The American Book Company.

Reviewed in An Official Report of Reputable Citizens.

Hot Shot Against the School Book Trust From a Reliable Republican Source.

"A Monopoly Disastrous to the Public School System."

Now Seeking to Elect J. H. Ackerman Superintendent of Schools and Seeking to Defeat H. S. Lyman.

[From the Daily Portland Oregonian, September 23, 1891, Vol. XIII No.-38.]

The citizens committee of one hundred had an interesting session yesterday afternoon. President H. W. Corbett presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Unusual interest centered in the report to be submitted concerning school books, and this interest was heigthed when the representative of the American Book Company put in an appearance, accompanied by his two attorneys

Mr. Thomas N. Strong, on behalf of the special committee on school books, read the following report:

THE COMMITTE'S REPORT.

"To the committee of one hundred: Gentlemen — Owing to different causes, particularly the coming in of the summer vacation, we have been unable before to conclude our report.

"American Book Company.—Somewhat to the surprise of your subcommittee, the branch of our inquiry that has to do with this company has developed into one of great importance. No member of this sub-committee, prior to the submission to it of this inquiry, knew anything about this company or the competition in the school book trade; but since then we have taken the subject in hand and have been careful to examine into it fairly and fully without any other intention than to do exact justice to the public and the company. The curious combination known as the American Book Company was incoporated January 9, 1890, and its principal place of business is given in its certificate of organization as Jersey City, county of Hudson. The total amount of its capital stock is $5000, and the amount with which it commenced business is fixed at $1500. In form, it was a small and harmless affair.

"As a matter of fact, under this very modest organization was hidden one of the greatest monopolies ever known in this country. Its center was the publishing house of Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., of Cincinnati, and thus its first legal organization included the the school-book departments of D. Appleton & Co., A. S. Barnes &,Co., Harper & Brothers and Ivison, Blakeman & Co.,of New York. Although this combination had practically been in existence for over ten years prior to its legal incorporation, the fact that the great publishing house of Harper & Bros., was still outside held it in check, Every pressure possible was brought to bear upon Harper & Bros., and, shortly before the incorporation referred to, it also succumbed, and the organization felt itself powerful enough to put itself in legal form and to attempt the control of the market, and every effort was made to finally crush competing houses and destroy all legitimate competition. This effort, as it was carried on, makes a dark chapter in the history of the organization, but with it this committee has not very largely concerned itself. Its inquiries were more largely directed to the relations of the American Book company with the public.

"Other states.—In other states this company, so far as we can learn, has, in its effort to obtain a complete monopoly, resorted to the most flagrant bribery and corruption of public officials; and accounts of this have been published in the Chicago Inter Ocean of April 18, 1893, and from time to time in many other prominent papers, where full particulars are given. On February 17, 1891, one of its agents, while the school-book question was before the house of delegates of West Virginia, attempted to bribe one of the delegates, but being caught in the act, was publicly reprimanded before the bar of the house and compelled to take back his money,

"In the state of Washington.—J. W. Womack and P. L. Edwards, agents of the combination were, with M. C. Sullivan and C. O. Eames, on August 1, 1890, indicted for attempting to bribe one L. H. Leach, a member of the state board of education. The bribe in this case paid to Mr. Leach being $5000, was equal to the entire nominal capital stock of the company, and a check for this amount was actually given to Mr. Leach. The late M. C. Sullivan, the detective, was employed by the company, and was to be also paid, and a sight draft on the company itself, signed by R. L. Edwards, its agent, appeared in the transaction. The indictment was afterward smothered and dismissed without trial, but this committee has examined into the matter carefully, and cannot avoid the conclusion that this was a deliberate attempt at bribery. In California, as appeared by the published affidavits of an agent of Ivision, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., the same combination, except Appleton & Co., and Harper, who at that time did not belong to it, furnished to its agents, to be paid to members of the San Francisco board of education, the lump sum of $11,959 98.

"These are only specific instances, but the history of this company's operations in Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, New Jersey and other states, give us the impression that its methods are corrupt, and leads this committee to the almost irresistible conclusion that this is a well defined policy of the country itself in the selection of some of its agents and instrumentalities. When the fact is considered that bribes are carefully offered and successful, bribery is always secret, and that for one attempt exposed many more are successful, the demoralizing and corrupting nature of this company in its dealings with public agents and officers must be universally conceded.

