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WHAT IT ALL MEANS

Here Are the Reasons Why a Revision of the Present School Law is Necessary.

A CONCISE SYNOPSIS OF CHANGES.

The State Board of Education Heartily Endorse the Revision—Something That Interests Every Educator.

There has been a sentiment growing for many years among teachers and others interested in the welfare of our public schools that the Montana school law is in need of serious revision.

Then there is a great need that legislation be enacted covering points now entirely omitted from our school law. It will be easily understood that to compile in satisfactory form a school law meeting the demands of the changed conditions of the state resulting from its transition from a territory to statehood, and our advanced position in all educational matters, requires much time and well directed work upon the part of those undertaking it.

In their resolution endorsing the revision the board says: "We heartily endorse the bill revising the Montana school law prepared by State Superintendent E. A. Steere and his deputy, C. C. Wylie, and believe if this bill is enacted into law and properly executed it will give Montana a school system efficient, progressive and abreast of the requirements of the times."

This new school bill which the legislature will be asked to make a law is quite voluminous, and it covers the ground thoroughly. Perhaps the greatest change contemplated in the proposed law, and the one which concerns more deeply the interests of all the people is that relating to the method of the selection of text books.

Under the proposed law this duty is delegated to the state board of education. From the composition of this board it is safe to assume that the people's interests would be well cared for. In addition to its present duties this board is given the power to appoint and commission experienced teachers to act as instructors in county institutes.

Under the head of state department of public instruction there are a number of changes from the old law. His qualifications are enumerated, among them being that he shall be the holder of a state certificate of the highest grade, issued in some state, or as a graduate of some reputable university, college or normal school.

It is proposed to change the time of the taking of the census from November to July, so as to get it in the reports for the current year instead of one year forward, as is now the case.

Aside from the addition of some new ones, the duties of the boards of trustees will not be materially changed. The phraseology, however, is clearer, and trustees will be caused less trouble in their attempts to construe the law's meaning.

The office of city superintendent of schools is created in each city having a population of 5,000 and upward. His duties, salary, etc., shall be such as the board of trustees shall prescribe.

Some interesting changes are noted under the head of county institutes. Every county having ten or more school districts must hold one each year. It shall be of not less than five nor more than ten days' duration.

Some very important changes are noted in the chapter on "Examinations and Certificates." Should the new law be passed by the legislature there will no longer be occasion for teachers to complain of the action of county superintendents in the treatment of their papers. It is said that the method of teachers' examinations in this state are away behind the times, and are unsatisfactory alike to superintendents and teachers.

ing county certificates of the highest county grade or state or life diplomas. That there may be no injustice done to any one desiring to teach it is provided that the county superintendent may issue a temporary certificate good until the next regular examination, to any person applying at any other time than at a regular examination, who can show satisfactory reasons for failing to attend such examination.

Every applicant must pass a satisfactory examination in the following branches: Reading, penmanship, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography, English grammar, physiology and hygiene, United States history, theory and practice of teaching.

The compulsory attendance law is made more stringent, and the appointment of truant officers is authorized in districts having 2,500 or more population.

The principal of the state school fund is made irrevocable, and the sources from which it is derived are enumerated. The tax levy is raised from a minimum of two to three mills, with a maximum of five mills.

Provision is also made for the proper observation of Arbor Day, and for school district libraries. The new law includes with some wholesome provisions relative to general school matters. Taken all in all, the proposed new law is certainly a good one, and its many wise provisions can not but commend themselves to the thoughtful and favorable consideration of the people's lawmakers.

An election of officers of the board of trade for the ensuing year will be held this evening at their rooms in the Granite block, between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock. W. E. Cox, secretary.

Boro Menthol will cure your catarrh. At all druggists.

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The best remedy on earth for ladies who are suffering from nervous trouble, etc., never fails, hundreds of testimonials from far and near can be seen at the office of Montana Vasei company, room 13, Denver building, Broadway.

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The Bee Hive have a special sale of dress patterns this week. Fifty styles of plain and fancy dress patterns at \$3.50, linings included.

Notice.

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Rocky Mountain Encampment No. 1, I. O. O. F.

Meets second and fourth Monday.

A regular meeting of the above Encampment will be held at their lodge room this evening at 8 p. m. Inquirers and visiting brothers are cordially invited to attend.

ROBERT THOMPSON, C. P. EMIL KLUZG, Sec'ry.

Capital Lodge No. 2, A. O. U. W.

Meets Every Monday.

A regular meeting of Capital Lodge No. 2, A. O. U. W., will be held at A. O. U. W. hall, Farnham building, Broadway. Visiting brothers are cordially welcomed.

W. S. VAN OSOOL, Sec.

Catholic Knights of America.

French No. 228 meets every second and fourth Monday in each month at 7:30 p. m. at St. Anthony's hall. Assessment No. 10 is called.

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