

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.
Some Good Recommendations Made.

The first regular meeting of the new city council was held on Monday, when there was a full attendance of members, the council being now composed of Mayor Thos. Coates and Councilmen F. W. Talbot, G. P. Wilt, B. C. Lamb, Geo. Bennett and W. C. Catterlin.

The first order of business was the reading of the Mayor's message, which was as follows:

Tillamook, Oregon, Jan., 16, 1909. To the Honorable Common Council of Tillamook City, Oregon:

Gentlemen:—At this time it is the duty of your Mayor, under the provisions of the City Charter, to communicate to you by message, "a general statement of the conditions and affairs of the municipal corporation and recommend such measures as he may deem expedient, and proper," or, in other words, to outline the policy of the administration.

In the first place, the financial statement of the City Recorder shows that the City, on January 1st, 1909, had an indebtedness of warrants outstanding and unpaid for want of funds amounting to \$6,265.99, with cash on hand \$127.22, leaving a net indebtedness of \$5,838.77.

For the ensuing year, the revenue to be derived from the tax levy for general purposes should, in theory, be \$2,878.33, but allowing for rebates and other leakages, the amount you can depend upon may not exceed \$2,750.00. Out of this fund the city is under contract to pay \$100.00 per month or \$1,200.00 for the year for street lights, leaving \$1,550.00 at your disposal from this source.

The revenues from licenses is small for the reason that very few licenses are exacted and those in small sums, while that from fines seems to indicate that during the past year the people have been extremely orderly and law abiding, the total revenue from both sources amounting to only \$417.00 during the year.

Given the same amount this year, you will have a total revenue on the General Fund of something like \$2,000.00.

During the coming year there will no doubt be many changes in our city. With the prospect of a railroad in the near future, many strangers are desirous of settling and investing their money in our midst. In order to attract a substantial, industrious class of citizens it is necessary to have a well ordered community, and it is the duty of every officer and every inhabitant to work and act with that end in view. While the responsibility, in a measure, rests with the citizens at large, yet the Common Council is the body on which the people depend for their guidance and regulation, and any laxness or neglect on your part is immediately reflected upon the community.

From time to time our City is visited by a class of men who loiter about the town at all hours of the day and night, without any visible means of support or definite occupation. In order that your marshal and police may exercise a supervision over this class of people, I would recommend that this Council take immediate action to pass a vagrancy ordinance.

Another thing which I would urgently recommend is that you make a sincere effort to become familiar with your duties. The city charter sets forth what are the duties of the various officers. It does not lie within the province of the mayor or council to order the enforcement of any particular ordinance and the non-enforcement of another. It is not just to yourselves or to the people to allow ordinances which have been duly passed to be disregarded until they are forgotten, and then at a mere whim, possibly, of an officer, holder it may be mayor, councilman or marshal, resurrected, disturbing the whole routine of business, creating ill-will and dissatisfaction, often causing an expense to really law-abiding citizens. If the ordinances are not to be repealed, but once in effect, they should be kept in force without favor until they are duly repealed.

In the matter of street improvements will be taken up without delay, for reason that it takes several months to go through the necessary steps to give the proper notices for a street improvement before the actual work can be undertaken. All such work should be arranged that the necessary materials can be obtained and work completed at the lowest possible cost to the city in time to collect the assessments. Many, during the administration, orders the improvement, and no should be undertaken until such as taken that the cost may be a lien upon the abutting or adjoining property as set forth in the city charter.

There is also near at hand when you will be compelled to install a sewerage system. This has been demanded by several of my predecessors, but the completion of our system, and a rapidly growing population, water closets, bath tubs and showers whereby large quantities of sewage water are to be disposed of, the necessity more urgent than ever under any circumstance it will be time to devise ways and means upon the proper kind of a

system, make the necessary surveys and plans and take other preliminary steps, and for that reason I would recommend that you take some action toward putting the project in shape for discussion and consideration by the citizens at large.

Above all, I would recommend that you invite the fullest discussion of all measures which pass through your hands, not only on your own part, but by the citizens at large, and remember that you are not doing business for yourselves alone, but for Tillamook City. Respectfully submitted, THOS. COATES, Mayor.

It was decided to take up bills at the first meeting in each month.

The Mayor announced that he would appoint the committees at the next meeting of the city council.

The city marshal was instructed to file a bond.

J. A. Illingsworth was appointed special policeman, whereas the Mayor appointed him street commissioner, and the appointment was confirmed, his salary being placed at \$1 per month for policeman and \$49 for street commissioner.

Henry Crenshaw was appointed fire warden and policeman.

Should Parents Visit the Public School.

It is a common thing for people to say, and teachers to think, especially in suburban towns and villages, that the omission of parents to visit the schools where their children are instructed, is an indication that they take little or no interest in the matter, and rely entirely on the wisdom of the school board, or the faithfulness and ability of the teachers. Unquestionably there are mothers and fathers who treat the subject in this way, the same as they pay little or no regard to the companions of their children or their whereabouts out of school hours; parents who leave the back door unfastened at night and go comfortably to bed leaving the boys and girls to find their way in as hens do in to the hen house. But by far the greater number do take an interest in the education of their children, they know that a large portion of the money raised by taxation is expended to support the schools, and they are anxious to know if the money is well laid out.