"It will also appear that its most reckless and successful operations have been confined to what it probably considers backwoods states, in which category it doubtless includes West Virginia, Mississippi, Missouri, California, Washington, as will appear further on, Oregon, and in New England and many other places, its success, if any, in monopolizing the school book business, has been short-lived.

"Oregon—In Oregon the influence of the American Book Company and of the combination which it represents (for it must be borne in mind that this combination, at least in part, existed for many years before the incorporation already described) is very early manifest. The combination was from the very beginning represented by its attorney as a member of the house, and the law and rules and regulations for the selection of school books, when analyzed, show plainly that they were framed in the interests of the combination, and bear its earmarks, and every attempt at legislation (as, for instance, the attempt to obtain the right of local selection of public school books), though inmical to the interests of this company, have been promptly surpressed.

"Its success in this state may be judged of from the fact as it exists, that every public school book in the state, except Brook's Normal Arithmetic and three very unimportant other books, Young's Government Class Book, Westlake's Common School and Westlake's Letter Writing, are selected from the American Book Company's list. Of these excepted ones, three are published by Chris Sower & Co., of Philadelphia, and one by Maynard & Merrill. Practically the American Book Company furnishes all the public school books for the State of Oregon, a selection so unanimous and unwarranted that in itself it suggests occult influences and gives to this corporation a profit, as we estimate it, of over $30,000 a year.

"Character of book.—Our committee has been compelled to look into this matter and has made careful inquiry upon this subject. The American Book Company has many excellent books, chiefly confined to the academic and higher grade, It is very weak in the lower grades and in mathematics. As a basis of comparison, we have compared with the public school selection the selection of books for educational purposes made by the Bishop Scott academy, the Portland academy, and other first-class private schools covering the same edudational ground as our public school, and all upon friendly terms, so far as we know, with the American Book Company, and find that in these schools the American Book Company only furnishes from 20 to 25 per cent of the text-books used, the remaining 80 or 75 per cent being selected from the publications of other houses. Such a startling discrepancy as this of itself shows that the public school selection is not made upon the ground of merit alone. Upon a critical examination of individual books this presumption is greatly strengthened. It is cheaper for the American Book Company to print and furnish an inferior book than a good one, and its profit is greater upon the poorer one, although it may sell it at a much lower price. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that the author's copyright on a first-class book absorbs a large part of its profit, and first-class educational works cannot be written by mere literary hacks.

"Take for instance, Harrington's Spelling Book "Complete" It was written for Harper & Bros. in 1880 by some incompetent employe who was paid, we understand, $200 for the job, and is printed by the American Book Company from the original plates 14 years old. It fairly bristles with mistakes and inaccuracies; but notwithstanding this, it is adopted by and used in the Portland public schools. With no copyright to pay and using old plates, the cost of producing this wretched book is nearly all in the cheap paper and pasteboard of which it is made up. Many other books now in use here, this company would never dare to put on the market in any great educational center. Such books are for the backwoods states and frontier communities and cannot bear free competition.

Portland.—In no place in the state is the hold of the company firmer or more complete than in the city of Portland, and, in fact, from Portland it rules the entire state. A majority of our board of school directors seems subservient to its interests, and it may reasonably be suspected that the book company controlling our school organization and perverting it to its own purposes has dictated to a large extent the election of several directors. The interests of this book company and the subserviency of our school board explain, as nothing else can, the late slaughter of teachers in this district. R. L. Edwards, who was one of the parties indicted for the bribery in Washington, is and has been for some time the agent of the company in Oregon. Professor Frank Rigler is his close personal friend, and, although not in name interested in the American Book Company, has often caused remark in teachers' meetings by his familiarity with the company's plans and prices. Professor F. G. Young, a perfectly satisfactory teacher, against whom no just complaint has been made, is displaced from the high school and Professor Rigler put in his place.

"The selection of books for the high school, unlike the other schools, is in the board of school directors of this district, and in making a selection they naturally are compelled to follow the lead of the principal elected by them. This secures the high school for the company.

