

# NEED OF OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL INSPECTION

SALEM SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SUGGESTS ADVANCED IDEA FOR HIGH SCHOOL REGULATION—SHOULD NOT ONLY BE PREPARATIONS FOR COLLEGE.

City Superintendent of Schools, J. M. Powers, in a speech at the meeting of the state teachers at Eugene today, recommended a more efficient inspection of the work done in the high schools of the state. He recommends that there should be an inspector appointed—one who has no connection with politics, but who is named for his ability alone. Mr. Powers also suggested that this inspector should see that the course in high schools of the state should be a complete course in itself, rather than it seems is the tendency at present of making the high school merely a preparatory to the university.

The remarks of Mr. Powers at the meeting in Eugene are about as follows: Before entering into a discussion of this subject, I desire first to mention the fact that the schools of Oregon receive about nine tenths of their support from county and local taxes, and but one tenth from the state. This fact will largely determine the success or failure of the state in any attempt to exercise any considerable degree of control over its public schools. It would seem that before the state assumes to any great extent the direction and management of the schools, it should subsidize these schools. This suggests the urgent need for some system of taxation which will furnish additional revenue for the public schools without increasing the burdens of the majority of present taxpayers, a matter which has received due consideration in other discussions at this convention.

Statistics recently gathered by the state superintendent show that there are at present 35 four-year high schools in this state, enrolling six thousand one hundred and sixty-six students, and graduating in June, 1908, 737 students; that there are 15 three-year high schools, enrolling 390 students, and graduating 17; that there are 54 two-year high schools, enrolling 622, and graduating 214 students; and there are 40 one-year high schools, enrolling 400 students, and graduating 225. Assuming that the three-year high schools will quickly add another year to their courses, the total number of bonafide high schools in the state may be fixed at 50. For these 50 schools it is proposed to establish a system of official inspection and classification.

Two systems of inspection are in use in other states at present, namely: 1. Under the direction of the state department of education. 2. By the state university. State inspection is in some cases made in person by the state superintendent, in others by his appointee, and in still others by an appointee of a state board designated by law for that purpose. University inspection

is sometimes on the departmental plain by the heads of departments in the state university, but more frequently, by an appointee of the board of regents or of the university president.

In many states, especially in the South and West, the only kind of inspection is that made by the state university. Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and California are leading examples. Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Missouri provide special high school inspectors under the control of the state department of education or a special high school board. In Wisconsin, Montana, Nebraska, and Missouri inspection is also carried on voluntarily by the state university.

It is readily seen that whatever system of inspection is adopted, the efficiency of the service will rest wholly on the shoulders of the inspector. He should be an expert in his work, and politics should have absolutely nothing to do with his appointment. His term of service should not be less than three years, and he should always be eligible for re-appointment.

Each of the two systems of inspection just mentioned has its advantages and its drawbacks. Before mentioning these, however, it is pertinent as a basis of comparison to mention that less than ten per cent of the students select college preparatory courses in the high schools, and that 90 per cent select such courses as will best fit them for the active duties of life which necessarily quickly requires them to assume.

University inspection is thorough and competent from the scholastic standpoint, it sets a high standard of scholarship, it improves the qualifications of the high school teachers, and tends to bring the atmosphere and influence of higher education nearer to the masses. It actually benefits, however, but ten per cent of the high school enrollment, while it handicaps the 90 per cent to a very considerable degree. It inflicts the greatest injury upon the majority of districts whose means are limited, and whose teachers are obliged to spend all their time in teaching college preparatory subjects. To a large extent it operates against the introduction of instruction in agriculture, manual training and domestic economy, and commercial branches in the high schools, the great need for which is universally acknowledged. Frequently it exercises undue influence in the appointment of teachers, the selection of apparatus and libraries, and the formation of courses of study. In the absence of state inspection, university inspection may, and does prove beneficial. "As a temporary stimulus it is useful, as a permanent pol-

icy it tends to submerge the original and logical purpose of the high schools."

