

PEDAGOGUE SCORES THE EDITOR.

One of the Causes Why Taxation is Continually on the Increase.

Nehalem, Ore., Nov. 25, 1913. Editor Tillamook Headlight, Tillamook, Ore.

Dear Mr. Editor: Reading your valuable paper of last week's issue, and in one of your editorials you seem to be misinformed or not well up on educational affairs, and particularly along the teaching line and profession, as you say "There is no sense nor logic in closing up the entire schools of the county at the tax payers' expense, while the teachers talk shop."

Evidently you have never taken any part in school work (as teacher,) only getting your own individual schooling in what ever schools that may have been, which I hope has been from some College or University and that from the Department of Journalism, or you would not have made the erroneous and sarcastic remark you did about the teachers of Tillamook County, who met in your city the 12th, 13th, and 14th of this month for the sole purpose of educational advancement.

Now my kind friend, in explanation to the "Sense and Logic" of teachers' institutes is this - We meet for educational instructions, - the general idea; that we may get new ideas and methods from advanced instructors, exchange of ideas from one another, what they are doing, the result of their progress and success along the same line.

The State Superintendent instructs us along a line, which makes the whole school system of Oregon operate the same as in a large city. He may find the teachers having some difficulty along a particular line of work in a county, which can be overcome; such instances are only minor and rare, as our State Course of Study is too well worked out to the needs of the public schools of Oregon. Advocating the same ideas, plans and principles in every county makes uniformity in all work, which is to the advantage of teachers and the pupils.

The County Sup't. has all of the teachers in a body for any and all instructions, which he too may want to give, or work out with them; making a further continuation of local uniformity and cooperation.

We get extraordinary instructions, educational ideas and valuable school methods, being a help to us in our daily work, and in the end the pupils benefit by our attendance to the county teachers' institute.

The institute instructors go from one county to another, having a series of lectures, which they have worked on for an unlimited time. They are specialists in the teaching profession, having made it life work; being able to give valuable information and thought to receptive minds, which is an inspiration to every ambitious teacher; causing them to go back to their schools with better and stronger determination to produce the best of best results in the school room.

There is also a state teachers' meeting once a year, similar to county institute for the purpose of state affairs in general, where the

county institute is for the county. Here teachers get educational ideas from different states as well as foreign countries.

The teachers of Tillamook County, who met Nov 12-14 in your city, were all more than well repaid for their time, money and energy spent. They will teach a much better school, have more interest and enthusiasm; pupils will learn more and faster; have a better spirit; more will make up for all time lost by the teachers' attendance at County Institute.

Doctors, lawyers, ministers, dairymen, fruit growers, farmers, commercial men and others have work. We are instructing boys and girls in things, which will help them to make their living more advantageously and to be a better citizen of the state, for this we are paid from public funds. We give a just consideration.

By these county institutes, the schools, pupils, parents, friends and every one else is benefited several times over, which no sane man, who understands, thoroughly educational affairs, and especially along the line of teaching profession will attempt to deny.

The demand for the closing of all schools, and the attendance of all teachers to the County Institute is a common cause viz: The Public Schools and The Boys and Girls, whom the teachers teach, and not to talk shop, as you have said hastily, unjustly, unfairly, and uncourteously to the good teachers of Tillamook County.

Now then! My friend, when all this is done for your children and your posterity - You the benefactors in this case, can you conscientiously, wisely and deliberately object to the little paltry sum allowed to the honest, hard working teachers, who are laboring for the upbuilding of the education for the benefit of the boys and girls?

Suppose no teacher were to attend an educational meeting for the next twenty years. What kind of a state of affairs do you suppose the schools would be in? Will you not frankly admit, that the schools of Oregon are better today, than even five years ago, and far superior to twenty five years ago? Fourteen years ago this state had only five High Schools, having a full course. Today she has over one hundred and twenty; besides many having the three, two and one year courses. At that time one third of the rural schools were maintaining but three months - just what the law compelled them to have; now they have six months.

While ten years ago it was hard to keep the boys and girls in half of the schools until they finished the 8th grade. Certainly! haven't the teachers of the state done good work on their part toward the upbuilding of education; and haven't the people received just returns, when toward all over the state are building magnificent school buildings, putting in good apparatus; hiring excellent teachers, while the pupils are receiving a fine high school education. All these years the teachers have attended county institute, the same as this year, but not for "shop".

Suppose again! Kind Editor, that all teachers were to stop teaching, nor not allowed to teach - no instructions nor education to be had, nor received by any pupil for

the next twenty years, or more if you wish, what kind of young people do you suppose you would find? How well do you suppose they could manipulate political and domestic affairs? Would you want to let your children grow up in such ignorance, each become an ignoramus?

If you don't see the "Sense nor Logic" in your statement, and the tax is so strenuous, why don't you go one step further in your argument and say "You don't see any Sense nor Logic" in teachers work nor the school and close all out? Then you know there will be no bother whatever of tax. There is just as much argument in that as, what you did say, which has no foundation whatever, unjustifiable to the schools and a hindrance to the education of the state, while the quicker such is stamped out the better. The educational department of the state has suffered long enough from the evils in the state.

Take the teachers and their work out of a state, and you will have a queer set of citizens in a short time. For e.g. Mexico and China. China the country having had no free public schools for over three hundred years, since 1818. What was the result of making them?

From all the improvement in buildings over the state, extension of courses of study, interest of public for education; any sane man must conclude the public considers it a good investment. Neither do we hear patrons of the school and pupils complain because their teacher attends county institutes, nor are they sarcastic enough to say "it for the teachers to congregate and talk "shop".