"About six weeks before Professor T. H. Crawford was displaced, he declined to join in a recommendation of the Maxwell Grammar, a book published by the American Book company. It was a little thing, but is the only reason, except his general unfriendliness to the company, that we can suggest as causing his displacement, and witnesses of undoubted standing have testified before us that the agent of the book company has stated that no teacher antagonistic to the company could retain his position and has referred to instances in California, where, as he said, the heads of school officers have been 'taken off' for hostility to the book company. Many of the other changes, especially those in East Portland and Albina, can only be explained as being part of the consideration given for the more important changes demanded by the interests of the American Book company. These interests also demand, among other things, that the Portland teachers should, whenever asked, sign recommendations of its books to be used in other portions of the state, and hence these removals are also effective in obtaining more promptly favorable consideration for the company's publications

"We are informed that many of the Portland 'professors,' as they are called, have interested themselves deeply in the fortunes of the American Book company, and this committee has heard of them all over the state working for the interests of this gigantic and unscrupulous concern in the approaching selection of school books for the ensuing six years, and this with the distribution of free books, dictionaries, stands, etc., and other influences which have been used freely for several years past, together with the cry of 'no change' on account of the hard times, is relied upon to hold the present monopoly enjoyed by the company.

"The effect of this monopoly is disastrous to our public school system, and is largely responsible for its unsatisfactory results in this state and city. The very poorest books of a concern directly interested in selling its poorest works are put in the hands of the children at prices far above their real value. Respectable publishing houses that sell upon the ground of merit only, unable and unwilling to compete against such unscrupulous practice, retire to more enlightened states, and our entire school system, a veritable school machine, is put into the hands of a foreign corporation for the furtherance of its own interests and the perpetuation of its own power.

"It is not surprising that under such circumstances our private schools, free to choose the best books of all of the different publishing houses, are steadily forging ahead of the public schools; and that the public are cheated of the right to independent teachers, good schools and good books.

It has been with great difficulty that this committee has been able to obtain much of its information. A marked fear of antagonizing the American Book Company seemed to possess all well-informed quarters of the public schools, and prominent educators of undoubted veracity giving this committee information have at the same time begged it not to mention their names, as they feared that the American book Company might hereafter persecute them for it.

"Recognizing the fact early in our investigation that the company probably had this power, and, from its known past history, would not scruple to use it, we have not deemed it proper or just to have it present, by its agent or representative, at all of our meetings. It has, however, been before us by its agent and attorney, and we have carefully examined what it had to present to us.

"The board of examiners and other officers charged with the selection of school books for the coming six years should consider the subject carefully. Such books as Harrington's Speller, already referred to, can easily be sold for 20 cents a copy, and still net an excessive profit to the company and and it and many other boooks of this company are pushd and recommended chiefly for their apparent cheapness. As a matter of fact, such aggregations of cheap paper and pasteboard, and still cheaper literary and educational work, are dear at any price. They are unfit to be used.

"A wise and judicious selection of the best books published should be made; and these should be selected impartially for merit alone, without regard to the interests of the different publishing houses.

"WE CANNOT CONDEMN TOO STRONGLY THE inertia and apathy of our voting population that has resulted in such a state of affairs as now exists in our city. It can only be remedied in future elections.

"COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.—AS WE INFORMED YOU IN OUR LAST REPORT, J. H. Ackerman, the county superintendent, WAS APPOINTED PRINCIPAL of the Harrison street public school, giving up, apparently, a larger salary for a less one. The motive for this move still remains a good deal of a mystery to us. It was suggested by witnesses before us that the original plan was to appoint one of the present school directors deputy county superintendent. If this arrangement was ever contemplated the publicity given to the recent changes has compelled its abandonment. For some time it was understood, and, we believe upon the authority of Mr. Ackerman himself, it was announced that he was to resign the county superintendency, upon taking charge of the school. The appointment of his successor would then be in the county court. An active canvass for the office naturally commenced, and T. H. Crawford and F. G. Young appeared to be leading candidates for the prospectively vacant office. Then another change occurred, and nothing more was heard of the proposed resignation, but Mr. Ackerman appointed C. W. Gantenbein, a young practicing lawyer of this city, deputy county school superintendent, retaining in himself both of the offices of county superintendent and principal.

"It is apparent that no one man can perform both duties, or, in honesty to the public, draw both salaries; and we regret that Mr. Ackerman has allowed himself to be placed in such an equivocal position. If, however, our surmise that the American Book Company is in control of our school machine is correct, Mr. Ackerman's action is very intelligible. The county superintendent is one of the officers charged with the selection of public school books for the state for the ensuing six years. Had Mr. Ackerman resigned the position of county superintendent, it might have been filled with some one not personagrata to the American Book Company.

Respectfully submitted,

"THOMAS N. STRONG,
"S. E. JOSEPHI,
"C. H. WOODARD.
"Special Committee on Schools."

