

FOR A NEW SCHOOL SYSTEM

Movement on Foot to Make the County the Unit of the School Organization.

The Plan Finds Much Favor, and an Effort May Be Made to Have the Legislature Take Action in the Matter Next Winter.

(From Daily Statesman Nov. 10.)
 There is considerable discussion throughout the state, regarding a new system of public schools, by a more thorough organization, and the doing away with the many school district boards. Prominent educators have recently discussed the advisability of having the school laws of Oregon so changed as to make the county the unit of school organization, instead of the district, by placing the entire schools of the county in charge of a board of directors composed of three men, they to take the place of the scores and hundreds of boards, under the present system, and thus giving all the schools in the county the same advantages as now enjoyed only by the city schools, and placing the best and most up-to-date methods of popular education within the reach of every child in the county. The matter has attracted considerable attention wherever discussed, and several prominent members of the Legislature are discussing the advisability of introducing a bill in the next Legislature, looking toward introducing this system in Oregon.

The system is now in successful operation in some of the states, and it is looked upon with great favor wherever tried. In Richmond county, Georgia, the system is in operation, and Prof. Lewton B. Evans, superintendent of schools of that county, in discussing the advantages of it, in the report on rural schools of the Committee of Twelve of the National Educational Association, says of its advantages:

"I believe very firmly that the county or township is the proper unit of educational organization. If one system of schools can be made to extend over a whole county, including the city and villages, the organization will be upon a basis of territory. By this means the entire country can after awhile be brought under a uniform organization. So long as the organization is by cities we merely organize by locality, which can never be uniform or entire. It will always remain a one-sided development. A proper policy is to induce the people hereafter to organize by area rather than by spots. The effect of this will be to give to the rural child the same school advantages as to the city child, and there is every reason in equity and good sense why these advantages should be the same.

"I come from an illustration of this kind of organization, and it may not be amiss to tell something of the schools of Richmond county, Ga., in which county is situated the thriving city of Augusta. Here for the past twenty-five years has been in operation what is known as the county system.

"One board of education, composed of representatives elected by the people for a term of three years, one-third of the membership expiring every year, has charge of the entire school interests of the county of Augusta, and of the county of Richmond. This board of education has the unique power of levying a school tax directly upon the people of the county, without revision by any other authority and without any limit as to rate or amount. The school tax is levied and collected as a uniform rate upon all property of the county, whether it is in the city or out of it. This forms the general school fund of the county, supplemented by the state appropriation.

"When it comes to the distribution of this fund no regard is paid to the amount raised by any ward of the city or any district of the county, but the fund is distributed according to the necessities of each ward and district, determined by the number of children to be educated. The school fund of the whole county is raised by a tax on all the property of the county, and is distributed upon the basis of the school population of each community. Thus it happens that a community rich in manifest else but children will get a flourishing school paid for by its wealthier but less fortunate neighbors.

"As a matter of fact, a large part of the money paid by the city is annually spent in the rural districts, for the city has nine-tenths of the taxable property, but only three-fourths of the school population. So it happens that the rural schools pay one-tenth of the school tax and receive the benefit of one-fourth of it. Augusta has spent in the past twenty years its sum of \$200,000 in building schoolhouses, and paying school teachers for the children who live in the county districts around her. Augusta has shown her faith in the proposition that each city needs to be educated by an intelligent, industrious and contented population.

"When it comes to the teachers the same qualifications are demanded for rural schools as for city schools. Upon the regular examination terms, and a passing of licenses to teach, no applicant does not know whether he will teach in the city or out of it, and to many it is a matter of indifference. And I know whereof I speak when I say that there are young women graduates of normal colleges doing high-grade work in country schools ten miles beyond the limits of the city, and doing it happily and cheerfully. We believe firmly in the further proposition that a country school is entitled to as good a teacher as a city school, and that those who live in the fields are as deserving of education as those who dwell beside the asphalt. Carlyle must have had a country child in his mind when he said: 'This I consider a great tragedy; that one soul should remain in ignorance that had capacity for higher things.'

