

AT HEAD OF THE SCHOOLS

Prof. J. H. Ackerman, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman is now completing his fifth year of service, and reports that the educational work of the state is progressing most satisfactorily. During the past year he has visited most of the counties of the state several times in the interest of educa-

tion. He reports much interest taken in the consolidation of school districts; many having already been consolidated, either by merging districts and thus forming one, or by suspending operations of the school in the home district and sending the children to the school in an adjoining district.



STATE SUPERINTENDENT J. H. ACKERMAN.

Several counties have taken advantage of the library law, thus insuring at least a small number of books for each child in such counties. Also a great number of districts, either by means of a common school fund or through the efforts of teachers and pupils have secured valuable libraries.

The past year has been notably quiet as regards contentions between teachers, patrons and school officers. In that there has been no case of formal appeal to the state educational department. At present the whole state system is alive with study and intently engaged on school problems as never before. By means of the Course of Study, prepared by Superintendent Ackerman, unity of the whole system has been secured. The vigorous urging of the introduction of the Course of Study necessarily provoked more or less criticism, but with calmness and faith in the final victory of what he considered best, he never wavered in the pursuit of the end sought. The labor was great, requiring patient strength and even physical endurance.

In looking for the secret of the rapid and fundamental changes in the practical operations of the public school system it will not be found altogether in new legislation, for it has been wrought out under the same old stubborn conditions which existed before. The situation can only be explained by certain personal qualities, which education and experience may enhance but never supply. A large amount of the superintendent's success has come through the amount of hard work devoted to the educational problem. With these qualities is found a warmth of personal sympathy which tempers with a spirit of kindness the rigid and accurate requirements of every one to the adherence to duty in the system. The administration of Superintendent Ackerman indicates in every feature a clear consciousness of the center of supervising duty, with marked ability in wielding the forces to a center. The movement in this direction has been remarkable for its rapidity and thoroughness, and a task has virtually been accomplished which five years ago seemed of doubtful possibility.

Portland's Favorite Theatre.

Two holiday presents were given the patrons of the Baker Theatre Company, at Portland, Or., by Manager George L. Baker. One was a new ingenue, and the other a new leading woman. Esther Lyon, one of the best leading women in the country, will make her appearance with the company New Year's week, while Oza Waldrop, the best known ingenue on the pacific coast, made her first bow at the Baker Christmas week.

Treasury of Oregon

Chas. S. Moore, State Treasurer.

Hon. Chas. S. Moore, the present state treasurer, is one of the best business men that ever held that position, and under his administration the office has been brought to a fine system. Mr. Moore has been in the office five years, having been re-elected last year for a second term of four years. Since his advent the transactions of the treasury department have assumed large proportions, and the amounts now received and paid out exceed two millions of dollars annually, which transactions are on account of the following funds:

General fund (in round numbers)	\$1,000,000
Common school fund (in round numbers)	750,000
Common school fund interest	250,000
All others funds	250,000

Total

The whole number of receipts issued for the biennial term ending December 31, 1898, was 5500, and for the term ending December 31, 1902, it was 8500, while for the year just closed more than 6000 receipts were written in the office, with the prospect that even a greater number will be issued during the year 1904, so that the probability is that the number for the biennial term ending December 31, 1904, will exceed 12,000.

The warrants paid by the department have increased proportionately, so that now more than 7000 are cashed annually. The mortgages and notes for loans from the trust funds and school district bonds are kept in the treasury department, and the interest is collected by the treasurer. These notes and bonds now amount to over \$5,000,000 and the annual interest, including the interest received from the clerk of the board on deferred payments on the purchase of school lands, amounts to \$250,000 annually, which is distributed to the counties annually, according to the number of children of school age.

The state of Oregon is on a cash basis, and practically has no debt. All warrants, except those on the swamp land fund, have been paid as presented during the last year, and it is not likely that any warrants will have to

be endorsed "not paid for want of funds" during the coming year. With the completion of the bond loans to the school districts and mortgage loans from the trust funds, which have already been approved by the board, the cash in these funds will have decreased about \$250,000 during the last year. The interest on the mortgage loan notes is kept promptly paid up in a systematic way, so that the delinquents among the 3000 or more mortgagees aggregate not more than one per cent.

Every dollar of state tax for 1903 has been paid to the state by all the counties, and the account of every county except one is balanced. One county is resisting the charge of less than \$150, made on account of the deferred payment of the scalp bounty tax, with this one exception, the tax ledger is entirely clear, the first time in many years.

The details of the office of the state treasurer are in charge of W. T. Perkins, chief clerk; J. D. Sutherland, assistant, and Miss Ella Hodson, stenographer, to whose efficiency the pre-

ent satisfactory condition is largely due. Mr. Moore has his office well organized, and his force of assistants has done excellent work during the past five years.

"Portland and Return Only \$2.20."
The Southern Pacific is now selling round trip tickets to Portland from Salem for \$2.20, good going Saturday or Sunday, returning Sunday and Monday, giving all day Sunday and Monday in Portland. The same arrangement applies from Portland, giving all Portland people a chance to visit valley points at greatly reduced rates.
W. B. COMAN, G. P. A.
603

Since pie is an excellent thing to serve when madam wishes a new wogn, but it is recommended that the request for funds be made before the liver begins to get in its work.

It takes push to get a pull, but after you get a pull you can stop pushing. A conservative estimate is an excellent thing to have on hand when the assessor calls.

Books By William J. Long

- Ways of Wood Folk 75c
- Wilderness Ways 75c
- Secrets of the Woods 75c
- Wood Folk at School 75c
- Beasts of the Field \$1.75
- Fowls of the Air \$1.75
- School of the Woods, net. \$1.50
- Following the Deer, net. \$1.25
- A Little Brother to the Bear, net. \$1.50

GINN & COMPANY, Publishers
Trade Department, 29 Beacon Street, BOSTON.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

health is happiness

Use Salem Beer and Keep Well

Order a Case for New Years and You Will Call for More

SALEM BREWERY ASSOCIATION

'Phone 2131 Main

Salem, Oregon