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RECKLESS EXPENDITURE OF MONEY MEANS HIGH TAXES

E. D. Cowen Analyzes Cost of Public Education. Finds an Increase of Cost Per Pupil that is Alarming.

SALARIES DOUBLE WHILE SERVICE DECREASES

Eyes of Taxpayers are Being Opened by Expert Cowen's Startling Disclosures as to Disbursements of Funds.

To the average taxpayer the reason for the abnormal increase in his annual tax bill is a mystery, and small wonder. The total cost of government is made up of an infinite number of comparatively small expenditures made by many various authorities. In each department, state county and city, will be found men in charge of certain lines of work, honestly intent upon giving the best they can for the money, but beset on one hand by expert salesmen handling goods used in such departments and on the other with a natural desire to keep their respective departments up to the mark set by other communities, if not excel them.

In no particular instance is this better exemplified than in the management of the public schools. This state stands first in educational lines in the union, a fact that educators, and the public point with pride, but this enviable position seems to have been acquired in a manner that would wreck any private enterprise. In the articles by E. D. Cowen, now being published in the Spokane Spokesman-Review, appears the following, which of itself is a liberal education in the science of how to gradually not to say insidiously, increase the cost of schooling. Mr. Cowen says:

Public school tuition in 1889, when the state displaced the territorial government, cost \$8.57 per capita of enrolled pupils, while in 1913 the per capita cost for teachers had risen to \$28.35, with a diminution of enrollment.

Of the whole sum expended on the public schools 53.7 per cent has gone to the teachers. In dollars, the sum paid for tuition was \$54,158,728 out of the total investment of \$107,519,370.

It is doubtful whether in any profession or calling the wage level has been raised since 1890 as it has been for the teachers of this state. The average teachers' salaries, when the state was admitted to the Union in 1889, was for male \$47.66 per month, and for female \$29.67.

The average monthly salary for male teachers in 1913 was \$106.41 and for female \$80.20. The gradual increase for the first five years of statehood was followed by a decline during the period when populist politics held the front of the stage, until in 1897 a wage point lower than that of 1889 was reached. In 1897 male teachers received \$42.12 a month and female \$36.69.

Compensation Lowest Under Hard Times Thrift.

Thus in the eight years of the state's existence, under the pressure of thrift enforced by hard times, the compensation of public school teachers was at its lowest point. Every year since 1898 teachers' wages have advanced, but more particularly after the tax commission began to promote the general search for assessable property.

To illustrate: From 1889 to 1900 the average wage of male and female teachers increased \$3.60 a month, from 1900 to 1913 the monthly increase of average for the two sexes in the latter year was \$46.94, and from 1905, when the tax commission began operations, to 1913 the average increase of male and female teachers' salaries was \$35.15. Thus, of the total average increase of \$46.94 during the 23 years of statehood, \$35.15 of that average advance came with the general confidence in the state's taxable resources coincident with the results of tax commission activities.

Not only have the wages of public school teachers advanced of recent years with surprising momentum their energies have been conserved. While the enrollment of school children in 1889 showed an average assignment to each teacher on an average of \$44.66 per month to be 36 pupils, the average assignment of 1913 to teachers enjoying an average monthly wage of \$93.20 was 27 pupils. In other words, for an increase of monthly salary averaging \$46.94, the proportionate number of pupils represented by each teaching unit has diminished by one-fourth.

Table Shows Increased Wages Since 1889. Following is a table showing enrollment, number of teachers and average wages in Washington since 1889:

Year	School Children Enrolled	Number of Teachers	Average Male Salaries	Average Female Salaries
1889	230,477	8,459	106.41	\$80.20
1890	224,110	8,041	87.25	67.80
1891	220,481	7,889	85.69	66.25
1892	215,588	7,170	79.56	62.95
1893	205,566	6,718	78.32	60.58
1894	198,214	6,524	75.62	58.99
1895	188,989	6,209	71.53	55.80
1896	179,894	5,777	67.86	53.50
1897	170,886	5,179	64.51	51.61
1898	161,651	4,775	60.24	49.70
1899	149,753	4,445	57.54	46.82
1900	136,624	4,159	55.42	44.98
1901	123,391	3,869	54.79	45.85
1902	115,104	3,734	53.32	42.21
1899	105,855	3,742	46.49	38.39
1898	97,916	3,234	42.13	34.53
1897	93,178	3,205	43.12	36.69
1896	90,113	3,245	44.56	38.14
1895	90,217	3,225	47.62	42.28
1894	86,720	3,181	51.45	46.05
1893	82,979	3,086	52.27	45.49
1892	78,819	2,763	52.17	45.78
1891	69,610	2,210	52.29	42.16
1890	55,964	1,596	51.41	43.21
1889	48,599	1,349	47.66	39.67