A BIG GAIN.

Prohibitionists Pleased with Their Big Increase Since 1896.

CHICAGO, Nov. 9.—Besides McKinley and Bryan, there were five other men in the field with aspirations to the office of President of the United States.

In Chicago alone Eugene V. Debs, as head of the Social Democratic ticket, leads the other minor candidates by a total vote of 522; John G. Woolley, the Prohibition candidate followed second with a vote of 2335, while the Socialist Labor party with Joseph E. Maloney received 205; Wharton Barker for the People's party 189, and Seth H. Ellis of the "Union Reform for Direct Legislation" party found 90 scattering votes.

At the National Prohibition headquarters it was estimated last night that the total vote in the nation would exceed 400,000. This estimate was based on the receipt of about 400 telegrams received from 28 states. This is more than three times the vote cast for Levering in 1896. John G. Woolley anticipates a vote approximating 500,000, leaving his claim upon the county precincts which are yet to report. Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania are thought to have polled a vote fully four times as large as in 1896. Illinois is estimated at nearly three times the vote of 1896, or 27,000.

WILL BE ELECTROCUTED.

MARYSVILLE, O., Nov. 9.—Judge Horn this afternoon sentenced Rosslyn Ferrell to be electrocuted on Friday, March 1st, for the murder of Express Messenger Lane, August 10th, last.

LOSS OF PROPERTY

LINCOLN COUNTY FILES ITS TAX ROLL SUMMARY.

A Considerable Decrease in the Total Taxable Property and in the Tillable Lands.

The clerk of Lincoln county yesterday filed the summary of the assessment roll of that county in the Department of State for use of the State Board of Levy. The summary shows a decrease of \$177,293 in the taxable property of the county, and also shows a loss of 726 acres of tillable land, or over 15 per cent. The following is the summary of the roll as received yesterday:

3323 acres tillable land.....	\$ 34,961
143,325 acres non-tillable.....	270,313
Imp. on deeded lands.....	41,904
6262 town and city lots.....	78,310
Imp. on town lots.....	44,795
Imp. on undeeded lands.....	7,410
42 miles railroad bed.....	40,000
61 1/2 miles tel and tel lines.....	905
Rolling stock.....	8,527
Steamboats etc.....	10,450
Merchandise, etc.....	26,407
Farming implements, etc.....	3,721
Money.....	3,020
Notes and accounts.....	6,610
Household furniture, etc.....	14,655
506 horses and mules.....	9,372
2824 cattle.....	40,209
3013 sheep.....	8,026
2408 goats.....	4,616
222 swine.....	446
Gross value property.....	\$153,882

Exemptions.....	98,314
Total taxable property.....	\$384,578
For purposes of comparison the summary of the 1899 roll is given below, showing in what items the losses occurred:	
4662 acres tillable land.....	\$ 46,437
161,853 acres non-tillable.....	303,148
Imp. on deeded lands.....	35,545
Value of town lots.....	133,869
Imp. on town lots.....	55,545
Imp. on undeeded lands.....	8,500
42 miles railroad bed.....	40,000
Rolling stock.....	8,527
61 1/2 miles tel and tel lines.....	905
Value steamboats, etc.....	10,450
Merchandise, etc.....	23,500
Value farm implements.....	4,129
Money.....	3,015
Notes and accounts.....	12,725
Household furniture.....	17,020
512 horses.....	7,400
2,114 cattle.....	22,054
2832 sheep.....	8,778
283 swine.....	587

Gross value of property.....	\$833,150
Exemptions.....	71,309
Total taxable property.....	\$761,841

AWED BY STRANGE CALLERS.

Masked men, spooks, midnight visitation and mystery are mixed up in a story which Jacob Gilman, farmer of Brookdale, N. J., has told to the police. Gilman says his place has been visited in his absence by armed masked men, who threatened to blow his wife's head off unless she signs a paper which they have presented to her. He says she was too frightened to note the contents of the document.

