Alderman Talks to the Teachers in Portland

Portland, Or., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Changes revolutionary in educational circles were advocated by L. R. Alderman, state superintendent of public instruction, in an address at the opening session of the Oregon State Teachers' association here Thursday.

That the state eighth grade examinations have served their purpose and could be made optional instead of compulsory for the completion of the grammar school was one of the charges which Superintendent Alderman hinted he would attempt to bring about while he is in office. The educator doubts if text-books should be uniform throughout the state. He suggested that local adoption of books might be a good change to bring about since the schools have come to reflect the industrial life of the communities. Also he doubts if books used in city schools are always desirable for country schools. The superintendent advocates the changing of only a few of the books at a time.

Superintendent Alderman pleaded for support in keeping the supervisory law on the statute books. In a moral way he asks the support of the religious bodies of the state and the press in suppressing the cigarette evil.

Superintendent Alderman said:

"Ladies and Gentleman, or what shall I say, fellow voters? This is the second meeting of the western division of the state association, under its new organization, that of a conference. When connected with the county institutes as of old, only those were present who came under more or less compulsion. With the present plan, only those who really desire to be here, are in attendance. As only workers are present, it is hoped to make this a very important working session.

Talks of Legislation.

"The legislature meets on January 13, and it might be profitable for us to discuss needed legislation. Text-books we have always with us, and as the six-year contract of the state expires in June of the new year, it is opportune time for us to consider if the law can be improved so that our text-books can the better meet our needs.

"I wish in the first place to call your attention to the fact that the present law contemplates a change in June of all the text-books now in use, or the retention of all for another period of six years. The expense to the parent of an entire change of books is considerable. Would it not be better for the text-book commission to meet every two years and select only a part of the books at any one meeting, thus distributing the expense over a longer period of time? As it is, the members of the commission complain that the work involved in an entire change cannot be satisfactorily done in the short time allotted to them by law. Each book company has its claims and its books, and in the general rush to finish a compromise is made. Again, it is found almost impossible for the publishers and dealers to furnish the text-books in time for the opening of school in September. But perhaps the most serious evil attendant upon the present system is that the teacher is not given time to become familiar with the texts before attempting to teach them, nor can there be any adequate course of study prepared between the time of adoption and the beginning of school.

Are Uniform Texts Necessary?

"I should like to have the merits of absolute uniformity of textbooks discussed at this meeting. Is the text that is suitable for the country school the best that can be had for the city school? We have, of course, many students who go from the country to the city, and without uniformity such students would be compelled to buy new texts. With this consideration left out, are we apt to secure as good books on as favorable terms, as we would without uniformity? If agreed that the local high schools should reflect the local industries to a marked degree, should not the selection of high school texts along the manual arts lines be left to local adoption. For the last six years we have had no text in civics. As all our citizens are now given the right to vote, it seems highly important that we have a text in citizenship.

"The criticism that this would involve an additional book to be purchased by the parents, and the number already is excessive is a reasonable one, but the number can be cut down in several ways. A one-book course in geography is enough. All the geography that any of us need and more than any of us know can be had from the smaller of the two-book series. The number can be further reduced by adopting only four readers in the five-book series. The fifth reader in all five-book series is made up of selections from the classics. It would be better in my opinion to read the classics themselves.

Tests Have Served Purpose.

"I thing our uniform eighth grade examinations have served a great purpose, for they have unified instruction, as nothing else could have done. But in my opinion, they have served their purpose, and now could be made optional, instead of compulsory, for the completion of the grammar school. I should like to have this matter thoroughly discussed.

"I ask for your united and active support, with that of your various delegations to the legislature, in the support of our present law for rural supervision. The short trial given the law shows its worth. It has improved the schools in some counties 100 per cent. The cost is a cause of complaint in some communities, but we are spending the country over but $13 for the country child's education, while $39 is being spent for the education of the city child. With our supervisory law we are spending for the supervision of the rural schools only from one-half to one-fifth as much per child, as we are for supervision in the city schools. The country school needs all the time this conference can give, for our people are constantly leaving the country for better school advantages.

"County school support for our schools inadequate. In my opinion we should have state support. It is a matter of state concern and we would find, as most states have, that development comes more uniformly with state support of schools. How can a district with an enrollment of but 15 pupils and a valuation of $5,000 have a good school under our present system?

Wants Bar on Cigarettes.

"Can we not this year to the lasting benefit of many of our boys ask the state press and all the religious organizations, as well as all officers of the law to join with us in the strict enforcement of the anti-cigarette law for boys? No matter what may be said of smoking for adults, all authorities agree that smoking injures the adolescent mind and body. By taking a decided stand in this matter, I am sure we can lessen this evil.

