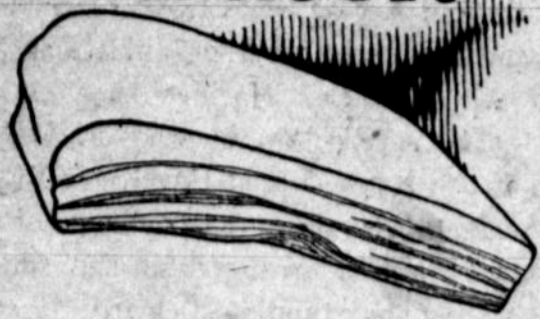


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## PRINCIPAL KNIGHT MAKES STATEMENT

The following is a statement of Principal F. S. Knight, of the Hood River high school, relative to the controversy that has been mentioned recently in regard to the severing of athletic relations between the local school and the Dalles high school.

Hood River did not play ringers on its football team last year as charged by Principal Glenn Kirkwood of The Dalles in The Dalles Chronicle of November 17. A ringer, according to the generally accepted meaning of the term, is a player who is in school mainly to participate in athletics; such a player generally comes from some other locality and enrolls as a student and does barely enough school work to squeeze by. At the close of the season, he quits school and next year tries to repeat the process at some other school.

The rules of the state athletic association guard against the practice of using ringers by requiring that the parents or legal guardians of players must be residents of the school district in which a school is situated. The parents of every member of last year's team were legal residents of Hood River or of a district in Hood River county from which students are transported to Hood River.

The trouble arose when on January 28 the Hood River principal advised the principal of The Dalles by telephone that a rumor was current in Hood River that Haskel, a member of The Dalles basketball team, was ineligible because he had failed to pass in three subjects at the end of the first semester which had ended a week before. The eligibility list from The Dalles had just been received which contained Haskel's name. Principal Kirkwood was asked if the rumor had any foundation. Mr. Kirkwood replied that Haskel was back in his work a little but it was nothing that he could not make up. Mr. Kirkwood's attention was directed to a section of the rules which provides that a student must pass in three subjects the last semester in order to be eligible the current semester. During the conversation Mr. Kirkwood became somewhat angry and demanded to know how Hood River had received this information so soon. "You must maintain some kind of an underground railroad down there in Hood River in order to get this information so quickly." He was told that a student at The Dalles had told a student at Hood River that Haskel had failed. The rumor quickly spread until it became common talk on January 27 and 28. The Hood River-Dalles basketball game was scheduled to be played in Hood River January 28. It was believed by school officials to be merely a rumor; hence Mr. Kirkwood was asked to state whether the rumor had any foundation.

To close the conversation, Principal Kirkwood slammed down the receiver but called again within an hour saying that he had information that two members of Hood River's basketball team were ineligible. Lawrence Wright, he declared, was ineligible because of failure to pass in three subjects and Vic Miller was ineligible because he had already played basketball four years on a high school team. "We have positive proof that Miller has already played four years," said Mr. Kirkwood. "If you can prove that," said Principal Knight, "you certainly have better evidence against us. If you have proof that Miller has played four years, go ahead and use it. Place your evidence before the state athletic association and we shall take the consequences."

It was fully expected in Hood River that The Dalles would place charges against Hood River before the board of control of the Oregon High School Athletic association. Hood River had no fear as to the outcome of such a hearing. But The Dalles made no formal protest. A protest consists in filing written charges against a school with the state athletic association. In this connection, it should be stated that Hood River did not protest Haskel; no charges were ever preferred against The Dalles. A question to determine the truth or falsity of the Haskel rumor was all that was asked. In several newspaper accounts originating at The Dalles following the break, reference was made to a protest placed by Hood River. No such protest was ever placed.

The Dalles being the aggrieved party, was the one to make the protest. Hood River several times, both in writing and orally, asked The Dalles to file charges so that the case could come before the tribunal provided to handle disputes between schools, and a settlement reached. This, The Dalles declined to do.

