

TEXTBOOK REFORM CAMPAIGN IN OREGON

Review of the Steps Taken to Secure Adoption of Daly Commission Bill.

NEW COMMISSION MEETS AT SALEM, MONDAY JULY 8

A Ringing Editorial Review of the Situation and Outline of its Basis of Procedure When it Sits in Session at the State Capital From the Newspaper of the Head of Adopting Body.

In 1898 the question of Textbook Reform was made a state campaign issue, by the nomination of County Supt. H. S. Lyman of Clatsop county for State Supt., of public instruction against County Supt. J. H. Ackerman of Multnomah county for the same office. Lyman and Ackerman had voted on opposite sides of the question in state adoption of textbooks. Supt. Lyman had published in that campaign in leading newspapers of the state exposure of the textbooks trust and its political methods in Oregon. He canvassed the state in company with State Supt. Brown of Washington. The Republican candidate denied all connection with the Textbook trust and was elected by a reduced majority. But public sentiment had been created for the Reform.

The great legislative battle for Textbook Reform was fought out in the regular session of 1899, when the Daly commission bill was passed against the united opposition of the existing monopoly that has stood practically unchanged for twenty years. All the textbooks have been furnished by one corporation, except a speller published by another firm, at their highest printed retail prices. The final round in the prolonged struggle for textbook reform in Oregon was fought out last December and Governor Geer made his appointments in January, 1901. The Commission named gave general satisfaction and has not been criticized as made up in the interest of any publishing house, or to prolong or protect the existing contract, but is considered composed entirely in the interest of reform. On the second Monday in July the Oregon State Textbook Commission meets at the State Capitol to adopt textbooks for the public schools. This commission is composed of Harvey W. Scott, editor of the Oregonian; Wm. S. Ladd, banker, of Portland; W. S. Colvig, lawyer, of Jacksonville; P. S. Campbell, President of the Monmouth Normal school; C. A. Johns, lawyer, Baker City. These five gentlemen will hear presentations of the merits of textbooks by the publishers and agents at their office in the State House and at the end of fifteen days will make such adoption as seems in their opinion best for the schools and the people.

This is the most important commission of an educational character that has ever been constituted in Oregon. It is important not alone because of the abuses to which the textbook business is liable, but because the people have been paying more money for textbooks than the people of other States and have not had as good books as other states. The price and durability of textbooks are important. The demand of the times, and the competitive conditions of adoption which the Daly bill attempts to secure, should work toward deeper and better printed and better bound textbooks. More important than price is the literary, moral and ethical quality of the books adopted.

Books that will not rob the parents' pocketbooks, or blind the eyes of children are important. But books that teach sound principles, make for culture and refinement, for sound morals and humanity, are far more important regardless of price. There is a well-founded belief that the present series of textbooks do not produce writers or thinkers, do not stimulate the creative faculties. These

are qualities the commission will do well to bear in mind as well as commercial considerations.

Following editorial review with headlines on the Textbook Reform from the paper edited by Harvey Scott, the head of the Oregon Textbook Commission is submitted as a matter of history:

COST OF SCHOOL BOOKS.

Change Not so Expensive as Many Imagine.

Even a Clean Sweep Would Not Be a Heavy Burden on Patrons—Some Books Must Go.

Parents and teachers are greatly interested in the work to be done by the State Text-Book Commission next month. Among many there is a vague fear that sweeping changes will be made in the schools of the state. Others fear that not change enough will be made. Teachers who fear too radical action do not relish the prospect of being obliged to familiarize themselves with new books. It is easier for them to stick to the books they have grown up with, irrespective of the merit of the works. Parents who think the cost of a complete change would be very great are inclined to urge the retention of as many of the present series as can be tolerated, even though other books of superior merit might be offered. With the parents it is largely a question of expense.

The public at large has a very inadequate idea of the cost of school books in this state. This, in a measure, has arisen from wild statements made regarding the profits and power of the concern that now supplies practically all the books used in Oregon, and from the fact that the public does not have the means of getting accurate information on the subject. It is known however, that less than 100,000 children attend the public schools of the state. There is credible authority for the statement that yearly sales of school books do not exceed \$55,000. This is about 50 cents per year per pupil, including high school and supplementary books. These latter are above the average in price, so the cost of books in the ordinary graded and ungraded schools in the state, before the high school, is materially less than 50 cents per year for each pupil. This, however, is after the state is once fully stocked. It would cost much more than this to put in a full supply of new books at once, without any offset or allowance for old books exchanged. And even with the usual exchange allowance the cost of getting the state stocked with new textbooks would be some \$100,000, or an annual cost of keeping up the supply without an exchange privilege. This extra cost, however, would be much less than is probably supposed.

