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EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

[TO EDITOR OF TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT]

MR. EDITOR,—I wish you would say in the Headlight that school officers should be elected for their ability or efficiency, or for their good sense, and not because "it is Tom's turn," or "Dick wants it," or "Harry belongs to our party," or our church, or married my wife's sister.

That school directors have other duties than providing for impetuous relatives. That a good teacher is cheap and a poor one dear at any price.

That babies should not always be sent to school to "get them out of the way" (for a good teacher may be an indifferent nurse), neither should pupils be kept at home to do chores.

That a building so full of dirt, decay, disease, discomfort, disagreeableness and discouragement as to be totally unfit for anything else, will not necessarily make a good school-house.

That simply paying a man's school-tax will no more insure his children of a good education, than paying a minister-tax will give him a warranty deed of heaven.

There is a good deal of bovine wisdom ventilated upon the superior advantages of country life for the education of children. There may be an occasional patch of country where the conditions of a broad and wholesome training for youth are better than in the city. But, at present, we believe the best place for the training of boys, and especially girls, is not the lonely sphere of a run-down New England farming district, or the more isolated position of a settler in "the wild and woolly West," or a dweller among the "old fields" of the South. Among well-to-do people the health of girls, especially, is far better in large towns and the open cities than in the country; the opportunities for valuable cultivation of all kinds are concentrated in towns of 5,000 people and upwards. If the city offers greater temptations of a certain sort, it also attracts the young by the wonderful power of its organized philanthropy and religion. In an age like this, when the city newspaper penetrates every nook of wilderness it is not certain that the boy who tends the plow, full of impatience to behold the wonders of the town, with the vagrant imagination on fire with its opportunities for Bohemian life, is not in condition of greater moral peril than the son of a respectable citizen, hedged about with inspiring influences of home, church, school, and the myriad town attractions to a noble life. At any rate, our population is concentrating upon towns, and the duty of every good man is to make every city a great fortress and storehouse for the defence of truth and righteousness and the furtherance of all good things.

"No teacher should be allowed to teach who doesn't," is the handle to which a thousand and one blades may be fitted, any one of which will be sharp enough to lop a fellow, as an unworthy branch, off the trunk of the pedagogical profession. If all blades were fitted and used, nobody would be allowed to teach. The precincts of pedagogy would be environed with such punctilious terrors that no fool would dare to rush in, or angel presume to tread the sacred soil. But then, what would the schools do for teachers? According to the dicta of such educational jurists, your correspondent, Monsieur Headlight, has been read out of the profession just four hundred and ninety-nine times that he is aware of, and the number of times that he is not aware of is known only to the head operator at the central station of the universe's telephone. He has heard the educational fulmination, anathema sit; but he wouldn't sit. He has been laid out as a beautiful pedagogical corpse, waked, buried, laid under dull, cold marble, upon which was inscribed in

pace requisat; but he wouldn't seat worth a cent! Fancying they had got rid of him, boards of education, with sonorous uncton, would say to him and others, Dominus vobiscum; and he came right back and made it animated for them in their own tent. Monsieur Headlight, the process of evolution has not gone far enough to construct a teacher to agree with the plans and specifications of some pedagogical architects. It is well to have a lofty aim and a grand and beautiful ideal; but, as the soldier said to his captain, "How can you expect all the cardinal virtues on \$13 a month?" To fill the bill usually laid out for a teacher, the most perfect man would not be competent, and an angel would rattle around in it without making impression or noise. Granting scholarship and aptitude, what further is required to make you a good teacher? May be asked by the pedagogical novice. Answer: Be a man,—unless you are a woman.

It is accepted as an axiom with many that while the State may attend to the education of youth in the elementary branches, higher education should be left to private enterprise, and especially to denominational control. The truth is just the reverse. Sectarianism is by its nature unfitted for an educational agent, except in the line of its particular theology. So much effort must be put forth to perpetuate itself that little force is left to apply to secular education. So much material means is used up in oiling the running gear of a church that little is left to apply to practical education. Colleges are successful in direct ratio of their secular character.