Not being able to make any headway in their declaration that members of the Hood River basketball team were ineligible, The Dalles next raised the question of the eligibility of two of Hood River's football players of the 1926 season, Lawrence Wright and Mayhew Carson.

The state athletic association rule covering Carson's case is not clearly stated. It is capable of more than one interpretation. After the close of the 1926 season an interpretation of the rule was received in a bulletin from the secretary of the state association. The rule as at present interpreted, makes such cases as that of Carson ineligible. But during the 1926 season, Hood River played Carson in good faith.

Lawrence Wright, by a strict interpretation of the rules was ineligible during the football season, but there was no question of his eligibility during the basketball season. Wright's case was like Haskel's in that at the end of the season previous, while he had passed in two subjects, his grade was incomplete in bookkeeping because through some misunderstanding he had not taken his final examination in June 1926. He had done passing work throughout the semester. The principal permitted him to take his examination and the school record was changed from incomplete to passing just as numerous other records are changed under similar circumstances, and Wright was permitted to play football. This answers how Wright was "fixed up" as charged by Principal Kirkwood.

In like manner, Haskel of The Dalles was given his final examination in American History after the close of the semester. Had he passed, there is no question that Principal Kirkwood would have certified him as eligible. And Hood River would not have objected. In fact, when the Hood River principal was advised that Haskel had failed only a final examination, he told The Dalles principal that Hood River would enter no objection to Haskel's eligibility, provided Haskel passed his examination. To this Principal Kirkwood replied: "Haskel is a miserable student; we have had trouble to keep him up all along; we know that he is not eligible and we do not intend to play him."

But still The Dalles refuses to resume athletic relations with Hood River because of the cases of Wright and Carson, placing their greatest objection to Wright whose only difference to their own Haskel was that Wright passed his examination and Haskel did

not. Both were permitted by their principals to take a final examination after the close of the semester. Wright was a good student and passed his examination and Haskel was a "miserable student" and failed to pass (if we are correctly informed) even after taking a second examination after the close of the semester.

Hood River has tried a number of times to resume relations with The Dalles. The Hood River superintendent, principal and coach called on the superintendent and principal at The Dalles on October 1. A full statement of the cases of Carson and Wright were given and full assurances were given that no protest would be given by Hood River in the future. The conference appeared to end satisfactorily, leaving the way open for the resumption of athletic relations. Two days after the conference, The Dalles principal telephoned Principal Knight that he had taken offense at an editorial in a Hood River newspaper. Principal Kirkwood was informed that the Hood River school authorities could not be held responsible for what was printed in the city newspapers. Principal Kirkwood delivered the ultimatum that unless the Dalles and Hood River school authorities could secure a better attitude on the part of Hood River newspapers, there would be no football between The Dalles and Hood River.

The editor of the newspaper in question published a retraction and the way was open again for the resumption of relations. The Dalles principal and coach appeared in the sports section of the Oregonian a short sports story originating in Hood River (but not at Hood River high school) in which the statement was made that the Dalles principal had refused to play in Hood River in a day or two, was now the big game in Hood River in view of the breaking of athletic relations last year because of a disagreement in the basketball season. The Dalles then informed us that a letter offering Hood River a game had been dictated and had been ready to send to the Oregonian story which drew their attention and the resumption of relations was again off.

The Dalles principal again took to the telephone and advised the Hood River principal as follows: "We want you to understand that the reason we are not playing football is not because of the misunderstanding over basketball last year but because you played two ineligible men on your last year's football team and are not admitting it."

In view of the fact that Hood River had made a full and complete statement to The Dalles school authorities, the Hood River principal replied that Hood River had gone in the matter as far as she would go and that further discussion of the subject was unnecessary. Hood River then proceeded to fill its football schedule with other teams, giving up any hope of reaching a settlement with The Dalles.

