

SUPERINTENDENT ON UNIFORMITY OF BOOKS

GIVES REASONS WHY A COUNTY UNIFORMITY OF TEXT BOOKS WOULD BE BETTER.

BOOKS WOULD BE CHEAPER

Teachers Would have No Trouble in Grading Pupils Removing From One Part of County to other.

On March 14th the people living in rural districts will have an opportunity to vote on the County Uniformity of Text Book proposition. Since writing the articles that appeared in last week's issue of the County papers there have been a number of inquiries regarding the method whereby this plan is submitted to the people. As many do not have copies of the Iowa School Law I will give briefly the chief legal facts governing such matters.

The Iowa Code prescribes that when one third of all rural directors shall have filed petitions with the County Superintendent asking that the proposition of County Uniformity of Text Books be submitted to the people, the County Superintendent shall call a meeting of the County Educational Board—composed of the County Auditor, Board of Supervisors, and County Superintendent—to arrange for submitting the proposition at the annual school election—the second Monday in March. This is the date for the township meeting and the meeting in rural independent districts. Should the proposition receive a favorable vote the County Board of Education would then select the books and make arrangements for handling the same under county supervision. The County Superintendent would have the matter in charge.

Realizing the many advantages of County Uniformity I sent out blank early in January to secure an expression from school officers regarding the advisability of submitting it to the people. A large percentage expressed themselves favorably where upon petitions were sent out with the result that over seventy per cent came in signed.

In my article last week I attempted to show that County Uniformity would give us cheaper books, would be better for poor men and work no injury to anyone, would also be helpful to those who are compelled to move to another place in the county. This I believe to be true. There are yet more essential and urgent reasons why the same books should be used in all the schools. If a cheaper price were the only advantage to be gained I hardly think the proposition would be worth all the effort necessary to get the proposition before the people and I would not undertake it. The chief benefit comes from better school conditions and more efficient and graduation in our schools.

One serious drawback in our school at present is the failure to grade pupils properly. This is practically due to two things—too great a variety of text books and lack of knowledge of how much ground to cover properly. Where there are several text books no teacher, be she ever so good, can properly grade her pupils because she must have so many classes that "working to standard" is impossible.

The lack of knowledge of just the right amount of ground to cover is a serious matter, especially to young teachers. We frequently receive letters from excellent young teachers asking how much they should cover in certain subjects. Others attempt to do more than the class can work out successfully with the result that pupils are soon pushed out beyond their depth and before long become discouraged and wish to leave school. Even a good swimmer when out beyond the limit of his powers with no apparent show of relief soon gives up and school children are no exception.

A course of study would do much to remedy this evil. Our teachers need this as a pattern to work by. To make a course of study for use in schools where there is a variety of text books would be like throwing away and to attempt arranging a course for each individual school would be sheer folly. A far better and reasonable plan would be to use the same books in all the schools. The teachers would know just how much to cover in a given time, what to teach and how much. At Institute all work could be based on the text books used in the county; for teaching a text is like using a cradle it cannot be handled to the best advantage till it has been used diligently. With uniform books there would be prepared in this office an outline showing the work to be done through the year and the pages to be covered. In addition the amount of supplementary work would be prescribed which would be extremely helpful in bringing all our schools to a certain standard. I do not know of any reason why children in all schools should not be covering the same ground and in the same effective manner, so that when they have completed the rural school course each has reached the highest state of efficiency possible for him.

The matter of classification of schools is often impossible because pupils are misfit. That is, they do not take work that would go with any grade. So many times children moving about have been in several text books till they have lost their

classification entirely and as a result lose considerable time in adjusting themselves. This is especially true in lower grades. If all children when entering school could be provided with the same books, could cover the same ground in the same efficient manner, they would always find a place and proper class in almost any school in the county to which they might move. There would be practically no adjustment to make his work go on smoothly. In addition much of the inefficient work would be eliminated and loss of time would be brought to a minimum.

I believe one reason why our schools have difficulty in performing their best work arises from a lack of general use of the same text books. There are several places where the adopted book cannot be obtained. This necessitates waiting till parents go to a neighboring town or the books can be ordered by the local dealer. True, one which he has in stock such as the town uses may be purchased but that only makes the teacher an extra class and destroys the child's interest. So the child waits and in order to get along sits with some other pupil. By so doing he not only loses much time but takes it from the other as well. We have a good number of such cases which could and would be avoided if conditions were different.