Who has not observed the demoralization wrought by holidays? It is bad enough for the morals of children to have Saturday and Sunday, but when Thursday and Friday are holidays, the demoralization is awful. In the former case children do not wake up till Wednesday morning, Monday and Tuesday being almost lost for work. We sometimes think it would be better to teach without interruption for two hundred or two hundred and fifty days and then take a vacation that would be worth having. In such way the faculties would be kept awake and violent extremes of industry and indolence avoided and the school term need not extend into the heated season. With such a continued educational pull more could be done than by our present weekly jerks, in order to give which it takes two or three days to get a good hold. G. A. WALKER.

Why Balaam's Ass Spoke.

Frank Day seems to consider himself a committee of one to defend Governor Lind whenever that gentleman is attacked for some seeming shortcoming, says the Blue Earth, Minn., Post. His speaking for Lind reminds us of "something we just happened to think of."

A green looking country youth strolled into a store in the city. The proprietor, who stammered badly, was considerable of a wag, and, observing the apparent verdancy of the young fellow, decided to have some fun. He walked up to him and asked: "S.s.-say, ca-ca-can you tu-tu-tell me wh-wh-what m-m-made Ba-Ba-Balaam's a-a-ass speak?" "What did you say?" asked the puzzled youth. "I wa-wa-wanted to know if y-y-you ca-ca-can tu-tu-tell me wh-wh-what m-m-made Ba-Ba-Balaam's a-a-ass speak?" said the proprietor, getting red in the face from exertion.

"I don't understand you?" said the boy.

Then a very smart young clerk, with hair parted in the middle and with a rattle of cuff buttons, came forward, and, with a smile of superiority, said: "I see you cannot understand the old gentleman, and therefore I explain it to you: He wishes to know if you can inform him why Balaam's ass spoke, an incident we find related in the Bible."

"Oh," said the boy, while a ray of intelligence lit up his dirty face. "I shouldn't wonder if Balaam stuttered and he got his ass to speak for him."

INSURE WITH
Claude Thayer,
Agent for Fireman's Fund and London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Companies.

Falsehoods and Facts about the Fruit Products of Oregon.

A state official who resorts to gross exaggeration, not to say palpable falsehood, in an effort to disparage and slander the products of an adjoining state, especially when his own state can reap no benefit therefrom, must be a man with a very small and sour soul. This is the case, apparently, with J. E. Baker, the state horticulturist of Washington, if he be correctly reported in a dispatch from Tacoma published in a Seattle paper. In this he is reported to have said that "Washington has so far outstripped Oregon in bidding for and placing fruits in the Eastern markets that the latter state has practically little or no demand for its orchard products outside of its borders. This is chiefly caused by the Oregon fruit being almost universally infected by the codlin moth. The Hood river country, Mr. Baker says, supplies the only good fruit found in the state."

Such slanderous exaggerations as this will not be approved by any of the fair and responsible horticulturalists of Washington. It is, in part, such a "gross, open and palpable" lie that it will do Oregon no harm, and will be repudiated by the fruitgrowers of our sister state, whose interests are identical with those of Oregon. A friendly emulation between the states, in this as well as in other matters, is not censurable; it is rather to be encouraged, but the spirit of bitter jealousy, prompting to malicious slanders and preposterous falsehoods, is to be reprehended and despised. This habit of disparaging and trying to degrade everything done or originating south of the state line has become chronic with a few people and papers over in the newer state, and a very small and contemptible business it is. An imaginary state line, nor even the width of a river like the Columbia, doesn't change the character of soil or climate on either side; doesn't separate good from bad. The products of the river counties of Washington are necessarily much the same as those of Oregon, and when an official of Washington rates all the fruits of Oregon as bad, he befools his own horticultural nest. It is true that the apple orchards of Western Oregon are badly affected with the codlin moth, and if the orchards of Western Washington are coast, at least, than in portions of nearly all the counties of Eastern Oregon. This is the case in the Hood river valley and other portions of Wasco county, in the Walla Walla valley and along streams in Umatilla county, in the Cove and other localities in Union and Walla Walla counties, in large districts in Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties, and in no inconsiderable areas in Baker, Grant and Malheur counties; altogether comprising a very large area, capable of sustaining thousands of people, largely by the production of winter apples, and through the Willamette valley does not produce, as a rule, as sound and perfect apples as is desirable, it does produce an immense quantity of good fruit, and several of its fruitgrowers also received prizes for various kinds of fruit at the Omaha exposition. Southern Oregon is an exceptionally fine fruit region, and its fame as such has long ago spread to the Eastern markets. It was an Oregon apple and Oregon peaches that took first prizes in the world's fair, and it is becoming generally known and acknowledged in Eastern cities that Oregon fruit, if sound and properly packed and shipped, ranks as first-class. Oregon prunes are especially in demand, and the quantity produced is rapidly increasing. In a recent issue, the Chicago Wholesale Grocer said:

"During the last few days a large number of Oregon prunes of the Italian variety, in size 40 to 50 and 50 to 60, have been offered in this market, and as the quality has been exceptionally fine, a number of sales have been made, and this line is apparently meeting with the favor of the trade."
Within the last few weeks The Oregonian has published many similar items about Oregon prunes. There has been a hungry call for them from Eastern cities, and the demand, even at increased prices, at which prune-growing is very profitable, could not be supplied. In a few years Oregon will raise ten times as many prunes of the best quality as now, without any fear of begging for a market for them. In other fruits and in berries Oregon is known to be prolific, and the quality is generally equal to that of any competing fruit.

HAMMOND'S TIMBER DEALS.

It is stated on apparently good authority, says the News, that A. B. Hammond has quit buying timber lands on the line of the proposed Tillamook railroad. It is claimed that his timber land purchases have heretofore been confined to the spruce belt, and that he has bought up the bulk of the spruce lands from the mouth of the Necanicum to a point east of Tillamook city on the Nehalem slopes. It is also said that he is now turning his attention to the fir belt and has hired cruisers to explore the Lewis and Clark, Youngs and Klaskanine river regions. Max Young, the cruiser, has the job in that country. Much mystery and concealment at first surrounded those purchases, but towards the last it was an open secret that they were made by Mr. Hammond for the "Astoria Company," a New Jersey corporation that holds the railroad subsidy. It is stated, with a show of confidence, by those who have some insight in the business, that C. P. Huntington, J. Pierpont Morgan and John Claffin, of the H. B. Claffin Company, are Mr. Hammond's associates in that corporation. It is understood that Max Young's cruising job will last three months.

The special value of the spruce timber is due to the fact that it can be shipped East from Astoria to greater advantage than fir. The Grays harbor and Willapa spruce belts are the only other large bodies of spruce, and the railroads get a better rate per thousand. The common point rates for fir shipped from Astoria leave Portland some advantage in the Eastern markets. Mr. Hammond has not bought up all the spruce in his territory. It is estimated that he has some 80,000 acres on the south slopes of the Nehalem and some 45,000 acres on the north slopes and on the Necanicum slopes. It is said, though, his purchases have been shrewdly made so as to surround isolated holders and cut them off from the market. These tracts are expected to fall into his lap when the fruit is ripe.

Many Astorians have been hoping that, when Mr. Hammond got all the spruce timber he wanted, he would let up on the town and give the people a show for their white alley—let them get some returns for their big railroad subsidy. Indications, too, have pointed in that direction. Active steps seem to be stirring for securing a sawmill site. The visit of Gov. Stone, of Warren, Pa., and his examination for a site is thought by some to have been in sympathy with Mr. Hammonds purpose to start a great saw mill. The same idea is expressed about the visit of Mr. Gilchrist, of Michigan, and his trip over the bay, with Hammond and W. W. Curtiss the Albany sawmill partner of Mr. Hammond.



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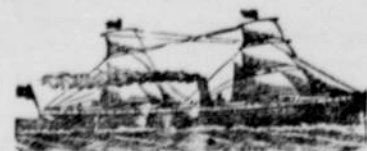


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