If a clean sweep should be made, if all the old series should be discarded and entirely new books adopted by the state board, the cost to the people of the state would not be heavy, for the reason that the new contractors would be obliged to allow a liberal credit for old books exchanged for new ones. In the State of Washington only books that can be used again, that are practically new, were received in exchange. No such limit or modification is permitted Oregon, the exchange price being particularly defined as "the price the pupil must pay for a new book when he surrenders an old book upon the same subject and of the same grade, heretofore legally adopted by the State Board of Education, and in condition to be used in the public schools of Oregon." There is nothing to require that the old books be in good condition. In Washington the law required that the exchange price of a book should not exceed one-fifth the contract retail price; that is, that the old book turned in should stand for four-fifths the price of the new book, and only the other fifth need be paid in cash. In Oregon the exchange price is left with the Text-Book Commission to arrange, and it is one of the important duties of the commission.

All the books required by a pupil in the public schools of Oregon in his entire school life, from the primary grade up to but not including the High School, do not cost, at present prices, to exceed \$12. If a child completes this course in eight years, the average cost is \$1.50 per year for books. This is on the supposition that he gets all his books new. As a matter of fact, however, a large proportion of the school children of the state get the books their brothers or sisters used and passed. This saving in production families is a large element in bringing the annual cost of school books in the state down from a figure near \$150,000, as it would be if every school child had brand new books, to something like \$55,000. Another reason why the fact is so far below the rough estimate is that lower-grade pupils, for which the cost of books is small, greatly exceed in number those of the higher grades, which use comparatively extensive books. Now, if the retail price of a book be, for example, fixed at \$1 under state contract, it does not follow that every school child in the state requiring such book must pay \$1 in cash for it. If that were true, as so many seem to believe, the cost of changing a series of text-books would be great, so great that public sentiment hardly approves the prospect of any old book if its quality were at all tolerable. But change of text-books means but a slight extra cost to school patrons; indeed, it may mean no extra cost at all. In 1895 a new and superior geography was offered to supersede the admittedly inferior series then in use, which was offered for adoption, and the new book was offered free in exchange. This would have given a new book for an old one without any additional compensation, and the change from poor to good books would not have cost the school patrons a cent. This liberal offer was not accepted and the old and inferior books were reprinted and continued in service until the passage of the present law, since which time these geographies have been largely retired and superseded by better ones, published and sold by the same company, however. In many of the schools of the state, Montell's geographies have been superseded by the New Natural.

Since the present text-book law was enacted in 1899, the school books then in use in the state under contract have been continued only by sufferance or common consent. There has been no law to prevent any district or school adoption and using any books it might desire. There has been a general disinclination to change books, however, for the short period before there would be a complete change would be made this year and books to the amount of \$150,000 should be required to stock the schools of the state; it would not mean that parents of Oregon would have to put up \$150,000 for new books at the opening of the Fall term of school. The exchange price would cut this sum down to a mere fraction. By surrendering their books not in use the actual cash outlay for the new ones would probably amount to \$30,000 to \$35,000—certainly less than \$50,000. The sum would depend on the bargain made by the state board. It is not possible to imagine that better books might be worth this small sum. It being true that a complete change would not impose a heavy burden on the school patrons of the state, it follows that there need be no alarm felt on the score of their cost, for any changes the state commission is likely to make. It must be supposed that any such trade will be for the benefit of the schools and the cost to the patrons will be one of the elements bearing on the adoption. There is room for much improvement in the bargain made by the state board. It is not to be supposed that any school or teacher who supply them, and changes are expected. The Montell geographies, the Fish arithmetics and the Spencerian writing books, it is generally conceded, must go. There is also considerable criticism of the Maxwell grammars and the Barnes readers. What adoptions shall be made in their place cannot, of course, be now known. All these matters are entirely irrespective of the methods of old or future contractors.

PARTISANSHIP HAPPILY OUT-OF-DATE.

The National Watchman has been reduced in size and will probably peter out about the middle of July. It has never sized up the situation or been equal to the opportunity there is for publishing an opposition organ at the national Capital. It has not been patriotic. Nothing that the administration could do but it must present a vile aspect of the matter. Now there are



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In a little over thirty years Dr. Pierce, assisted by his staff of nearly a score of physicians, has cured more than half a million women.