There are some who feel that county uniformity would mean a wholesale change of text books. Let me assure these people that such is not the intention. The object is to place the same books in all the schools with as few changes as possible and yet get a reduction in price and a good book that would be suitable for our schools. There is a common ground where all can meet without working a great hardship to anyone. We believe in this case a minority would be willing to meet the majority especially when the good of our school system would demand it.

The county uniform system would open the matter of text books up to competition which we do not now have. Even those now furnishing out text books have been, for years, placing the same books in other counties twenty-five per cent cheaper. This is due to open competition with their firms and I believe will cause the same reduction in our own county when the matter comes to be settled where competition may enter. Let me sum up my reasons for advocating county uniformity of text books. I realize that all the difficulties will not be removed or that our schools will not be made perfect hereby, but many of the inconsistencies will be removed; many things that now hinder progress in our schools will be taken away and the general good derived will warrant its adoption.

Our books would be cheaper. People would know the prices and where to obtain them. The county would establish proper depositories for sending the books in the most convenient places. There would be but one price to all in the county in place of five to six as we now have. People moving to another district would not be compelled to buy new books. Teachers could do more effective work. An outline course of study could be prepared by the County Superintendent, thus promoting more systematic work and establishing better working conditions and give us better classification of our schools.

To my mind these things are essential to good schools and worthy of most careful consideration. We cannot afford to have any but the best system and that system worked out under the highest state of efficiency. It is with the hope of such conditions that I am advocating a uniform series of text books for the schools of Delaware county.

COUNTY SPELLING CONTEST HELD SATURDAY.

The Delaware County spelling contest was held at the City Opera house in this city Saturday afternoon. The contestants were very eager to spell and the contest continued for five hours. The winners if the county contest, who are to attend the inter-county contest to be held at Independence some time in April, were as follows: first, Mary Jeffrey of District No. 3, in Adams township; second, Marietta Foley of the intermediate room at Ryan; 3rd, Vincent Drummy of District No. 4, in Hazel Green township; fourth, Pearl Dunlap of District No. 5, of South Fork township; and fifth, Pauline McCrea of Ryan. The winner of the first prize received a silver medal the second winner was given a premium of \$3 in cash and the third winner received \$2 in cash.

DELAWARE CREAMERY REPORT.

The following is the monthly report of the Delaware Co-operative creamery company for the month of January 1910:

Number of pounds of milk received, 57,969.
Number of pounds of cream received, 5,816.
Average test of milk, 3.9.
Highest price paid, \$2.18.
Lowest price paid, \$1.10.
Average price paid, \$1.40.
Average test of cream, 29.

LAIN-GORHAM.

Miss Cora I. Lain of Edgewood and Mr. Edward Gorham of this city were united in marriage last Wednesday by Rev. Miss Donna Minton. Mr. and Mrs. Gorham will reside on the Edw. Cook farm west of this city. They have the best wishes of their friends.

MONTICELLO IS AFTER THE INTERURBAN

PETITION BEING CIRCULATED FOR SIGNATURES OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

DEATH OF MRS. M. I. B. RICHMOND

Long Time Resident of Manchester Passes to her Reward.

The Monticello Express in its last issue contained the following interesting article in reference to the proposed Manchester & Davenport Interurban Railway:

A petition is being circulated for the signature of the freehold taxpayers of the city of Monticello for presentation to the city council asking that a special election be called for the purpose of voting upon the question of the levy of a five percent tax in aid of the Manchester & Davenport Interurban Railway.

It is well known that the building of this line has been agitated for several years. Late Matthews, of Manchester, Father M. C. Murphy, of Argand, J. A. Voorhes of Monticello, W. T. Baker of Davenport, and others along the line have persistently worked for the accomplishment of this enterprise, sometimes when there appeared to be little encouragement, but they never wavered in their enthusiasm, and insisted that persistent effort would at last result in its construction.

The corporation engaged in promoting the enterprise has made a contract with Mr. Cross for the construction of the first thirty miles of the road. That contract requires cash aid to some amount, which must be furnished either by subscription or by the aid of special taxes. The subscribers or taxpayers contributing to the enterprise will be given stock of the par value of the amount contributed.

The petition being circulated provides in brief that the proposed five percent tax shall be paid in two equal annual installments, the first of which shall not be paid until the road shall have been constructed and in operation from Manchester to Monticello, and the second installment shall not be paid until such a time as the road shall have been completed and in operation as far as Olin or in that neighborhood within a few miles of Olin. The money provided by the beginning of the road shall be Manchester and it shall end at Davenport, and be constructed either by way of Tipton or Bennett.

