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PROVISIONS OF NEW SCHOOL LAW

Severest Law in Force in United States.

MUST GO TO JAIL FOR TRUANCY.

Local School Authorities Regard Law as too Barbarous for a Civilized People.

The compulsory education law, which has been passed by the recent Legislature, provides, among other things as follows:

All children between the ages of 9 and 14 must go to public school all the term. Children from 14 to 16 must either work or go to school. The exceptions to these requirements are children in private schools, pupils physically unable to attend, pupils under 10 living more than one and one-half miles from school, pupils of any age living more than three miles from school and pupils under private tutors at home.

The means provided to enforce the law are as follows:

- 1.—Appointment of truant officers in each district.
- 2.—First class districts have power to call on police.
- 3.—County School Superintendent furnishes officers with a list of teachers.
- 4.—Teacher compares record with census each month.
- 5.—Teacher reports delinquents to truant officer.
- 6.—Officer notifies parents and teachers.
- 7.—Officer makes complaint to Justice of Peace.
- 8.—Justice issues warrant and conducts trial. The punishment for truancy is a fine of from \$5 to \$20 or imprisonment in jail of from two to ten days, and all officers, including the School Superintendent and teachers may be fined from \$5 to \$20 for failure to perform the duties incumbent on them under the act.

This law seems so unreasonable, and drastic, that The Examiner has secured an interview from Dr. B. Daly in reference to its application to the public schools of the state. Dr. Daly has not only been a member of the board of education for Lakeview during the past eighteen years, but during his legislative career, manifested a great interest in every measure pertaining to the educational matters of the whole state. Dr. Daly's views are as follows:

"The compulsory education law, in so far as it provides for the imprisonment of our boys and girls in the county jail, for truancy, thereby compelling them to become companions of criminals, is simply barbarous and should be consigned to oblivion as a relic of the dark ages rather than be placed upon the statute books of a great and progressive state like Oregon.

The purpose of the law, to compel all pupils of school age to attend school, is very commendable and should receive the earnest and conscientious support of every teacher and school officer of the state. It should also have the active co-operation of every parent who has a boy or girl to educate, in order that all pupils of school age shall secure at least a good common school education.

The knowledge that a common school education imparts is not only necessary in order to become successful men and women, but it is also essential that every boy and girl should be thoroughly equipped by education and training, so as to be qualified to assume the great responsibilities of citizenship. I, therefore, believe that if all the teachers and school officers of the state will do their full duty in making a determinant effort to have every pupil of school age attend school, there shall be no occasion to invoke that part of the statute providing for the imprisonment of school girls and boys, for mere truancy, and which, in my judgment, should have no place in the educational laws of a civilized country."

The Examiner heartily endorses every word Dr. Daly has said, in reference to that part of the law which provides for the imprisonment of public school pupils for truancy and we hope that all officers who are charged with its enforcement shall let it sleep, and later, bury it in oblivion where all inglorious things should be consigned.

Relative to the same matter, we give the views of Prof. Scott Leavitt, principal of the Lakview public school:

"Upon careful consideration, I find some provisions in the new law which I can heartily endorse, and some things which I as heartily oppose. Those provisions requiring the attendance of all children from 9 to 11 years of age throughout the entire term, unless physically unable to attend, living far from a schoolhouse, or taught privately, are, if reasonably applied, good. I have little objection to requiring those from 14 to 16 to attend school or work, if able. I believe that the system provided for ascertaining who are delinquent in attendance is very good. But in punishing delinquents the law oversteps itself.

Judge Lindsey of Denver, the great student and exponent of the juvenile court system, points out very conclusively that the tendency of jailing a boy or girl is to make a criminal. It destroys self respect, a most necessary thing to good manhood or womanhood, and associates him or her with hardened characters who make it a point to give instruction in evil ways.

Josiah Flynt, whose recent remarkable articles in the Success Magazine telling his life as a boy criminal and a world wide tramp, attributed his chief impulse toward a real life of worthlessness to lessons learned while in jail for a boyish escapade. He was not naturally bad, but he learned there a criminal pride and the ways of the under world. Don't jail a boy or girl for the folly of childhood: good men and women have thus been spoiled in the forming.