"I was a great sufferer for six years and doctored all the time but did not receive any benefit," writes Mrs. George Ogden, of 44 Bond Street, New York. "I saw your advertisement, and reading a paper I saw your advertisement, and better, thought I would write to you. When I received your letter, telling me to take your Favorite Prescription and follow your advice, I have taken ten bottles in all, and the result is that I feel like a new woman. Am now regular after having missed two years and suffer with pain in the head and back. Now I thank you for my recovery."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure biliousness.

Some good things done even by a party you do not belong to, but there is nothing the Bryan administration could have done had it gone into power but the Watchman would have called it inspired from on high, and there has been nothing done the past five years by the McKinley administration that has met with its approval. This is on the old theory of blackening the opposition and whitewashing your own side. It is not creditable to the intelligence of this age. Such politics is a back number. The people have advanced beyond that kind of feudalism and moskback; classiness when my party is always right and the other fellow's party is always wrong. As an organ of Mr. Bryan, the Watchman did that gentleman an injustice by its low-style cartoons and antiquated attitude on national politics, and by crying down all that the McKinley did or undertook to do. It is barely possible that Mr. Bryan if elected President would have made mistakes and put men in positions of trust who would have disgraced him and his party.

HAIR NATURALLY ABUNDANT.

When it is Free of Dandruff It Grows Luxuriantly. Hair preparations and dandruff cures, as a rule, are sticky or irritating affairs that do no earthly good. Hair, when not diseased, grows naturally luxuriantly. Dandruff is the cause of the loss of all hair trouble, and dandruff is caused by a germ. The only way to cure dandruff is to kill the germ, and, so far, the only hair preparation that will positively destroy that germ is Newbro's Herpicide—absolutely harmless, free from grease, sediment, dye matter or dangerous drugs. It itches itching instantly; makes hair glossy and soft as silk. "Destroy the cause, you remove the effect"—dandruff.

JOURNAL X-RAYS

The Salem Journal seems to think that the last legislature was about as bad as G. W. Davis in holding up the state for a million and a half dollars for unnecessary clerks hire. Yes, they swore to false accounts, raised bills, took thousands of dollars that did not belong to them, and have not even felt ashamed enough to leave the state.

TO OUR MAIL SUBSCRIBERS.

Some time ago THE DAILY JOURNAL reduced its price to mail subscribers from 50 cents to 30 cents per month CASH IN ADVANCE. This was done to save book-keeping and expense of collectors, and the subscribers are given the benefit of the reduction in price. Such subscribers should not expect to get time on the paper, and as they get the benefit of the reduced price they should not expect it. There is the further advantage about this system of not having a bill piled up against you. A notice is sent out before subscriptions expire, and should be promptly observed.

Your Best Friend.

The good people of Salem enjoy one of the luxuries that they don't fully realize, and all who know of her merits fully appreciate her inestimable services. Reference is made to Mrs. C. H. Walker, the first person thought of when there is to be a party on hand, after a picnic, when there is grease to remove or oil to be cleaned up. At that establishment you can get anything set to rights, from a pair of soiled gloves, to the most elaborate trowsers crossed, his hat cleaned or his whole suit rejuvenated to suit the queen's taste. Last week a Portland belle had a glass of citric acid lemonade spilled over her party dress, and it was black wherever the counterfeits fell. She turned to the dressmaker to replace it, but to their great surprise Mrs. Walker restored the dress to its original beauty and cleanliness. And so it goes. Every day has its new demonstrations that the best kind of a step mother is the Salem Steam Dye Works.

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By Astoria	9:00 P. M. <td>4:30 A. M. </td>	4:30 A. M.
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By Denver	9:30 A. M. <td>9:15 A. M. </td>	9:15 A. M.
By Kansas City	7:45 A. M. <td>8:30 A. M. </td>	8:30 A. M.
By Chicago	7:45 A. M. <td>8:30 A. M. </td>	8:30 A. M.
By Los Angeles	2:00 P. M. <td>8:00 A. M. </td>	8:00 A. M.
By El Paso	6:50 P. M. <td>6:00 P. M. </td>	6:00 P. M.
By Fort Worth	6:30 A. M. <td>6:30 A. M. </td>	6:30 A. M.
By City of Mexico	11:30 A. M. <td>11:30 A. M. </td>	11:30 A. M.
By Houston	7:45 P. M. <td>6:15 P. M. </td>	6:15 P. M.
By New Orleans	6:30 P. M. <td>6:30 P. M. </td>	6:30 P. M.
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Leaves Albany..... 1:30 p. m.

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