Official state inspection, on the other hand, is weakest where the other is strongest, and vice versa. It is broader and more liberal in its scope, it establishes more flexible and more logical courses of study, it hearkens to the voice of the 90 per cent whose needs are the greatest, and it should not be less efficient over the field which it is primarily appointed to cover. It is argued that state inspection would be satisfactory were it not for political influences. The argument will scarcely hold ground when it is shown that politics can be almost if not entirely eliminated in the appointment of high school inspectors. In Wisconsin, for instance, the inspector is appointed by the state superintendent on the basis of a civil service examination, and in Minnesota he is appointed by a high school board composed of the state superintendent, the president of the state university, the president of one of the state normal schools, and a city superintendent of schools. In both of these states the system of high school inspection has been pronounced a success. It should be understood that inspection by the state does not preclude university inspection for university purposes only, and indeed it has been demonstrated that this dual system is frequently a success.

California has established probably the most rigid system of university inspection. Its high school courses, while nominally created by a high school board, are in reality shaped by the high school inspector. The superintendent of public instruction for this state says: "There ought to be more supervision from some source independent of the university. It seems to me that some plan independent of the university would allow pupils to do more than prepare for the university. As it is the high school teachers seem to think only of preparing for inspection and for entrance to the university. Most of the pupils do not attend the university, but they are all subject to those conditions. The grind is very heavy, and many big boys and girls drop by the wayside for the reason that they are growing too fast to do the work. And yet the accrediting system has built up many high schools and sent many students to the university." This is uniformly the testimony of state superintendents where the university exercises sole control. California, too, is a state which can lay just claim to the control of its public high schools for it furnishes about one third of the total expense of conducting them.

In concluding this paper, the author desires to quote the words of the superintendent of public instruction for the state of Rhode Island regarding the matter of high school inspection. He says: "I see no more need of inspection of high schools than of elementary schools." The author heartily approves of this view. He believes, however, that this inspection should be carried on under the direction of county superintendents under a reorganized county system of supervision.

In so far as high school inspection for Oregon is concerned, the author believes that the state should provide the inspector; that he should be appointed by a state high school board composed of the state superintendent, the president of the state university, the president of a state normal school, and the city superintendent of one of the larger city school systems in the state; that the appointee should be selected solely on account of his fitness for the office; that he be under the direction of the state department of education and that he be appointed for a term of at least three years. He believes that this high school inspector should inspect all schools in the state now doing work above the eighth grade, that he should recommend the elimination of such of these as are attempting more than they can do, and do it well. He is not opposed to university inspection within its limits, and he is confident that the university can inspect the 35 schools in this state with entire satisfaction to all concerned, voluntarily, and without conflict with any system of state inspection that may be established.

J. M. POWERS,  
Superintendent, Salem, Oregon.

**New Corporations.**

May Holland Company; principal office, Portland, Oregon; capital stock, \$10,000; incorporators, R. B. May, T. V. Beckwith and Claude Strahan.

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W. B. Hollingsworth, Portland; Clyde O. Rice, Salem.

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**LAW HITS**

**U. S. AND GERMANY**

London, June 26—The new British patent law which stipulates that foreigners who obtain patents in Great Britain must manufacture their goods on British soil is creating an industrial revolution here. German and American manufacturers are hit the hardest by the law and are already making preparations to either open factories in England or make arrangements whereby English firms manufacture the goods under a system of royalties.

Word from Berlin states that the German parliament is considering the prospect of retaliating measures. The new law goes into effect July 28, and many idle working men in Eng-

land have already obtained employment in factories to be operated by foreigners under the new law.

**PLANK OF REVISION OF TARIFF**

Denver, Colo., June 26.—According to Norman Mack of New York, who is here after having had a conference with William J. Bryan, the revision of the tariff will be one of the main planks of the Democratic platform, a rough draft of which has been prepared by the Nebraskan.

The platform also contains a strong anti-injunction plank calculated to please Samuel Gompers and the other labor leaders, a declaration for railroad rate regulations, a strong anti-trust platform and a plank recommending the re-drafting of the currency laws.

**CHAUFFEUR GOT \$6000 FROM BANKER'S DAUGHTER**

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, June 26.—Allegations that Mrs. Hattie E. Burns, daughter of the late John R. Whitney, banker and capitalist, had given Leland S. Gould, a young chauffeur \$6000 with which to purchase an automobile, are the talk of society today, although the court has legally decided that Mrs. Burns loaned the money to young Gould and did not give it to him.

The chauffeur created a sensation by producing witnesses in court, who testified that the society woman loved him and had given him jewelry besides the money with which to buy an automobile.

Mrs. Burns said that she felt an interest in Gould and loaned him the money so that he could start in business for himself. The court declared that he believed the testimony of Mrs. Burns and awarded her a judgment against Gould for \$6000.



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