The promoters of the enterprise are receiving a good deal of encouragement. Monticello needs another line of road, either interurban or standard gauge, which does not owe to the company that now owns the two lines running into our town. Under the present restrictive legislative regulations nothing is to be saved in freight rates by the service of competing lines of railway, but there is a striking advantage in the matter of accommodations accorded where there is competition. This road would be a decided advantage to Monticello from the standpoint of business development, convenience in traveling and opening of new tributary territory.

It is to be hoped that the taxpayers of the city will take kindly to a proposition that has cost some of our citizens a great deal of time, and if the election is ordered that the proposition be given what it should have, and that is a rousing majority. No chances are taken in the voting of the tax for if the road is not completed the taxes are not to be paid, and if the road is completed we certainly can afford to pay them.

MRS. M. I. B. RICHMOND.

The death of Mrs. M. I. B. Richmond occurred at her home in this city Thursday evening, February 24, 1910. The funeral services were held at the home Sunday morning and were conducted by Mrs. Ella M. Cooly. Interment was made in the Manchester cemetery.

Eliza A. Hoag was born at Glover'sville, Montgomery county, New York, on January 21, 1838. When she deceased was six months old her parents removed to Niles, Michigan, where she spent her girlhood days. In June 1875 she was united in marriage with M. I. B. Richmond at Buchanan, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Richmond removed to Delaware county soon after their marriage, and resided for many years one and one half miles northeast of this city. They removed to Manchester in 1893. The deceased is survived by her husband, one sister, Mrs. Lee Burbridge of Manchester and one brother, William Hoag of Niles, Michigan. Mrs. Richmond was a member of the Manchester Christian Science society.

Mrs. Richmond was a sister of the late E. W. and J. J. Hoag. She enjoyed a large circle of friends, who deeply regret her death and extend their sympathy to the sorrowing relatives and the bereaved husband.

Among the out of town relatives who were present at the funeral were Mrs. William Packman of Marble Rock, and Miss Fannie Hoag and Fred Hoag of Charles City. O. Ye that look in raven's made. With heavy heart and fearful gaze. I look upward, and behold the rift. Which ever widening to the view. Reveals the Heavens of Truth and Love. The Life, which maketh all things new. Look not for Life, among the dead;

THE LOCAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

WHAT MANCHESTER PEOPLE ARE DOING AT HOME AND ABROAD.

REVIEW AND FORECAST OF EVENTS

Items of a Personal and General Nature Picked Up About Town.

—W. H. Norris was a business visitor in Dubuque Friday.

—Will Chapel was a business visitor in Dubuque Saturday.

—E. M. Carr was in Monticello on business Thursday and Friday.

—R. M. Merriam of Ryan was a business visitor in the city Friday.

—James Rogers of Earlville was a business visitor in the city Thursday.

—Mrs. John Malven was a guest of relatives in Independence last week.

—E. J. Carpenter of Earlville was in Manchester on business Saturday.

—County Attorney A. M. Cloud was a business visitor in Earlville Thursday.

—Mrs. F. B. Asmus was a guest of relatives and friends in Independence last week.

—Homer Davis of Littleport was a guest of friends in the city the latter part of last week.

—Carl Rabenau of Monticello was an over Sunday guest of relatives and friends in the city.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Denton left for Chicago today, where they are leaving a several days visit.

—F. D. Joseph was in Dubuque Friday evening, where he acted as a judge in a debating contest.

—Mrs. C. J. Seeds and Mrs. E. B. Stiles departed for Chicago Monday where they are spending several days.

—Mrs. Earl Bronson of Spencer arrived in the city Saturday afternoon for a visit with relatives and friends.

—A. D. Brown returned home from Clinton Friday evening, where he had been attending a meeting of the Consistory.

—A creditable statement of the condition of the Duwasee Savings bank is published in another column of this issue.

—Mrs. S. E. Turner of Doland, South Dakota, is visiting in this city at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dodge.

—W. R. Gill is in Independence looking after the overhauling and improving the machinery in the power house of the Gedney plant.

—Mrs. Sherm. Harris will entertain a company of ladies at a six o'clock dinner this (Tuesday) evening at her home on East Howard street.

—Percy Strickland, who attends school at Cedar Rapids, was a guest at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Strickland, over Sunday.

