got their experience in just the same manner that the young teacher of today is getting hers. There are not many more naturally born "teachers" than there are mothers or housekeepers, but if you look around, you will see quite a number who are pretending to have qualified for the position they are holding down.

But this is beside the point. Let me ask first—why need the child be sent to school at six years of age? Ask the teachers and nine out of ten will tell you that 95 per cent of the children make much better progress if not started to school until from seven to eight years of age, and make stronger pupils during all of their school life. According to the article in question, the first real work begins at the fifth grade, but again I believe that most teachers will agree that the first year is the important one. Get a child started right the first year—get a good foundation laid with proper mental and physical development and the after years will take care of themselves. But the majority of mothers, and it must be said with shame, really care very little about Johnnie or Mary's educational welfare. Who has not heard more than one mother say of little Johnnie of four or five summers,—"Oh, I'll be so glad when I can start him to school and be rid of his dirt and noise. It will be such a relief. "Poor baby! Poor long suffering teacher!" Poor misguided mother. His mother loves him, yes, but she prefers to let the young teacher train him. Most fathers and mothers are really too lazy to train their children. They let the teacher do it and then blame them for doing a poor job.

However we'll suppose that Johnnie has weathered four years of school life and poor teachers, is now 11 or 12 years old, promoted to the fifth grade and club work and as the writer put it "he must now make good if ever" and "he must carry his books home." If a child attends school regularly, and puts in his time

while in the schoolroom at his studies and recitations he will need to do very little if any studying at home. But he can't spend his time window-gazing, whispering and drawing pigs during school hours and not have to do some work on his books after school hours.

And now we come to the club work and "A Mother" asks: What is the incentive? He is offered a prize if he excels and his name and picture is to appear in a paper if he beats his fellow competitors in the project." He is offered a prize, yes, but as a club leader I can affirm that I had heretofore heard nothing about a picture or name in the paper as being one of the rewards. Really that last seems too cheap a bait to offer even a child. Of the prize we will speak later.

Let's tackle that report that Johnnie or Mary is "sweating over and neglecting lessons in arithmetic." Why! that is quite like the lessons in accounts that are given in the new arithmetics and since it is a practical account of the feed given an actual and well loved pig and not a mythical Jones and Co., it will mean more to Johnnie than the account in the arithmetic and furthermore Johnnie will have learned to keep an actual account of the cost of raising that pig, a thing that Johnnie's father never thought of doing. Too bad, isn't it, to combine arithmetic and club work! If Johnnie's father and mother don't discourage him too much, and he stays by the club work on through the grades, he will probably emerge some day a practical farmer with a working knowledge of accounts, and will know whether the stock and crops he raises are paying or not. And his working idea of farm accounts will assist him in figuring the income tax he will have to pay. Let me suggest that Johnnie's father and mother help him with that awful report—it will do them all good.

As to children losing time from their school work—it is not necessary. There were 16 pupils enrolled in five clubs in our school last year. Fifteen finished their work, and not one whole day was lost from school work for organizing, work, demonstration and all. But the leaders planned their work with the children so as not to infringe on their school hours. And right here let me add what I have heard some of the leaders say: That their worst difficulty in doing successful club work with the children did not lay with the children. It lay with the parents. They would not co-operate, they discouraged the children's efforts instead of encouraging. They ridiculed where they should have been praised.

But it takes more than lack of co-operation to kill Johnnie's pig and Mary has finished her sewing and when the contest comes they both begin to see that their finished article could have been improved on. They generally see themselves wherein their work isn't up to the standard (and usually without jealousy except the home-made kind) and the majority will have right then made up their minds to do better next time. The lessons learned and the competition of club work are no different from those of every day school life and the children recognize that. The prize, either won or lost, amounts to very little to the children. It is the knowledge of having done something well or of having done one's best that counts and children soon recognize that fact.

But why be in such mad haste to get the child out of the eighth grade? There are very few of the children, graduated as they are today from the grade schools at the ages of 12 to 14 year, who are mentally, yes and physically developed sufficiently to take up the high school work and get out of it (not parrot fashion) and retain what they should. So, if, though I doubt it, the club work is really going to infringe on the school time so much, why not let the children continue in it and spend an ex-

tra year in the grades. They will surely be improved by so doing. But it seems that instead of an effort being made to see how much they can learn in the grades, the main effort seems to be to see how little they can be taught and yet pass an examination.

I, too, believe I can teach my daughters to cook and can sew, but I recognize the fact that some one might do it better than I can, just as I had my darning class go to an expert stocking darning for their lesson in darning. I can darn but not like she does. I have canned hundreds of quarts of fruit and vegetables and fish and meat, but I expect to learn something more of the art from my young daughters when they take their canning lessons this year.

So mothers and fathers, get rid of your "swell head." Get behind your boys and girls and encourage them at every step. Get the vision before you of what this movement means and will mean in the future. Some time there will be trained and competent teachers making the rounds of the schools of the county, helping to make the girls, the women of tomorrow, competent house and home-keepers, good seamstresses, capable of cooking and canning without waste and the boys thoroughly good farmers.

The office of club leader came to me, it was not wanted nor sought for, but I am proud of the fact that I have had my humble part to play in helping on to success what is to be, I hope, one of the biggest movements

for the benefit of the youth of Oregon. I could not close this article without adding a word of commendation to our zealous, whole-hearted county club leader, Miss Calkins. Everyone knows, herself included, that mistakes were sometimes made and that the work can and will be improved on. It is in this as in every thing else that is now and untried—we learn to do by doing, we rise to better things tomorrow only through the mistakes of today.

Be a booster. Criticism is useful only when it helps us to better things. An optimist sees the doughnut, the pessimist sees only the hole.
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Engagement Announced

Mr. "Grippe" and Miss "Flu" are busily engaged again, but—the minute you feel a cold coming on, begin to have fever or chills, dull aches or constipated, it may be the Flu or Grippe. Before retiring, bathe your feet in hot salt water, take a good big cup of HOLLISTER'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN TEA (warm) and go to bed for the night—it's a 10 to 1 shot you'll feel great the next morning. Without fail try this—but do it quick before the "Flu" or Grippe gets a start. Buy a package today, have it in the House and use it at the very first warning—then you're safe.

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PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY. If you are buying apples, buy from me. Standard winter apples, good keepers. T. H. Gill, phone 389.

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