POSTPONED.—The Macleay Bimetallic club has postponed its regular meeting of May 18 until Mr. King's date for that place is fixed, when full announcements will be made.

The woman who kills her babe by neglect of the health and vigor of her own womanly organism during the period preceding motherhood, is innocently and without realizing it, as much responsible for her child's death, as the mad woman who slays her babe after its birth. Thousands of babes are still-born every year because women innocently and ignorantly neglect, during the expectant period, to take proper care of the delicate and important organs that bear the burdens of maternity.

There is just one known medicine that prepares a woman for capable motherhood. It is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly and only on the organs concerned in motherhood making them strong and healthy. It imparts to them vigor and elasticity. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain and gives rest to the tortured nerves. It does away with the discomforts of the expectant period, and makes the coming of baby easy and almost painless. It insures the health of baby. Over 90,000 have testified to its virtues. All good druggists sell it.

"In the fall of 1891," writes Mrs. N. A. Thomas, of 400 Pulaski St., Little Rock, Ark., "while on a visit to Texarkana, Ark., I was taken with a severe pain in my head and was hardly able to get home. I was prostrated for four weeks, not being able to sit up. During that time the doctors failed to give me any relief whatever. At length I was induced to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. One bottle cured me entirely. I felt relieved after the first three doses, and have never felt the pain since. I send this testimonial that others may be benefited by it. Yours with a thousands thanks."

It is as much a woman's duty to look after the health of the family as to care for the cleanliness of the home. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser enables her to do this. It contains 1,008 pages and 300 illustrations, and is written in language that any one may understand. Over a million women own copies. A new edition is just out and for a limited time copies will be given FREE to those who write for them. If you want a paper-covered copy, send twenty-one one-cent stamps, to cover the cost of mailing *only*, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y. Or for cloth binding, send ten cents *extra*, 31 cents in all.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SEARCHLIGHT.

Definite Information—Oregon at a Big Disadvantage—Gouge of the American Book Company Shown Up—Comparison of Prices in Adjoining States—Union Ticket will Settle the Question.

A matter for consideration during the present campaign is first, the cost of school books to the State of Oregon, (2) the reason why we are paying an unusually high price (3) the methods that have been followed by the American Book Company—the holders of the present contract for high prices with the state—(4) the remedy.

The state superintendent in his last report states that there are enrolled in our public schools 87,212 children. Under even reasonable rates the cost of school books for this array of children is large; but under extortionate rates, as now prevail, the cost is enormous. We are paying from twenty per cent to forty per cent more for school books—and books of inferior worth in point of mental development—than any other state in the Union. This will be shown.

The contract made with the American Book Company by the State Board of Education went into operation January 1st, 1895, and is to run until January 1st, 1901. The most remarkable feature of this contract is that the State Board of Education contracted with the American Book Co. to furnish text books at a higher rate than the company's catalogue price; or, in other words, the State Board bound the school children of this state to pay a higher price for school books than the American Book Co. will mail to any address from its publishing houses in New York, Cincinnati or Chicago, a Barnes First Reader for 20 cents—the catalogue price—and to pay a postage of 4 cents. This leaves the company 16 cents for the book, but our State Board of Education contracted that our school patrons should pay 25 cents for every First Reader; 9 cents more than the company's published price demands, or about 47 per cent more for a First Reader delivered over the counter in Oregon than the net selling price of the book. In examining the schedule of this company's published catalogued prices of all school books and comparing the same with the State Board of Education's contract price, the same discrimination is found against us. A more unjust school book contract cannot be found in the Union. That the fullest information may be had on the subject the catalogue and contract prices of some of our best known school books are here given. The catalogue prices are from the company's published prices and the contract prices are from the public records filed in the state superintendent's office, Salem. They are authentic beyond question:

Name of Book.	Catalogue Price	Deduct Pstge.	Net sell Price.	Contract Price	Per cent Incrs
Barnes' First Reader	$0 20	$0 04	$0 16	$0 25	56 25
Barnes' Second Reader	35	06	29	40	37.93
Barnes' Third Reader	50	07	43	55	27.90
Barnes' Fourth Reader	70	10	60	80	33.33
Barnes' Fifth Reader	90	13	77	1 00	29.87
Barnes' Primary History U. S.	60	08	52	65	25.00
Barnes' Brief History	1 00	13	87	1 00	14.94
Barnes' General History	1 60	15	1 45	1 75	20.68
Fish's Arithmetic No. 1	30	06	24	35	45.86
Fish's Arthmetic No. 2	60	08	52	65	25.00
Maxwell's First Book in English	40	06	34	45	52.35
Maxwell's Introd. English Grammar	40	06	34	45	32.35
Maxwell's Advanced Grammar	60	09	51	65	27.45
Montieth's Elementary Geography	55	09	46	65	41.30
Montieth's Comp. Geography	1 10	16	94	1 25	32.97
Smith's Elem. Physiology	50	07	43	55	27.90
Steele's Hygienic Phys.	1 00	10	90	1 10	22.22
Webster's Prim. Dictionary	48	06	42	55	30.95
Academic Dictionary	1 50	20	1 30	1 65	26.92

There is not a public school book of this company used in Oregon, but the patrons are bound by contract to pay more than the American Book Co. asks the public at large for the same publications! Common sense tells us that the contract of this company with the state should be at figures below the catalogue price, since contractors for large supplies furnish them at rates much below those asked for single articles. Under the present contract over 87,000 school children of our state are bringing a vast amount of unnecessary money as a daily tribute to this corporation monopoly.

IDAHO AND OREGON PRICES COMPARED.

In 1893—two years before the Oregon contract—the American Book Co. made a contract to furnish school text books to the patrons of Idaho public schools. The Idaho children use 22 American Book Co. publications that are used by the Oregon pupils. There is a great difference in the prices paid in Idaho and in Oregon. Every school book purchased for the Idaho child is at a price less than the catalogue price, while, as has been shown, for every Oregon child the American Book Co. is paid more for its publications than the price in its catalogue The following tabulated form taken from the American Book Co's catalogue and from the official statements of the superintendent of Idaho and Oregon is given, embracing some of the best known books:

Name of Book.	Catalogue Price	Idaho Price	Oregon Price
Maxwell's Introd. Gram.	$0 40	$0 30	$0 45
Song Wave	65	52	75
High School Dictionary	98	78	1 05
Academic Dictionary	1 50	1 20	1 65

Comparisons of eighteen supplementary books shows that the American Book Co. supplies its books to Idaho at an average per cent decrease from catalogue price, 20.72; average per cent increase in Oregon on catalogue price, 14.11; average per cent increase in Oregon over Idaho price, 43.17.

The Idaho child pays 30 cents for Maxwell's Introductory Grammar, and the Oregon child pays 45 cents. The Oregon child, by forwarding 40 cents to the American Book Co's Eastern publishing house will receive the book by mail. The postage is 6 cents, so the company receives 34 cents net. 4 cents more than is paid by the Idaho child. The Idaho child gets the bottom figures. He can shake hands across the imaginary line that divides the two states and say to his Oregon brother, "My dictionary cost 78 cents; what did yours cost?" The little Oregonian's reply would be, "Mine, for reasons I am unable to state, cost $1.05." This is a discrimination in Idaho's favor on a school dictionary of 27 cents.

To show that Idaho is not the only state enjoying better prices than Oregon, the following comparison of prices of school text books of the common grade of California, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon is given:

Readers.	Cal. Retail Price to Pupils. State.	Wash. Retail Price Pupils. Franklin.	Idaho. Price to Pupils.	Mont. Mail Price to Pupils. Stickney's.	Oregon. Retail Price to Pupils Barnes
First	.$0 20	$0 15	$0 15	$0 24	$0 25
Second	35	22	25	32	40
Third	50	32	35	40	55
Fourth	60	42	45	50	80
Fifth		55	60	60	1 00
	$1 65	$1 66	$1 80	$2 06	$3 00
	State	Columbian		Modern	Watson
Speller	.$0 30	$0 15	$0 15	$0 20	$0 20
	State	Rand & McN.		Rand & McN.	Monteith
Geography, Elemen.	$0 60	$0 40	$0 48	$0 50	$0 65
Advanced	1 20	83	1 00	83	1 25
	$1 80	$1 23	$1 48	$1 33	$1 80
		Brooks		Bradbury	
Mental Arith.		$0 30	28	$0 30	35
	Calif.	Wash.	Idaho.	Mont.	Oregon.
Written Arith.	State	Columbian		Walsh	Fish
Primary	$0 25	$0 23		$0 30	$0 35
Advanced	50	50	$0 54	65	65
	$0 75	$0 73		$0 95	$1 00
Grammar	Revised	Reed's		Reed's	Maxwell's
Language Lessons	$0 30	$0 45	$0 30	$0 40	$0 45
Grammar	55	75		63	45
Advanced					65
	$0 85	$1 20		$1 03	$1 55
History	State	Ellis		Barnes	Barnes
Primary			$0 65		$0 65
Advanced	$0 60	$0 80	1 00	$1 00	1 00
Physiology	State			Kellogg	S & S
Primary		$0 40		$0 40	$0 55
Advanced	$0 60	80	$0 75	80	1 10
		$1 20		$1 20	$1 65
		Graphic		Graphic	Spencerian
Copy Book		doz $0 65	$0 77	doz $0 60	doz $0 96
	State			McCleary's	Peterman's
Civics	$0 55	33		$1 00	$0 65