—M. J. Yoran was in Dubuque Friday evening, where he acted as a judge in a debating contest between the West Waterloo team and Dubuque.

—Dr. H. M. Bradley has returned from New Orleans, where he has been spending several days visiting friends and attending a medical convention.

—A dance will be given at the Central Opera House on Thursday evening, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Music will be furnished by a first class orchestra.

—Company D. is to spend the coming summer annual encampment at Sparta, Wisconsin. Regiments from Wisconsin and Minnesota will also be at this meeting.

—The members of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal church enjoyed a pleasant social evening in the parlors of the church Wednesday evening.

—Miss Pearl Stone and Mr. Frank Smith were united in marriage at the Methodist Episcopal parsonage last Wednesday afternoon, Rev. R. A. Barnes officiating.

—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Schwieter returned home Thursday morning from New Orleans, where they had been guests of friends for several weeks and attending the Mardi Gras.

—W. C. Beeman has returned home from New York, where he has been spending several weeks visiting with his mother. He will soon resume his duties as engineer for the M. & O. Railway company.

—The annual inspection of Company D. was held on last Tuesday evening at the Armory conducted by Major McConnell of the regular service. The inspecting officer commented on Company D. as making a very creditable showing.

—The Manchester friends of Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Davis, who have been living at Newton, Iowa, for several years, will be pleased to learn that they have removed to Littleport, where the former is to be associated with his father in conducting the latter's large farm near that place.

—Tomorrow evening the Manchester team and the Dubuque Y. M. C. A. basket ball teams will contest at the Armory. It is expected that the game will be closely contested as in the first game of the season between these two teams Dubuque won only by a small margin, the score being 23 and 25.

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—Calvin Yoran was in Epworth on business Monday.

—John Cruise Jr. was a business visitor in Earlville Monday.

—J. B. Engstrom is in Chicago on a several days business trip.

—C. E. Davis left this morning for Fort Dodge on a business trip.

—Mrs. E. O. Sutter spent Monday in Dubuque visiting with friends.

—P. Donnelly of Ryan was a business visitor in Manchester Monday.

—Clarence Dittmer and Clair Engstrom were Waterloo visitors Monday.

—Mrs. J. H. Ehler of Coggon was a guest of friends in the city Monday.

—A. B. Terril departed for Iowa City Monday morning on a business trip.

—John Sheely of Coggon was a Manchester visitor Monday.

—Frank Swindell of Coggon was a business visitor in Manchester Saturday.

—Mrs. W. B. Joslin and daughter, Miss Emma, were up from Coggon Monday.

—O. A. Dunham is spending several days in Mississippi looking after land interests.

—The City Charity Circle will meet at the home of Mrs. Thos. Given next Friday.

—Read what W. L. Drew has to say in his change of advertisement in regard to spring goods.

—Mr. and Mrs. James Gerry and son, Grant, of Coggon, were visiting in Manchester Monday.

—Mrs. W. B. Colman of Independence is a guest at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Lawman.

—The Monticello Cornet Band has been re-organized with Carl Rabenau, formerly of Manchester, as one of the managers.

—Sallsberg & Lyman have been repairing and remodeling their restaurant building on South Franklin street during the past week.

—The young ladies of the Methodist Episcopal church pleasantly entertained the members of the society at the parsonage on Friday evening.

—The Ladies of the Macabees will give a bazaar and supper on March 10. Supper will be served from 5 o'clock until all are served. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

—The Delaware County Board of Supervisors held an uneventful meeting at the Court house on Saturday. Several bills were allowed and the matter of appointing a justice of the peace was left over until the next meeting.

—Rev. William Moore, of Wyoming, Illinois, spent a few days the fore part of the week the guest of his daughter, Miss Margaret Moore, who is one of the teachers in our High school. Rev. Moore is proprietor of the Wyoming Post-Herald.

—County Clerk James Bishop issued the following marriage licenses during the past week: Frank Smith, aged 22, and Miss Pearl Stone, aged 18; Albert Pratt, aged 26, and Miss Anna Hammond, aged 21, and Ed Gorham, aged 33, and Miss Cora I. Lain, aged 33.

—A special meeting of the city council was held on Monday evening. The city attorney was instructed to draw an ordinance pertaining to city scales to be presented at the next regular meeting. The mayor appointed the waterworks committee and superintendent of waterworks to investigate the matter of putting in water meters and that they go to Waverly and investigate the water system at that place, where they have water meters.

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