The break in relations between the two schools came as a result of offense taken by The Dalles to a request for information regarding the eligibility of a member of the Dalles basketball team. The player proved to be ineligible and The Dalles did not permit him to play. The Dalles then cancelled the return game which was scheduled to be played in The Dalles February 11, giving as their reason "there seems to be no agreement possible regarding the status of all the players." On February 16, The Dalles sent a check for \$25.00 to cover the penalty for violating their basketball agreement. At the same time and in the same letter they requested a release from their contract for a football game scheduled for November 11, 1927. The voiding of the football contract was a direct outcome of the basketball agreement.

The reason given for the failure to resume athletic relations was given one time as dissatisfaction with the attitude of Hood River newspapers. At another time it was because of a sports story published in the Oregonian under the Hood River date line. At another time it was because Hood River played two ineligible men last season.

The attitude of The Dalles carries out Principal Kirkwood's declaration when on the afternoon of February 11, 1927, in the presence of several Dalles high school students and one Hood River high school student, he said, "as long as I am principal of The Dalles high school, The Dalles will never play another game with Hood River."

## LIQUOR EPISODE

"Whereas It has come to our knowledge that during Armistice evening several students of the Hood River High School were pined with intoxicating liquor.

Therefore Be It Resolved, That we, the members of the School Board of School District No. 3, do most earnestly protest against the action of any person who would encourage such lawlessness among the students of our High School, thereby violating one of the basic principals of good citizenship:

"And we do further urge all right-minded citizens, both by their influence and example, to aid the school authorities in their effort to inculcate in the minds of the students such respect for law and order as shall make of them good and true American citizens."

## MR. KIRKWOOD ON ATHLETIC RELATION

(From The Dalles Chronicle) An explanation, setting forth the attitude of The Dalles high school authorities in the present athletic break between the local school and Hood River high, has been given The Chronicle by Principal Glenn S. Kirkwood. In this Mr. Kirkwood explains the cause of the original break between the two schools, and why The Dalles has refused to resume athletic relations with Hood River.

The complete text of Mr. Kirkwood's statement follows:

An article which appeared in a late number of The Chronicle showed that a little enlightenment on the Hood River issue and the state championship question is necessary. Space is not available at present for a complete discussion of the disagreement with Hood River, but I feel that it is time we all knew why we are not playing football with them.

In the first place it must be assumed that we all really want to play them, and we were not looking for trouble. Had we been seeking an excuse for a break, we could have found it when we first learned that their football team contained players of questionable eligibility. But we wanted to play them and continue relations, hence we kept our peace. And don't let any one fool you into believing that Hood River would have thanked us for "taking it up with the proper authorities." That argument is all fol-de-rol, and had we done so, and been unable to meet them in consequence the critics in The Dalles who are taking us so severely to task for not playing them now would have been the first to condemn our action.

To resume, we had a basketball player who was protested by Hood River and we removed him as soon as we became satisfied that he was ineligible; and let me assure everyone that

the player in question did not participate in another game, nor did he play a single minute after he actually became ineligible. Incidentally, he failed and forfeited his eligibility after we received the protest from Hood River. In the face of the football situation on the Hood River team, we thought the action a bit hasty and told them so. Words followed, feeling rose, and we canceled the next game and paid our forfeitures.

The basketball argument only precipitated the real cause, and the break in athletic relations was due to a disagreement over the eligibility of basketball players, are not wholly true. The real cause began when football seasons opened, and the failure on the part of Hood River officials to candidly admit their error to the people of their own city, has made a resumption of football relations impossible from our viewpoint.

To summarize briefly, we are not playing football with Hood River high school because the officials of that school have not seen fit to tell their people that their football team last fall contained a number of "ringers." Personally, the officials of The Dalles high school have no objection to a game; but we shall not permit the two teams to go on the field together until we are sure that the Hood River people have received all the facts from their high school. In other words, we want a football game, not a fight. A principle is involved there which is much bigger than the game of football, and certainly much bigger than any one game.

As for the state championship, a letter from the secretary-treasurer of the State association inviting us to compete for the championship was received only yesterday. So, in spite of all "reports" to the contrary, we are definitely in line for state honors, and should we succeed in disposing of the two opponents remaining on our regular schedule, many of us will have the opportunity of seeing our team in action against the best in the state.