A vote for J. H. Ackerman, Republican candidate for State School Superintendent, is a vote for the American Book Co. His record as County Superintendent of Multnomah County absolutely proves this.

Information and price lists may be obtained by any one directly from the state superintendents of the above states. Any one wishing to investigate this matter independently should get such information at once from them.

THE LAW PROVIDING SCHOOL BOOKS IN THESE STATES.

In California the books are published by the state. Though publishing for a limited market, the state seems able to give better prices than the American Book Co. can give in Oregon. It has been suggested that Oregon might buy the plates of the California books and publish at much less cost than we are now paying.

In Washington the books are supplied under stringent state regulations.

In Idaho they are purchased direct by a member of the State Book Commission and supplied to the schools.

In Montana, by a law adopted less than two years ago, a text book commission was created, consisting of superintendent of public instruction, attorney general, president of the university, president of the agricultural college, and three public school teachers appointed by the governor, which selects books under certain restrictions and supplies them free to the schools at the option of the districts. Of this the state superintendent says: "We have solved the school book problem in Montana."

In Oregon our text books are selected for periods of six years by the county school superintendents, 32 in number, and 9 members of the state board of examiners, on prices obtained by the state board of education, consisting of governor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instruction. Assuming that the state superintendent follows the example of past superintendents and limits the number of the board of examiners to 9, it is a plain proposition that if the state superintendent is in alliance with the American Book Co., or any other book trust, the 9 members would be corporate monopoly voters. We have 32 county superintendents in the state, and 9 members of the board of examiners, making 41 votes to be used in the adoption of text books. A majority of votes elects. If the American Book Co. has the 9 members of the board of examiners under control, it will require but 12 more to make up the desired majority. This plain assumption and supposition have arisen in the state and the outrageous school book contract which the supporters of our public schools are compelled to meet was saddled on the state by methods suggested above, January 1st, 1895.

THE REMEDY.

Vote only for men who are known by record or by pledge to oppose this contract with the American Book Co. and who will use all the power of the law to provide our schools with as good books, at as low cost, as can be had in any state of the Union. Our candidates are irreproachable on this proposition, their position is known, and they will if elected, guard the interests of the schools. The next book election occurs in 1900, under a state superintendent and secretary of state and governor to be chosen at the coming election.

Work and work hard for their election; be unceasing in your efforts; let no opportunity pass by for bringing this great question before our people.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Prof. Ackerman, the Republican candidate, is sending out thousands of type written letters to teachers and school officers, telling them that the office he seeks is not a political office and asking for votes on the ground that he is not a politician and that there are no politics in it. Now this is a fraud on the face of the matter. He is the Republican nominee and should not disclaim his connection with a party that has several times honored him with offices. The truth is well known, that Prof. Ackerman is a shrewd ambitious man, who came from Wisconsin to Oregon about eight years ago. He has shown ability as an educator and would be perfectly unobjectionable as a candidate but for his close relations to the American Book Company. This in itself is no reflection upon his ability or integrity, but makes him objectionable as a candidate before the people of Oregon. The American Book Company is furnishing some inferio books at higher prices than the same company charges the people of Oregon, and reports from the various counties indicate that the people cannot even get the books at the high prices.

A new contract for text books will have to be made during the term of the state superintendent of schools now to be elected and the American Book Co. wants Ackerman because he as county superintendent of Multnomah county voted for the present system of textbooks, nearly the entire list he chose being those of the American Book Co. If Oregon is to have better and cheaper textbooks Ackerman must be defeated.