I like better the laws of many states which hold parents responsible for the attendance of their children. If a child is absolutely uncontrollable, the law may take him in hand; but it is a mistake to embitter a child toward the better things of life by being unduly harsh in forcing them upon him.

The section of the law raising the requirement for teachers are much-needed changes, and the provision whereby a pupil can demand his school money from a district not giving high school work, and go elsewhere, will work for good."

Joseph Gaston—Concluded.

What is true of conditions in the Harney Valley is equally true of the great valleys of the Deschutes, the John Day and Crooked rivers, the great valleys of Silver Lake, Christmas Lake, Klamath Lake, Goose Lake, the Oregon central wagon road grant, and the Chevaucan. I have seen and eaten just as fine apples and peaches raised at Silver Lake Valley and on the uplands north of Lakeview as anywhere else in Oregon. And now near Bend, in Crook county, J. O. Johnston is clearing five hundred acres of sage brush land, which is all to be planted in apples this fall and next spring. Men don't make such large investments without knowing they are safe. They have raised strawberries at Bend with as fine flavor and shipping qualities as at Hood River, and Hood River berries are considered the best in Oregon. That this region is to become as great a fruit growing district as any other part of the Pacific Coast, is a certainty, and that, too, without as yet the drawbacks of insect pests to combat. In the year of the largest crop ever produced in the United States (1906), Hood River apple growers sold their crop before it was picked from the trees to buyers in New York, at \$2.40 a box, for yellow Newtowns, and \$3.10 a box, for Spitzzenbergs, and making seven-year-old trees pay their owners a net profit of over \$650.00 per acre annually. Mr. L. Pelett, of Ashland, Oregon, shipped his crop of Bartlett pears to Montreal, Canada, and Boston, Massachusetts, giving him a net profit of \$350.00 an acre on his pear orchard. The cherry crop produced at La Grande, central eastern Oregon, was sold at prices sufficient to pay the growers \$500.00 an acre profit on their cherry orchards. From the little town of Freewater was shipped sixty carloads of prunes to New York and other eastern cities, for which the farmer received fifteen dollars per ton for the ripe fruit; each acre producing about twenty tons; and the net profit to the growers being about two hundred dollars per acre. This fruit was produced on average eastern Oregon soil, and such crops can be produced anywhere in the valley lands of central Oregon with proper cultivation.

Will these prices for fruit continue? All indications are that they will. Honorable E. L. Smith, of Hood River in an able paper prepared for the

NEW SECRETARY TO EXPEDITE PATENTS.

Over Thirty Thousand Have Accumulated In the General Land Office.

Secretary of the Interior Garfield as a result of various forms of hold up has issued an order which will expedite to the utmost the issuance of patents to the 30,000 entries that have accumulated at the general land office to get caught up with the work.



SECRETARY JAMES R. GARFIELD.

Northwest Fruit Growers Association, shows that apples are selling for more than they did thirteen years ago, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the planting of trees. Every new transportation line on land and sea is opening up new markets for Oregon fruit. New uses and forms of consuming the fruit are found in the progress of society. Even the refuse from the cider press in America is shipped to Europe to make cider wine, of which annually nearly a billion gallons, valued at eleven and one-half cents a gallon.

Oregon has more timber than any of the eastern states. The pine on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains is considered far superior in quality to the pine of Michigan, Georgia or Texas, and there is about one hundred billion feet of merchantable timber to the region we have been describing. And upon the uplands, between Klamath Falls and Lakeview, and upon the Chevaucan Mountains and Blue Mountains, there is at least fifty billion feet more of equally good pine. Such timber in Michigan and Minnesota at eight dollars a thousand. As soon as railroads penetrate this country all this timber will come into market and will be available at as much as two dollars per thousand, with a constantly increasing value.

To the gold miners belong the credit of conquering this section from the warlike Indians. Rifle in hand by fours and tens and twenties, the courageous gold seekers commenced going into the gulches and canyons of the Blue Mountain Islands, heretofore described, about the year 1861; and since that time more than one hundred million dollars in gold has been taken out of the mines of eastern Oregon.