"The distribution of Sunday schools is so uneven in the state, it is thought wise for the state board of education to call a meeting of the religious workers of all faiths to the end that more Sunday schools may be had where there are too few, and consolidation may be made where there are too many.

"Last year I reported an experiment that was being tried in a few places in the state of giving credit in the school for work done at home. This year many teachers are trying this plan, with the result that home and school are being brought closer together. This is bound to result in the improvement of both. In my opinion, one of the greatest opportunities a teacher has is to make the children under his care more fully appreciative of their home.

"It is hoped that an awakening may be general all over the state along the line of the wider use of the school plant. To this end we have this year over 100 men and women who are giving lectures in the country and small towns. The possibilities of adult education are just beginning to be appreciated. Our school houses are going to be open in the evening as well as in the day time.

Industrial Instrucion Needed.

"The great demand for more individual instruction ought to take the form of shorter hours in school for the child, with fewer pupils at a session.

"Competition along all lines of industry is becoming more and more severe, and the rapid growth of our population that will come with the completion of the Panama canal, makes it more incumbent on us to make our system of education fit the child as nearly as possible for the most successful living of the life before him.

"Our schools have made wonderful progress during the last decade, and are making much now, but it reminds me of the story of the darkey who, when asked if he had run fast in the shooting scrape, replied, "not very fast, but I passed several who were running fast."

THE HELLO GIRLS LIKED THE CANDY

That kindness and good feeling exists between one business man, at least, and the telephone operators of Salem, was shown Saturday when A. G. Magers received a neat little note thanking him for the consideration sohwn them in the form of $2.50 worth of candy and $2.00 worth of peanuts which they received Christmas day. Mr. Magers has always been a great friend of the employes of the local phone station, and, due to his constant cheerful disposition and kindly treatment of the "hello" girls, they have formed a great liking for the popular business man.

Many a good dinner has been spoiled by a poor digestion.

UP THE LADDER TO THE GOVERNOR'S CHAIR OF FLORIDA.

A SELF made man is Park M. Trammell, whom the Democrats of Florida elected for governor at the November election. Beginning life at the age of fifteen years, he has fought his way upward by dint of pluck, perseverance and common sense. He selected the law as his ladder toward distinction, like so many thousands of other successful Americans. At the age of thirty-two years he was attorney general of the Peninsular State. Prior to his election to that office in 1908 he had been city clerk and twice mayor of Lakeland, had sat in the state assembly and had been state senator—familiar steps all in the climb toward the governor's chair.

January Clearance Sale

PRICES GREATLY REDUCED

Coats and Suits

Come in and see our suits and coats, plain tailored and fancy trimmed models; materials of the best and workmanship unequaled. Serges, Cheviots, diagonals, mixtures. Prices so low that you will be surprised.

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Dainty undermarments for Women, misses and children, made of best materials and neatly trimmed. You will be delighted at the showing, especially the prices. Every garment reduced in price.

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U. G. Shipley Company
MERCHANDISE LIBERTY STREET BETWEEN STATE & COURT PRICES

Anderson Building Damaged

The Anderson building, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Commercial and Court streets, cracked badly Sunday morning, due to the foundation settling. According to statements made by contractors today, too much weight bearing on the corner as the result of a large portion of the original wall being removed in order to make an entrance to the clothing store now occupying the building. When the wall was removed, a greag weight was placed on the corner foundation and it being hardly secure enough, resulted in the entire side and a portion of the south wall sagging.

A plate glass window, about 12x12, was demolished when the corner sank and another smaller glass cracked. No other damage was done.

UTAH WILL PUT UP HALF A MILLION

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 30.—That $500,000 be appropriated by the state of Utah, $200,000 for the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco, and $200,000 for the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Diego, and $100,000 for home exhibits and publicity incidental to Pacific coast travel, is the recommendation today of the Salt Lake Commercial club. The proposition is to be conveyed to Governor Spry.

Birdman Is Safe.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—Although it was thought Aviator Silas Christofferson was lost when he did not appear after doing spectacular dives and spirals and finally heading for Harbor View here Saturday, the airman is safe today.

Christofferson met with adverse air currents which compelled him to land in a field several miles distant, and it took him several hours to make his craft safe for the night.

Murdered His Wife.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.]

La Grange, Ind., Dec. 28.—Edward Hart killed his wife, Rena, from whom he was separated, and her mother, Mrs. Sarah McBride, here early today as they slept.

Hart fled after the crime, but was captured later.

Journal "Want Ads." bring results.

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NEW GOODS
NEW PRICES

I have a large stock to select from. All goods fresh.
4 pkgs seeded raisins (new) 25c
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5 pkgs lion tea 50c
5 cans wine salmon 25c
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Eugene	From	Portland	$3.70
Woodburn	To	Salem	1.00
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On sale December 23 to January 1, inclusive; tickets good for return up to and including January 5, 1913.

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