Out of the total disbursement of \$2,113,258 on the public school system in 1890 tuition cost \$428,755, or 20 per cent. In 1913 tuition cost \$6,535,168 or 62 per cent out of a total expenditure of \$10,528,307. If the 1889 average assignment of enrolled pupils per teacher was the condition of 1913 it would have meant a total of 6401 teachers at an average wage of \$772.56 per year equaling \$5,045,157, or a saving of \$1,490,011. If, with the average number of teachers, the average wage of 1889 had been maintained, the total salary disbursement of 1913 would have been \$5,092,455 less than was paid. The increase in the cost per pupil for public school instruction during statehood is 337 per cent.

Wages in 1890 Were \$27.77, in 1913 \$48.85 Per Day

It is true that the teachers' wage in 1913 represents an increase in the average number of days' service, but on this basis the advance in tuition cost, without considering the question of relative increase of annual efficiency, is noteworthy. In 1890 the sum of \$428,755 was paid 1610 teachers which meant a wage of \$2.77 per day for 96 average school days. In 1912 the sum of \$6,051,881 was paid 8041 teachers, or \$4.85 per day for 155 average school days.

The following table shows the varying per capita costs per enrolled pupil from year to year in the three most important classifications of expenditures:

Year	Cost Per Pupil	Cost Per Pupil	Cost Per Pupil
1889	\$11.31	\$11.74	\$28.55
1890	10.56	6.28	27.09
1891	9.45	11.43	25.21
1892	8.25	11.98	22.99
1893	8.22	9.56	19.86
1894	5.40	8.41	18.84
1895	4.93	5.30	15.16
1896	4.43	5.05	14.14
1897	3.76	5.89	12.64
1898	3.14	5.21	12.90
1899	3.58	5.89	12.12
1900	3.22	3.92	11.01
1901	2.91	2.80	10.52
1902	3.18	2.91	11.89
1899	3.09	1.88	9.23
1898	3.55	1.82	11.98
1897	1.82	.79	8.49
1896	2.13	1.65	8.53
1895	3.81	1.70	7.71
1894	2.03	1.65	8.68
1893	4.09	6.39	10.49
1892	4.79	12.76	11.19
1891	3.23	16.28	9.89
1890	2.53	4.91	7.66

COUNTY CONVENTION CALLED

A call for the Republican county convention to be held in Aberdeen, June 1, was issued by Chairman Avey Tuesday. The county convention will draft a platform for Republicans in this county and will select eighteen delegates to the state convention to be held at Tacoma, June 18. Under the apportionment Aberdeen will have a total of 85 delegates, Hoquiam 58, Montesano 20, Elma 16, Summit 11, Cosmopolis 9. These will be the largest delegations.

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A LITTLE INCIDENT OF THIS TANGO CRAZE.



-Fox in New York Evening Sun.

HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Montesano High School Will Hold Graduating Exercises This Evening.

MONTESANO, May 21.—This is the last week of school in Montesano and the last examinations were finished yesterday. In the high school the following students, because of high records for scholarship and deportment are excused from all examinations: Warren Birdwell, Catherine Cooper and Ella Mustard. Mary Veasey is excused from two examinations, and the following from one examination: Maude Cosgrove, Florence Sorgetrom and Faye Pickering. All seniors are excused from final examinations.