Another source of mineral wealth is the great deposit of alkaline salts in the dried and drying lakes of Harney and Lake counties. The borax works at Rose Valley, in Harney county, have been successfully operated for nine years. The consumption of both soda and borax is rapidly increasing in the United States. Twenty-five years ago the annual production of borax in the United States did not exceed six hundred tons. Last year the production was thirty thousand tons. Vast amounts are used in glazing kitchen and sanitary wares. The

Pittsburg Sanitary Goods Manufacturing Company have their own works in California, to make the borax used in their own soda manufacturing. The amount of soda, in all forms, used in the United States last year amounted to a million tons, worth \$14.50 per ton.

This paper opened with the statement of a man of the widest experience in land seeking that here remains "the last low-priced tract of desirable lands located in a white man's country, with a charming climate, left on this continent." That is a sweeping statement; but it is true. The wild rush to get homesteads, whenever a little patch of an Indian reservation is opened, proves the exhaustion of good lands at ordinary entry. If a man wants to expatriate himself and swear allegiance to King Edward he can get good level land in Canada, in a very cold climate, producing nothing but wheat and grass. But the American citizen wants to make his home under the Stars and Stripes. While there is a senseless rush of young men and women to the cities to "get a job," "get a position," and be somebody's servant, there is a counter desire of thousands who have tried city life and want to get out on a little piece of their own land, be "their own boss," and sit down in peace, comfort and independence under their own apple tree.

Five railroad companies are now heading eight railroads into the central Oregon country. They have expended within the past year over one hundred thousand dollars in surveys alone to find the best routes on which to locate the proposed lines. This has not been done for show or to hoodwink the public. This is a peculiar country in its physical aspects. Traveling through it, carelessly, a man may think he is following a valley with well defined drainage outlet, only to find himself, at the end of a few miles, butting up against a mountain side or an impassable rim rock. The railroad man can not get into a buckboard and say "come on, here is the place for the road." It can only be determined by careful surveys. And such routes are being determined by the Great Southern Company, locating its line from the Columbia river south, through the Deschutes Canon to Bend, and on south to a connec-

tion with the new line at Lakeview; by the Columbia Southern surveying an extension of its line south from Shaniko to Madras, and thence on up the Deschutes Valley to a connection with the Harriman line from Burns; by the Oregon Short Line locating a line from Ontario up the Malheur Valley and southwest to Burns, and from there on to Bend; by the Southern Pacific building its branch road from Weed, on the California and Oregon line, north to Klamath Falls, and extending its line from Natron, in Lane County, southeast to Klamath Falls.

This country will be gridironed with railroads within three years. Money to build the Harriman lines has been set aside and they will be built.

The United States Government has had a large corps of engineers engaged for nearly two years gauging streams, surveying irrigation projects here, and has shown its determination to make good all promises by commencing the actual construction of the great irrigation works at Klamath Falls which will cost over four million dollars, and bring under irrigation water nearly two hundred and fifty thousand acres of land. The Government has the additional projects of irrigating canals at Paisley, Silver Lake, the Upper Deschutes, Harney Lake, and Malheur Valleys and the Umatilla, covering in all more than one million acres. More than \$25,000,000.00 is in the National Treasury devoted to irrigation projects in the West, of which sum Oregon contributed from the sale of public land, more than any other state, and has therefore an equitable claim for a larger expenditure of that fund within its borders than any other state. By the exact and thorough work of the Government engineers it has been ascertained that the Oregon rivers can furnish to the arid lands of the state, twelve million acre feet of water annually for irrigation at the localities mentioned. Counting nothing on artesian well water, which can be had in many places, as in Kansas, this amount of water will be sufficient to redeem all of eastern Oregon from the charge of aridity.

It is no wild guess, but a scientific deduction from all the facts and observations of physical geography, that this widespread irrigation and evaporation of such an enormous amount of water will change the climate of this region, and there will be, in a very short time, reasonable showers and ample rainfall to raise wheat on all the rich lands which are above the reach of the irrigating canal. Cultivation alone has an enormous effect in this direction. The correspondents cited in this paper speak of a change in the climate going on now. But experience in other regions bears out these assertions. It has not been fifty years since the greater parts of Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas were put down on the maps as the "Great American Desert". Within my recollection the limit of the successful cultivation of wheat in Kansas has been pushed back two hundred and fifty miles; and where it was thought no crop could be raised in that state forty years ago, one hundred million bushels of corn and wheat were raised in 1906. But this is not all the change that will take place. Little by little the dews, fogs, and showers will extend their fructifying influence from the neighborhood of the irrigated districts to the higher lands, and the result will first be a great increase in the crop of grass, enabling the raising of more cattle and sheep. And then next will follow, first on the higher hills and following down to the lowlands, a reforestation of all the hilly country.

