

WANTS HIGHER WAGES

Teacher Writes Urging Better Conditions.

IS HARD ON DIRECTORS.

Says Some Are Extravagant With Supplies but Stingy with Teachers

Editor The Denison Review:

Owing to the passage of the law requiring that teachers be examined by the state, which has resulted in an astonishing shortage of teachers, which will grow worse later on, I am constrained to express some views, the result of some experience in teaching.

The paramount question seems to now be: What shall we do to supply the schools of the state with teachers? Of course the qualifications of said teachers are no longer in dispute, for the State judges them and it is worthy of note that fifty per cent of those who took the recent examination failed to pass, while it lacked very much of being a hard one.

The question seems so simple that it seems hardly worth while to answer it. If the teachers of the state were paid a living salary there would not now, nor ever have been a shortage of good educational talent. The writer has worked on a farm for \$20 a month, and saved very much more than anyone possibly can save working for the wages paid to teachers. Moreover, one county pays more than another, one district more than the one alongside of it. I am in favor of a law establishing a uniform scale of wages for the three different grades, and not less than \$75 for first grade certificate.

My reasons are these: We have to spend no small sum of money to qualify as teachers; we have, generally to pay board during the school term and "sponge" our board from our parents or relatives during vacation. We have to buy text books; subscribe for magazines; pay livery hire to get to our schools and back, then have to pay livery hire each and every month to collect the salary, these two items will amount to many dollars during the school season. Of course we can walk, however, few, especially young ladies, care to.

Now that the state is issuing the certificates, some arrangement should be made whereby the president of the board, or the director, or both combined, could fill out the warrant, mail it to the County Superintendent and have him mail it to the teacher. If there are only 1000 teachers in the state it would save them at least \$10,000 a year. There are, I believe, 20,000-\$200,000. The State issues the certificate, therefore, a teacher should be hired for the year, because they better understand the work which has been done in a particular school. The fact that some particular person "does not like the teacher" should be no argument, for if the greatest educator in the United States were to teach in some of the districts I know of, they would be well-criticized, to say the least.

The most of our school laws seem to be retained simply because they are hony with age, and just so long as teachers are hired from favoritism, or political or religious bias, just so long will there be dissatisfaction. There should be some way where by the patrons of a school should have something to say about the teacher to be hired. The time will come, I think, when the county superintendent will place the teachers, knowing better than anyone else their talent as teachers.

I am very much in favor that the State fix the wages to be paid teachers. The average director seems to have no other idea of official duty than to keep down wages. If they took even a little interest in educational matters we should have better school houses, better attendance, and better pay for teachers. I have known a director to buy yellow pine flooring for kindling at a matter of \$40 a thousand feet, however, I did not hear that the board objected.

There is too much opportunity in our present laws for a director to be arbitrary, unreasonable and unjust. I could quote many instances which have been told to me, however, they

are not pertinent to the subject matter of this article.

A parent having a child a teacher should be now allowed to hire him or her since the State issues the certificate, or else make it obligatory that there be a signed complaint by at least three patrons of the school, giving reasons why the teacher is objectionable.

Teachers should be relieved of the tax and labor of chasing over the township to collect their salary.

Teachers should have legal holidays, the same as all other county and state employes.

They should be hired by the year.

All complaints to director or superintendent should be in writing. As it is, teachers hear rumors, gossip and talk, without a chance to defend themselves.

No teacher should be required to teach the higher branches where children under 15 pre-empt. One pupil in algebra takes the time required to teach four to six little ones.

Above all: The shortage of teachers can be remedied by paying living wages, and just as long, now, as a director insists on the starvation wages which have prevailed in this state for years past, so long will there be a shortage of educational talent. Half of those who took the state examination failed, and it is not too much to look ahead and guess that when the July examination is over that Mr. Hoffman will find himself with a deficiency of about 75 per cent, then where will he get teachers? What is he to do? What are directors to do? Close the schools? Consolidate the schools? This is the timeto think, for July is but four months away, when all county certificate expire. I am open for an engagement, however, no more working for glory in mine.

Teacher.

MONEY IN WEEDS.

Experts of the Agricultural department at Washington have been conducting some very interesting investigations which indicate that the American farmers are throwing away millions of dollars each year by destroying weeds that have a high commercial value. Secretary Wilson expresses surprise that wide-awake and resourceful farmers have not gone in for drug plant cultivation, making use of many of the common weeds now considered pests which hold sources of great revenue. The United States last year bought \$64,000,000 worth of drugs and dyes from foreign countries and Secretary Wilson insists that every dollar's worth of this material could have been secured from plants and weeds grown at home.

