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### TOO MUCH TIME ON NON-ESSENTIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To the Editor:

I see in yesterday's paper a criticism of the various so-called "super-numerary" textbooks in use in the fifth year of the grammar school. While the writer was a little facetious at times, it seems to me there is much merit in his criticisms. We are told the average school life of a child in Oregon is about six years. Now, if that be true, the fifth year must be the end-all of school life with many.

I have observed the work of many pupils of this grade, and I am convinced much, too much, of their time is spent in studying microbes, diseases and their causes, courses and treatments; the philosophy of history and economics. Large encyclopedias are brought into use and their investigations are made to cover a university range. Also I have observed that reading and spelling are severe tasks for them, and when children are away on vacation their letters home glitter with misspelling of the most common words. When struggling with a difficult problem, it often seemed as difficult for these children to perform the operation as to know what operation to perform.

The text books forced upon our long-suffering children and their teachers seem to call for culture, culture, culture. The system ignores largely the foundation, while already the beautiful, artistic outside and upper finish is being laid on. Too much veneering before the body structure is built.

I rather incline toward the old-fashioned way of teaching reading. Every student read each day. Reading was done with mathematical precision as to pronunciation. There were contests in reading, also much concert reading and many classic selections were learned by rote and used as basis for further drills and to build up perfect pronunciation with perfect articulation, and for the further purpose of weeding out erudites and misshaps in naming words. Of course, this required time, much time. This left but little time for a fifth grade boy to run down the atomic component parts of a molecule of an organic compound, and but little opportunity to trace out the germs of the Magna Charta in the various ramifications of the history of the Anglo-Saxon world. Neither did it leave many hours each day to acquire the power to force every mouthful of food into its proper classification as nitrogenous, carbonaceous etc.

Reading is the great implement by which most knowledge in the schools and ever after is acquired. An able and delicate use of this implement ought to be the heritage of every man or woman, and it must come to such in the early years of school life. There are few good readers in this day and age. If present methods are pursued there will be almost none a generation hence. Good reading seems in course of ultimate extinction.

The same may be argued with regard to the teaching and study of arithmetic. To acquire skill in adding and subtracting seems to be relegated to manhood years. A great banker told me that young men must invariably learn anew the fundamental operations of arithmetic on entering the bank as an employe.

The teachers have no time for drills. A child gulps down a case of problems and hurries to the next, and so on to the end. Involution and evolution engage his attention while he remains an imbecile of inaccuracy in everyday calculations. No, I am not faulting our teachers. They work like fighting fire to "make the grades." The course of study is packed with big books treating with university subjects and the law must be upheld that positions may be held. Culture will follow in due course, but true education must begin with a solid mastery of reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. That is the way Abraham Lincoln began.

PATRON.

Medford, Sept. 9, 1914.

### SERVIANS INVADE AUSTRIAN TERRITORY

PARIS, Sept. 9, 12:45 p. m.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Nish, Servia, says that the Servians are continuing their offensive movements against the Austrians in the direction of Vinkograd. They crossed the frontier September 6 and continued to advance successfully. Everywhere the Austrians were thrown back to the left bank of the river

### A REAL WAR DOG OF THE FRENCH ARMY.



A REAL WAR DOG "PRUSCO" BY NAME, WHO ACCOMPANIES A MOTOR CYCLIST SCOUT ON HIS EXPEDITIONS. WHEN THE SCOUT HAS INFORMATION HE FASTENS THE MESSAGE TO THE DOG'S COLLAR AND HE IS SENT BY THE GENERAL STAFF TO THE FRENCH HEAD-QUARTERS.