Here, then, is the opportunity thousands have been waiting for—the opportunity of a lifetime. The Government offers practically free homes to those who will make some sacrifice of ease and comfort and bestow the time, labor and patience to earn them. It also offers its irrigated lands, with the water, the most productive land in the world, at a reasonable price, giving many years to pay for it in installments. The irrigation companies on the Deschutes River make the same offer. Thus to thousands is possible a home, comfort and independence, in a healthful climate and wide awake progressive country with all the facilities of education and culture. Here is your opportunity. How many will take advantage of it?

W. C. Bristol has been re-appointed U. S. district attorney for the district of Oregon.

HARRIMAN MAY BE DETHRONED.

Morgan Tries to Reconcile The President.

PRESIDENT SAYS HE MUST GO.

Great Railroad Magnate Unmindful of What is Lawful and What is Unlawful.

Before sailing for Europe, J. Pierpont Morgan sought to reconcile the differences between the President and the railroad magnates. When he found that the president was not hostile to all railroads, only the ones that did not respect the law, Mr. Morgan in a way, offered to promise that the presidents of railroads would be good, but Mr. Roosevelt answered, "this is not enough."

"What is the matter, then?" asked Mr. Morgan.

"Harriman," answered Mr. Roosevelt, grimly. "He has no conception of what is lawful and what is unlawful. He has a lawless nature. He has no moral sense. He is a menace to this country. He is a disgrace to the institution of railroads. He is a stigma upon those railway men and bankers who tolerate and condone and help him."

"Harriman does not know how to come within the law; he has got to go. The government proposes to follow him up and expose his dealings and practices against public decency until it will be impossible for him to stand up before the storm of public opinion which will overwhelm him."

It seems now that nothing will suit the president but the dethronement of Mr. Harriman. And to get rid of Mr. Harriman as the dominant railroad factor in the United States and reduce this control to such an extent as to place him at the mercy of the other railroads, instead of them being at his mercy, will be the next work of the great railroad interests of the country, in the cause of peace.

Killed Because He Snored.

A tragedy was unearthed a few days ago near Roseburg, which reveals one of the most gruesome crimes in the history of the state. Two men of more than middle age, who had been occasional inmates of the poor farm, it seems, were in the habit of living together at a small cabin in an obscure place, when not on the poor farm. According to the story of the survivor, Wm. Blohs, on last June, Blohs was awakened by the snoring of Philander Lemon, his companion, and was unable to go to sleep again, and raised a row with Lemon for disturbing him. Lemon retaliated and blows followed, Lemon being knocked down. While Lemon was down Blohs picked up an ax and struck him a blow on the head, killing him instantly. Blohs strapped the body of his dead companion to a board and dragged it about forty yards from the cabin, where he buried it in a shallow grave. He kept his secret until about a week ago, when he disclosed the fact to the sheriff. Lemon had been missed from the neighborhood, and being of a roaming nature, no one thought much about it, and when Blohs told his story it was believed he was crazy and this was his illusion. But when he was arrested and taken to the cabin, he detailed the circumstances so minutely that the officers thought there might be something in it and requested Blohs to show them to the grave of Lemon, which he did, and pointed out the exact spot where the body was buried. A shovel was secured and but a few shovels full of dirt revealed the body. Blohs is thought to be crazy.

We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. Geo. F. Atkins, of Corning Calif., Secretary of the Fort Bidwell Consolidated Gold Mining Co. The impression has gone out that this company is connected with the Los Angeles Mines Venture Co., which Mr. Atkins says it is a mistake. He says his company is a very strong one and that they will begin operations in the Hoag district as soon as they can get into this country. They will also incorporate a company in the Windy Hollow District, where they have some property.