Even wealthy bachelors and married men without children to send to the public school pay this tax cheerfully, and point with pride to the high school building as they show their visitors the town. Yet when asked if they ever visit the schools, they answer no, and might ask, "Why should we?" And the reply would probably be, "To encourage the teachers and to establish bonds of sympathy with them," of which sympathy the dear children are the connecting links. This sentimental talk about bonds of sympathy is about a half-century out of date. The people are not fools; they know what is going on in the schools; they know it by their children's manners, their language, their progress, and that, too, without any body intentionally or unintentionally having been guilty of telling tales out of school. Besides, how many teachers would like to be encouraged in that way? Take a school of fifty scholars, and suppose that each scholar has two members of the household that visit the school six times each school year; this in a year of forty weeks would average three visitors a day. Supposing each one to stay twenty minutes, there is one hour of the teacher's time lost by receiving and giving attention to these callers, who generally go away with very little knowledge of how boys and girls are instructed. The ways of teachers are so constantly varying that the parent of a ten years old child would scarcely recognize the school of today as being a continuation of the school he attended thirty years ago. A teacher's time is so exactly mapped out that even one visitor will interrupt the whole day's schedule, and the children lose by the interruption. If the visitors are talkative, they accept the courteous invitation of the teacher to "say a few words," and another quarter of an hour is lost.

The hours of school-time, as now arranged, make it very difficult for either fathers or mothers to inspect the schools. The former are at their business, and the latter have domestic cares which claim their attention; and unless some special day occurs, when the pupils, dressed in their best bib and tucker, speak pieces and sing songs, they will not interrupt their duties for this purpose; in fact, many of them cannot, any more than public school teachers can leave their charge for an hour to run out to a fire to see if the firemen are faithful and efficient.

The children are doing well enough, and the teachers are doing well enough; and if the public have confidence in the system, the way in which it is administered, and the personnel of the crops, it is just as well to let well enough alone. The presence of parents in the school room is usually a source of embarrassment, and, in the majority of cases of parental visitation, all parties feel foolish. The teacher is glad when the visit is over, the children are glad and the parent is gladdest of all. Most of this visitation is perfunctory, and performed by the less judicious parents—generally the mothers. It is a bad sign of a woman; it puts the idea into one's head of calling for Mrs. Jellyby, to see her making airless tours of the schools.

It suggests a disorderly household. It is a worse sign in a man—an indication that he is out of business, or a professional philanthropist. The best plan is to give the schools good teachers, and then let them alone. If the teachers are not good, the children will soon find it out and let the parents know.

In conclusion, "Why should parents and tax-payers visit the public schools?" Do the stockholders of a cotton or a woolen mill have to visit the mill to know if their agents or operatives are skillful and faithful? And would they know any better if they did? Do they look for the results of that mill work—the semi-annual dividends, and the price of the stock in the market? That tells the story far plainer than the clatter of the looms and whirl of the spindles.

If a barrel of flour is given to a cook, it is not by visiting the kitchen and seeing her mix dough, and standing in her way and asking questions that we know she is capable of her profession. We find that out at the table, when the bread is ready for use. It is then that we are reminded either that "bread is the staff of life," or of the homely saw, "The Lord sends viuals, but the devil sends cooks."

So it is at home that the faithfulness and efficiency of the teacher is most plainly manifest. It is after supper, when the evening lamp is lighted, and the children are gathered around it, that the teacher's labors begin to show. This is the time to "say a few words" to them. But do not expect too much at once. Some children are bright and some are dull. Even a school ma'am, with her woman's wit and deft fingers, cannot "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

Visiting schools by parents, if done at all, should be done with a purpose, and should be a requirement made by teachers upon parents, and not an excursion of idle curiosity and impertinent meddling by the latter.

In enjoining to govern without corporal punishment, good use can be made of compulsory attendance of parents at school, by order or request of the teacher. The proper stand for the teacher to take, is that her school is all right. In cases of discipline, with corporal punishment out of the question, before the child is suspended the parent should be summoned to the school to answer for the conduct of the child, and the parent's responsibility for that conduct. This should not be made a pleasure trip for the parent, but rather a disagreeable duty—a duty which in most cases proves so irksome to the parents that they generally assume a degree of responsibility for the child's conduct, and an interest in his school department that almost invariably results in an improvement which could never be brought about by a capricious, or even judicious use of the rod.

In utilizing parental skills for the purpose of avoiding the practice of corporal punishment, it is a good plan to invite the mother twice or three time, and if this does not prove efficacious, to call in the father as a last resort, before the suspension of the pupil. In such cases parental permission, or request that the child be punished by the teacher, should never be acted on. Let the parent perform that little duty. The people that most earnestly request the teacher to whip their children are the very ones to make a fuss about it when it is done, if, in the heat of the chastisement and through resistance of the child, the punishment has gone a little too far.

I hope that nothing in this article will be construed into an objection on the part of teachers to see parents in the schools. I merely suggest that parental visitation is not an unimproved good, and that the absence of it is not so dreary and deplorable a state of things as one would imagine from the lugubrious expostulations of some people. A school may be as busy and happy as a group of ants, till the advent of a visitor produces on it an effect of a spill of water, or the dropping of a pebble.

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