GLENN KIRKWOOD, Principal of High School

The Chronicle in a final comment on the athletic relations situation said last Friday afternoon:

A final word about The Dalles high school-Hood River high athletic break, and The Chronicle intends to leave the field, admitting defeat in its move, made with the best intentions and without a personal axe to grind, to restore amicable relations between the two schools.

Glenn Kirkwood, Dalles high school principal, sets forth his position in an article in today's issue. We purposely give it prominence as being the first official position The Dalles has received of exactly "what happened" to bring about the original break.

The Chronicle has been accused by local school officials of being "pro-Hood River" in the present dispute. Nothing could be farther from the truth, if the term "pro" is given its commonly accepted meaning of being "for" Hood River and "against" The Dalles.

No high school football team in the state of Oregon has had better newspaper support than The Dalles, during the last eight years. A check of the columns of The Chronicle would reveal thousands of words written about athletic events of the local high school; more, we believe, than any other paper in the state has accorded its school team, excepting, possibly Portland. And at no time has The Chronicle been "pro" anything but The Dalles.

Of course it must be considered that we always have had something worth writing about. At no time has The Dalles put a poor team in the field, and many have been superb. This year's football team seems in this category. It was not the fight between The Dalles and Hood River high schools that perturbed this newspaper, but the ill feeling that began to show up among townspeople of the two cities. We not only heard authentic accounts of this ill-feeling, but saw some of it at first hand.

Here, it would seem, was being put to naught years of efforts among leaders of the two communities to bring about better feeling and a closer relationship.

It was in the hope that this growth of mutual ill will could be stopped that The Chronicle urged a truce between the warring factions and a resumption of athletic relations. We did not see then, nor do we now, why cooler heads in both communities could not take the helm and bring about peace.

In its attempted role of peacemaker The Chronicle was joined by Editor Joe Thomson of the Hood River Glacier, who urged the more pugnacious Hood Riverites to calm their feelings and work towards a reconciliation. Perhaps in Hood River there is a long-suffering Editor Thomson of being "pro-Dalles," as a result.

However, it is proverbial that the peacemaker always gets it in the neck, as anyone who has ever attempted to stop a fight can testify, and this case seems no exception.

The Chronicle resents the imputation of local school authorities that it has been disloyal to the crimson and gray. This is not true. We should like nothing better than to see The Dalles football team win every contest that it plays—including a game with Hood River.

We sincerely hope that the Hood River Glacier and News will join with us in assuring the respective readers that an overwhelming majority of persons in The Dalles have only the best regards for their neighbors in Hood River. Apparently the school fight is to continue, but let us confine it to a school fight, and not let it involve two communities that have maintained such pleasant relationships in recent years.

## Cannon Circuit Closing

"The Last Frontier," a western picture produced by Metropolitan and featuring William Boyd, Marguerite De La Motte, J. Farrell MacDonald and Jack Hoxie in the principal roles, is scoring a big success on the Cannon Circuit this week. From the opening scene in western Kansas to the final fade-out, thrill after thrill followed one another in quick succession. Notable among these were the attack upon the wagon train by Indians, and the stampede of some 3,000 buffaloes. Mr. Boyd as a scout and Miss De La Motte as Beth Halliday, were excellent in their portrayals of difficult roles. The supporting roles were in highly competent hands. The picture, directed by George B. Seitz, is worthwhile. Don't miss it.

With the completion of this week's program the Cannon Circuit will discontinue regular showings for the present. For the next month or two A. M. Cannon will devote most of his time to selling school supplies, furniture and equipment for John W. Graham & Co., of Spokane.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, Corner 16th and Pine streets. Services Sabbath—Saturday, At 9.45 a. m. Sabbath school; preaching, 11 o'clock; Young People's meeting, 8 p. m.; prayer meeting Wednesday at 7.30 p. m. Everybody welcome.

F. H. Conway, Pastor.

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