### Third Propeller Used to Lift Transatlantic Airship

Though the European war lessened the chances of the America making a transatlantic flight this year, interest in the equipping and testing of the powerful flying boat has not decreased. Dr. A. F. Zahm, in an illustrated article in the September Popular Mechanics Magazine, explains how the difficulties encountered in lifting the heavy craft from the water were finally solved. He says:

"Planing fins of varying sizes and design all failed to bring the America into the air from the water under full load. Pontoons under the wings gave greater promise, but at last were discarded. Finally a sea sled bottom was built and tried in two styles, first the unbuoyant, then the buoyant. The former was an inverted V planing bottom, or raft, built under the hull from its step up to a yard beyond the prow. When run over the lake with three men aboard, it rose and planed excellently at twenty miles an hour. When completely enclosed and made water-tight, this bottom looked like a scow with upturned bow and square stern, carrying the original America. It had enough buoyancy and planing surface to please even Lieutenant Porte, who now thought surely the great craft must leap to the surface and skim so perfectly that the original hull need only be built to these new lines. But when tried on the lake it wallowed

helplessly, its bow heaving powerfully, its tail swamped in the waves. Men placed on the prow and a submerged blade under the stern, helped to level it, but failed to lift it to the surface or give it planing speed. It was the costliest and worst failure of all the devices yet tried; but for the information so gained perhaps many air-boat designers may be the wiser.

"Mr. Curtiss now—July 18—submitted to his technical associates a plan to add a third motor and attached propeller to the America, symmetrically between the others, and, after receiving their suggestions, ordered this plan to be mounted at once on top of the upper plane, with the propeller projecting in front of the leading edge. The early bilge-like planing fins beside the bow were also fixed in place to increase the lift and planing area.

"In the forenoon of July 23, with a useful load of about one ton, Mr. Curtiss ran the three-motored America over the lake, and flew in the most light-hearted fashion. Three other men were in the cabin with him, and two were squatting like tailors on the lower plane next the cabin. Behind the air boat, as she flew just above the lake, swept the Curtiss forty-mile-an-hour scouter bearing three naval officers. It was a rare sight, the resplendent red-winged whale chased by the swift and saucy sea dog."

### SOUTHERN OREGON VETERANS IN CAMP

GRANTS PASS, Ore., Sept. 9.—The annual encampment of the Southern Oregon Veterans' Association opened here Monday and will continue during the week. The camp grounds have been arranged near the river, supplied with electric lights and city water in specially laid pipes and a cookhouse, where all the cooking is done. The program during the week will be arranged for the various towns on their allotted days. Yesterday was Grants Pass day, today Ashland day; Thursday, Medford day and Friday will be Central Point and Gold Hill day. There will be special features on each day, and an invitation has been extended to Governor West to be present on the day most convenient to him and address the soldiers. Veterans from all over southern Oregon began to arrive here Sunday.

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### GERMAN GENERALS IN DEATH LIST

LONDON, Sept. 9, 2:15 p. m.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Amsterdam quotes Berlin papers as saying that they learn from a reliable source that the directors of the imperial bank soon will publish the terms of the first German war loan. It is said that the loan will be 250 million dollars, consisting of 5 percent treasury bonds and government notes. Both will be issued at 97.50. The loan will not be redeemable until 1924. This amount of the first issue is not stated.

### TRIPLE ENTENTE ONLY FOR WAR

TOKIO, Sept. 9, 9:15 a. m.—The Japanese government announced today that Great Britain has announced that the treaty signed by France, Russia and Great Britain must not be regarded as violating the treaty with Japan, but holds only during the present war.

### CELEBRATION MARKS RAILROAD OPENING AT WILDERVILLE

The completion of the Grants Pass railroad to Wilderville was observed Monday at Wilderville, the present terminus of the road. All the business houses in Grants Pass were closed and everybody who could do so took a ride on the railroad owned by the people. Last Saturday evening the first ticket was auctioned off to the highest bidder, the price paid being \$115 for a 50-cent ticket, by George E. Sanders, the well-known promoter.

The financing and construction of this first ten-mile unit was accomplished in the face of great difficulties. The celebration was held in a grove at Wilderville. For the time automobiles were cast aside, as a kangaroo court was established at the picnic grounds and any one who did not ride on the train was properly dealt with. There was no regular program prepared and everything was impromptu. A large dancing pavilion was erected, where free dancing was the order of the day and night. Trains were run every two hours and the coaches were crowded on every trip out until late in the afternoon.