You want all the education you can get for your children. Would you be just as willing for them to have the same chance if you had to pay a tuition? Send them away to finish the grammar grades and high school work as people did in and after Colonial Times. Thousands of boys and girls of the state would not receive a 3rd grade education. You must have considered education a good thing in your younger days or else you never could have ascended to the editorial chair.

From your editorial, you must have been pessimistic; the tax assessment must have appeared like mud, then to take revenge on the teachers, and teachers' institute puts one in mind of a spontaneous combustion. Certainly you were not in attendance during any of the sessions of institute.

Your statement is certainly far from complimentary to the county Sup't., who has labored hard for the good of the schools and pupils of the county. It is likewise the same to the State Sup't., who was there and gave valuable assistance to all and who is a thorough school man, understanding school work from kindergarten to college; maintaining his position, as head of Baker City schools over twenty years.

There are teachers in the schools of this county who are College and University graduates; having spent their time and money in careful preparation, now doing the best of work, to my own knowledge; while a large percent of the rest are high school graduates of excellent quality and good teachers - all teachers doing grand work. Then

for an unscrupulous editor to use such criticism is certainly a climax not acceptable.

If the idea was for "shop" we would be unloyal to our work and profession - no more nor less than school keepers or time keepers. All of the teachers hold official receipts signed by the County Sup't., while many attended 18 hours, the greatest possible attendance, this obviates the idea of "shop" talk.

This county has up-to-date teachers, possessed with knowledge, skill and ability; still more they possess adaptability. They are giving the people what they want - better schools every year. If you doubt this visit them and find out. In all probability you may not have been inside of our schools for many years, as your sentiment indicates.

I did not go to the county institute to talk "shop." I have higher ideals than that. If your compliment you gave us is the best you have I have an opinion of you. As for my part I feel highly insulted and slandered. I don't know what you think but I think you think mud and care less by showing your disinterest.

CHAS. L. HOLWAY.

It would be a good idea for our correspondent to be brief and confine himself to the point. It is not our purpose to answer this long-winded letter in full, but we want to say before defining our position the correspondent did not have the good judgment to confine his criticism to the newspaper where the article he objected to originated. The matter we had under discussion was the county budget, continual increase in taxation and where some of the leakage occur. Surely taxpayers and the Press have more right to discuss this than Prof. Holway, who, probably received his education so as to fit him to become a teacher at the taxpayers' expense, and is receiving wages paid by tax money. We will reiterate what we said about county teachers' institutes and add a few additional remarks to convince the taxpayers that money is being wasted in our school system. Every State and National holiday the schools are closed, also a week's holiday at Christmas and for three days for the institute, not at the teachers' expense, but at the taxpayers' expense, and we may add by way of parenthesis that in fixing the dates for county institutes that Saturday, when teachers have nothing to do, is never included. It is the continual feast of holidays and recesses that help to make teaching more expensive than it should be. Besides the holidays we have enumerated, school commences at nine o'clock in the morning and continues until four, with three recesses in that short length of time. Now let us make a comparison, for our correspondent seems to think that teachers are hard worked. There are scores of dairymen, men with large sums invested, and men

who pay big taxes, who do four or five hours really hard work before our correspondent commences a comparatively easy and short day's work in the school, and they have to pump a lot of cows after the "professor" has donned his duds to take sixteen hours of recreation and rest and 32 hours thrown in between Friday afternoon and Monday morning, this precaution being taken to ward off any likelihood of teachers dying from hard work. Now with regard to teachers' institutes. We want to say we have no objection to teachers holding them at their own expense and in their own time - not at the expense of the taxpayers, for while the teachers are talking shop the entire school population is left in idleness and the restless to get into mischief. The taxpayers pay out enormous sums of money for higher education and to prepare persons for teaching, and we take the stand that when teachers do accept positions they should be competent to do so and not require a score of instructors to run all over the state to give them a little more coaching. Another thing, the instructors from the State University, Agricultural College and State Normal must be neglecting their duties there. We have lived long enough in the world to see through our correspondent's style of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch your back" with office holders. We will not digress along that line at the present time. It matters little to us whether our correspondent calls us pessimistic or any other name, but we want to inform him that when taxation is becoming burdensome it is about time that the Press pointed out the leakage, one of which is having to pay teachers out of the public treasury for attending teachers' institutes and so many holidays. In closing we hope that the school system of the county will be changed with only one school board, equal taxation, equal months of teaching in every district, certain number of high schools in convenient places, grammar and high school grades to commence studies at eight in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon, and that teachers should only be paid for the time they are employed in teaching, the same as employees in other occupations, for we do not see why school teachers are a privileged class to be paid for time and work they never performed. The taxpayers, and not the taxpayers, are the citizens who should discuss this subject, for the dairymen, butter and cheese makers, when they held their conventions in this city, were not tugging at the taxpayers' teat when they did so. It is proposed to raise about \$500,000 in taxes, and it is safe to say that our correspondent will pay next to nothing in taxes.

Administratrix's Notice.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Tillamook County. In the matter of the estate of Gordon Dugger, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, - That the undersigned have been appointed administratrix of the above named estate, by the above named Court, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, duly verified, with proper vouchers to the undersigned, at the office of T. B. Handley, in Tillamook City, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated November 20th, 1913. ALMA PIERSON, Administratrix of the Estate of Gordon Dugger, deceased.

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