After three visits Gilman aroused his neighbors, and the country about his place was scoured, but no trace found of the mysterious strangers. Gilman hired a man, but when he went to the barn to look after the live stock the masked men again visited Mrs. Gilman and threatened her. He then hired a negro for a body guard, but they again put in an appearance and fired three shots at her. Gilman will employ detectives.

Justice took the bandage off her eyes, laid aside her sword, seized a bow and quiver of arrows, and started out briskly for a hunt.

"What are you going to do with those toys?" asked Wisdom.

"I am going to shoot Folly as it flies," answered Justice.

"My dear child," rejoined Wisdom, "you will need a gatling gun."—Chicago Tribune.

MANY BILLS AUDITED

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT CONTINUES ITS SESSIONS.

Several Minor Orders Docketed, Among Them Being Rebates on Wide-Tire Wagons.

(From Daily Statesman Nov. 10.)
 The Marion county court continued its session yesterday and outside of a few minor routine matters, the day was spent in auditing bills, this being an unusually heavy month. At the close of the day's work the court took a recess until 9 a. m. today, when the session will be resumed.

The report of County Clerk W. W. Hall, for witness fees before the circuit court, was accepted and allowed. Mr. Hall's report of warrants drawn on the jury account during the October term of the circuit court was also approved.

The claims of Philip Rees, J. W. Inman, J. L. Steiwer, J. J. Wright, O. I. Morris, Louise Kester and F. J. Beatty for rebate on taxes on account of wide tire wagons, were granted by the court.

The claims of D. W. Palmer for bonuses on two coyote scalps, \$1; C. A. Mudding, 1 wild cat scalp, \$2, and A. J. Taylor, one wild cat scalp, \$2, were approved.



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Philadelphians' Dog Show.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 12.—Dogs of every breed from all prominent kennels in the United States and many kindred specimens from England and Canada were on exhibition today in Horticultural Hall at the annual display of the Philadelphia Dog Show Association. The list of prizes is the largest ever offered by the members of any bench show organization.

BERNHARDT IN BOSTON.

BOSTON, Nov. 12.—Madame Sarah Bernhardt and M. Coquelin opened here tonight in their tour of the United States, which will cover six months. Their program includes "L'Aiglon," "Cyrano de Bergerac," "Hamlet," "La Tosca," "La Dame aux Camélias" and "Tartuffe."

Dr. Edgar James Banks, recently United States consul at Bagdad, has been chosen director of the proposed expedition to excavate Muzibieh, which is supposed to be Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham and Sarah were born.

T. M. Witten.....	2 00	2 00
Coroner's Account.....		
D. E. Lane.....	\$10 50	\$10 50
Rebate Account.....		
Geo. Easton, et al.....	\$ 2 08	\$ 2 08
Della Frost, et al.....	65 87	not paid
Sheriff's Account.....		
F. W. Durbin.....	\$84 71	\$84 71
Stationery Account.....		
Patton Bros.....	\$21 05	\$21 05
Journal.....	3 35	2 75
Journal.....	3 70	3 70
Jefferson Review.....	1 50	1 50
R. E. Moore, et al.....	36 55	36 55
Statesman Pub. Co.....	15 00	15 00
Court House and Jail.....		
Gray Bros.....	\$ 5 10	\$ 5 10
J. H. Lamm.....	3 00	3 00
Or. Tel. & Tel. Co.....	2 81	2 81
Or. Tel. & Tel. Co.....	14 45	14 45
Election Account.....		
W. D. Claggell.....	\$ 2 00	\$ 2 00
H. Overton.....	6 40	6 40
J. O'Donnell.....	3 20	3 20
J. M. Poorman.....	8 30	8 30
Criminal Account.....		
J. H. Lewis.....	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00
Emma Murphy.....	1 50	1 50

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