A regular schedule went into effect Tuesday for passenger and freight trains. Much freight is now ready to be shipped over the line, as the rates that have been established will enable the fruitgrowers on the lower Applegate to ship their fruit to this city, saving a ten-mile haul, and it is possible that several of the lumber mills will haul their lumber to Wilderville and ship it from there.

The road-bed is not ballasted as yet.

### JAPANESE DIET ADOPTS BUDGET FOR WAR

TOKIO, Sept. 9, 11:45 a. m.—The Japanese diet today adopted the war program of the Japanese government. It provides for a war appropriation of 53,000,000 yen (about \$26,500,000). The vote was unanimous.

### Severe Blood Troubles Vanish

With Magic Effect, Great Remedy Makes Disease Disappear.



At almost any drug store you may obtain S. S. S., the famous blood purifier, and you then have the veritable wizard that makes all blood troubles vanish. Your stomach takes kindly to S. S. S., it rushes into your blood, it purifying war, makes the liver, kidneys, bladder and skin work in harmony; sings accommodations that have cured rheumatism, catarrh, swollen glands, sore throat and skin eruptions.

Just as food makes blood, so does S. S. S. follow the process of digestion to stimulate natural secretions to protect us against the ravages of disease germs. We are well aware of the fact that these germs are apt to be latent within us to break forth in violent eruptions of the skin whenever the system is in a low state of resistance. And it is to both prevent these eruptions if to get rid of them that Nature gave us such an ally as S. S. S. It is purely vegetable, contains no mercury, and yet it overcomes those serious troubles for which mercury has been employed for ages. In every community are people who know this to be true. They owe to S. S. S. their recovery. Get a bottle today. Refuse all substitutes. Read the folder around the bottle that tells of the wonderful work being done by the medical department in assisting users of S. S. S. For a special book on blood troubles address: The S. S. S. Specific Co., 51 Swift Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

### Southern Oregon Electric Company

Light, Heat and Power Wiring. Get our estimate before letting your job. 315 S. Riverside. Phone 189-R Mazda Lamps delivered

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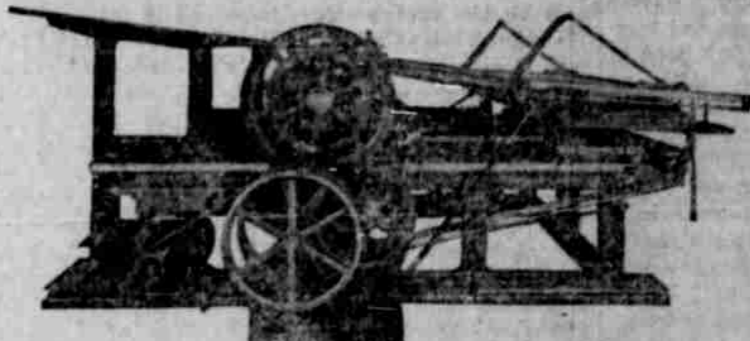
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The fellow with the big, tough muscles who can chop trees all day and lift the butt end of a hard log, is a hearty liver in everything he tackles. He likes his tobacco rich, mellow and good for both smoking and chewing. He uses

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Plug Cut Tobacco

because it's got the right stuff in it. Satisfaction—for a sturdy man—can come from real tobacco only. Insipid mixtures don't appeal to a man with real tobacco hunger.

DIXIE QUEEN is pure old Burley leaf, with the "body" for a real smoke or chew, rich and pleasing. It takes three to five years to age the tobacco in DIXIE QUEEN; the process can't be hurried. That's the reason DIXIE QUEEN is so ripe, mellow and healthful.

Wonderful richness makes DIXIE QUEEN a lasting chew. Burns slow in the pipe because Cut Plug is the right form for smoking.

DIXIE QUEEN will "make good" the first time you smoke or chew it.

Sold everywhere in convenient 5c foil packages—also in 10c pouches and 50c lunch boxes.



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