His opponent is County Superintendent H. S. Lyman, of Clatsop county, Union candidate for superintendent of schools. He is a Christian gentleman, a graduate of Pacific university at Forest Grove and Oberlin college, a man of culture and refinement, with three times the education that Ackerman has, and what is still better he is a man the American Book Co. was unable to persuade into carrying out its wishes.

THE JOURNAL disclaims all prejudice for or against the American Book Co., or any other school textbook firm, in discussing this question of the relative fitness of the candidate for state superintendent of schools. THE JOURNAL would rather not have the American Book Co. take any part in the campaign for state superintendent of schools. It probably considers that Mr. Lyman is not going to be fair to the American Book Co.

Mr. Lyman is candidate on the Union platform which pledges him to oppose all trusts and combinations that oppress the people, and there is abundant proof that the American Book Co. has not treated the people of Oregon fairly. The people of Oregon are entitled to have the best and cheapest textbooks that money can buy and the benefit of open competion of school book publishing houses as other states have.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured.

by local applications, as they cannot reach the deseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube, When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflamation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destoryed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surface.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

SCHOOLMA'AMS TO ARMS!

Appeal to Male and Female Teachers of Oregon.

TEXTBOOK QUESTION IS UP.

Shall the Oregon Public School System Be Further Prostituted.

J. H. Ackerman, a principal and ex-county superintendent of schools of Multnomah county, is the Republican nominee for state superintendent of schools.

H. S. Lyman, county superintendent of schools of Clatsop county, now serving the third term, is the Union nominee for the same office.

In Ackerman's behalf are sent out stacks of type written letters addressed:

1. To school teachers.
2. To school officers.
3. To private citizens.
4. To politicians.

The Ackerman letters to teachers declare the office he seeks is professional, not political. The letters to school officers declare "that the fitness of the candidate rather than his political affiliations will determine your vote. From my long service as a teacher in the public school, and a life devoted to educational work, I feel that I can conscientiously ask the support of school officers, teachers, parents and taxpayers;" etc.

We concede that the office requires a high grade of professional ability and is not a political office, and for that reason we prefer Prof. H. S. Lyman of Astoria, because the influences that nominated Mr. Ackerman and help to bring about his election and control his official actions for four years after his election are political, and politics of the worst character.

Ackerman is the candidate of the state school ring in politics and of the school book trust that through its agents forced pernicious legislation upon the the people and kept Oregon in the rear of most of the northwestern states in educational matters. It was the school book trust through State Supt. McElroy that forced the present six-year contract law with high priced textbooks upon this state.

The cry of hard times in 1894 was used to influence county superintendents, and members of the state board of examiners into voting against many changes in textbooks in 1895. That is the reason given by Prof. Ackerman for voting for 52 out of 56 of the American Book Co. publications and fasten them upon Oregon until nearly the end of 1901. But the state superintendent chosen now will have to appoint the state board of examiners that select the books after that.

The teachers of Oregon do not want a school book system that is simply a legalization of the greatest textbook trust in the world. The textbook teacher has about passed away, and the school system should not be made a side-show to any publishing house. Let the textbook business take its proper place as ahelping, not as a controlling influence in public school affairs.

Finally, let teachers realize that they owe it to themselves and their profession that they help free Oregon from the influences of trusts and monopolies of every description. The best and most approved textbooks are necessary to the highest development of our school system, to the healthful growth of the teacher and to the right education of the growing generation.

Teachers, help us to get Oregon out of the rut. Put your shoulders to the wheel and if you can't vote on the 6th of June, lend your influence to push along the car of common education and elect a man of the highest ideals on education to the higest educational office. Cast a vote for that brave fellow worker and friend of our common humanity, Hon. H. S. Lyman for state superintendent of schools.

Oregon has not had a line of helpful, progressive, constructive school legislation in nearly twenty years. Why? BecauseOregon had politicians like Ackerman, members of the same Portland schoolbook ring, in the office of school superintendent. State Supt. Irwin has had no chance to get any legislation and is not to blame for this condition of things. He made one grand score in his favor as a educator, though it didn't count in his favor in the Republican convention—he has used his influence on all occasions to emphasize the necessity of teaching manners and morals in the public schools. If you want good work done for the schools, if you want sound ideals and correct ideas at the fountain head of our common school system, help to elect H. S. Lyman state superintendent.

Excursion Rates.

To the G. A. R., encampment at The Dalles, Or., via Steamer Alma and The Regulator. Fare round trip $2.50 Tickets good going May 15 to 18, returning until May 25. 5-11-4