Accepting the findings of the expert as true, the average American farmer has riches lying unnoticed about his field in the shape of noxious weeds now destroyed or allowed to impoverish the soil. The profit from this source may be considered assured from year to year, for the weed crop, immune from the ravages of pests and of the blight of drouth, is never a failure. Belladonna, for instance, is a standard drug, always in demand at a good price. Experiments conducted at the agricultural department at Washington show that the plant will grow luxuriantly in any soil that will yield wheat or corn. Last year the United States imported 3,500,000 pounds of paprika, valued at \$4,000,000. It is prepared from the pods of a slender plant grown almost exclusively in Hungary. One man in South Carolina last year raised 3,500 pound of this pepper on three acres of ground and marketed it at nearly \$1 a pound.

The department furnishes a long list, of weeds commonly regarded as nuisances and worthless that may be cultivated to commercial advantage. The despised and lowly jimson weed supplies drug dealer with both leaves and seeds and its cultivation, according to the experts, will pay better than wheat or other staple crops. Phytolacca Americana sounds expensive enough on the druggist's shelf and proves so when served on prescription, but is only the medical alias of plain poke root, the war for whose extermination has caused many a farmer's boy to leave home. Burdock and yellow dock are now imported because American farmers do not take the trouble to dig them and send them to market. Worm seed is worth about \$1 a pound and, in fact, most, of the weeds filling the fence corners and fallow lands of the ordinary American farm possess commercial value when properly treated.

Many possibilities of profit at little outlay of time and labor are opened up by the department's report, even if it changes conditions by relieving the farmer who fails to cut his weeds from the corn and contempt of his neighbors.

Mr. Joe Cranny, of Harlan is tending to the business at the Green Bay Lumber Company during the absence of Mr. Alfred Wright.

Out in Butte a printer's strike caused the newspapers to suspend publication. Business in all retail lines fell off from 25 to 50 per cent within a week. These facts speak volumes for newspaper advertising. The merchant who neglects to advertise is injuring himself more than any other person.

Dr. Sterling of West Side spent Friday in Denison.

W. C. Rollins was an Omaha business visitor on Thursday.

B. G. Lyman made Council Bluffs a business visit last week.

E. Gulick made a business trip to Mitchell, S. D. last week.

Wm. Lappel of Manilla, was a caller in Denison Thursday.

P. W. Harding was a Missouri Valley visitor last Wednesday.

B. Brodersen inspected the Council Bluffs and Omaha markets last week.

Dr. Darling and I. V. Corey of Vail were Denison callers on Saturday.

Marshal Savery enjoyed a visit last week from his sister from Woodbine.

W. J. McAhren spent a portion of last week in Harlan on government business.

Miss Alice Staininger of Vail spent Saturday and Sunday with friends in Denison.

Gust Danelson writes the Review from Oslo, Minn and tells of 40 degrees below zero. It is enough to give one chills.

Mrs. S. J. Heston left last week for a visit with her daughter, Mrs. Brown in Des Moines.

Orrie McElwain, a prosperous young farmer of Willow township visited Denison relatives on Saturday.

See Goff's Great Moving Picture Show at the Opera House Saturday night March 2nd. Prices 15 and 25 cents.

For Rent—A house and small acreage about one and a half miles from Denison, also one lot in east Denison for sale. Inquire of G. Schafer. 8-ft

E. P. Grainger called on Wednesday to subscribe for the Review. Both he and his wife come from Re-view families and he finds that he cannot keep house without it.

Through Denison friends we learn of the death of Flossie Huff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Huff, of Walker, Oregon. Death was caused by bronchial typhoid fever.

A LETTER TO TEACHERS.

The time is at hand for the teachers of the state to unite in an effort to inaugurate certain reforms, principal of which is an increase of wages.

There is one or more ways to do this, first, by refusing to teach for less than a certain sum, second, by petitioning the state legislature to fix wages at, say, \$45 for third grade certificate, \$55 for second and \$65 for first.

There is already a shortage of teachers in the state, there will be a much greater deficiency after the July examination.

I suggest that if we can do nothing else, we organize as a branch of the labor union, which can be easily and cheaply done, when we could protect ourselves and each other, for so long as the setting of our wages is left to the directors wages will be just as low as they can make them, and get any kind of a teacher.

Will you kindly send copies of this to three (or more) of your particular teacher friends and ask each of them to send to three, or more. In this way we can cover the state inside of thirty days, when I propose to call a meeting.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Many of the students visited their homes over Saturday and Sunday, so many that we will not undertake to mention the names of them all.

Misses Hurd and Miss Winans visited friends in Manilla on Saturday and also attended the teachers' meeting there.

Mrs. Shannon of Defiance visited her daughter Zoe the first part of last week. Miss Ferguson accompanied her and visited her sister Ethel.

On Washington's birthday the G. A. R. had a representative at the college in the person of Mr. Shaw Van. He gave the students an eloquent address on the life and place of Washington.

Mr. Van Ness was at Manilla on Saturday as he was on the program of the teachers' meeting.

Both the boys' and girls' basketball team expect to play at West Side next Saturday.

Miss Brackney gave a couple of readings at the installation of the officers of the sons of Veterans on Friday evening, which were very much enjoyed by those present.

RHEUMATISM

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