Following are the commencement exercises to be held in the high school auditorium tomorrow evening:

- "The Storm Fiend".....Roeckel High school chorus.
- "The Panama Canal and the Pacific Coast".....Wilbur Goss "An Historical Sketch of Montesano".....Bessie Langenbach "The Peace Movement"..... "Water Lilies"..... Linders Girls' Glee club.
- "Public Health, Hygiene and Sanitation in Montesano".....Orren Fry "Open Air Schools".....Neta Wilson "The Development of Alaska"..... Gerald Gould "Mummy Loo"..... Cartwright Girls' Glee club.
- "Self Government and the Philippines"..... Frank Bowen "Women as Voters".....Eflie Isaacs "The Need for Vocational Education in Schools".....Lee Kemp Presentation of Diplomas..... W. H. France

OIL EXPERT LIKES PROSPECT

MONTESANO, May 21.—"I never saw so good surface indications where oil was not discovered in paying quantities," is the report of Theodore Rock, the oil expert from Tampico, Mexico, who with his cousin, J. E. Calder, visited the Tahola prospects on the Quinalt Indian reservation, close to the ocean, and about 30 miles north of Hoquiam. There is a natural gas mound there and a well down now something like 300 or 400 feet. Mr. Rock says that it is too early to expect anything of value to be found in the well. "It may be, and likely will be, that the well will have to go at least 1,000 feet deeper," he says.

ENLARGING HIS BUSINESS

A. E. Alexander, the well known clothier, who has been in the Lumber Exchange building since it was erected, has leased the corner, about to be vacated by Burnett Bros. Mr. Alexander will move within the next month or as soon as the Burnetts move out, and has plans for a modern haberdashery prepared.

SHOOTS WIFE; KILLS HIMSELF

F. Fields, of Tacoma, Shoots Wife Twice, and Turns Gun on Himself

WITH FATAL EFFECT
Woman Lies in Critical Condition as Result of Jealous Husband's Act

The body of Frank Fields, a chauffeur of Tacoma, 39 years of age, lies dead in the Pinnick and Kenny morgue, and his wife is at the Grays Harbor hospital with two bullet wounds and in a critical condition, as the result of an attempt of Fields to murder his wife about five o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Fields conducts the Fashion rooming house, 419 1/2 East Heron street, and had not lived with her husband for some time. Fields, who operated a taxicab in Tacoma, came to the city on one of his repeated efforts to become reconciled with his wife, and upon being repulsed, pulled a revolver and shot Mrs. Fields twice, one bullet striking her in the back of the neck and the other in the right cheek.

When Fields attempted the third shot he was stopped by J. S. Morgan, a roomer in the house, and the shot went wild. Freeing himself of Morgan, Fields went into a bedroom and pressing the pistol to his head over the right ear, fired, and died within an hour.

Mrs. Fields was rushed to the Grays Harbor hospital and Dr. Chamberlain called. He stated last evening the woman's wounds were not likely to be fatal unless complications set in.

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, May 24, is Ascension Sunday, and in keeping of their time honored custom, the Knights Templar, will observe the day by attending Divine services the world over. In Aberdeen, DeMolla Commandery will attend service in the First Congregational church at 11 a. m. The commandery will meet at the Asylum at 10:30 and march to the church in a body.

BOWES SUGGESTS INTERCITY ROAD

New Councilman from Fourth Ward Outlines Plan That May Satisfy

PARK PROPOSITIONS UP
Stewart Matter Goes Over. Dabney Makes Offer on Hill. Routine Business

At the meeting of the city council Wednesday night, the plan for an intercity roadway was suggested by Councilman J. M. Bowes which may solve the long discussed problem.

Mr. Bowes suggested the construction of a 24-foot roadway on either Pacific, Simpson or Aberdeen avenue, with a one-foot fill of earth with a ditch on either side and six inches of gravel on top. The cost Mr. Bowes said, would be approximately \$50 per 50-foot lot, within easy reach of every property owner.

Mayor Eugene France, on instruction of the council, appointed a special committee, composed of Councilmen Bowes, Grant and McKnight, to interview the property owners to learn if they would sign a petition for the improvement.

The Stewart park site proposition received another setback when Councilman Frazer explained a visit to the site Sunday last, and said he had been misinformed as to boundary lines and the promised water protection was not possible unless right of way was granted by Mrs. Stewart on the right side of the creek. The council authorized the mayor, city engineer and ways and means committee to go into this phase of the proposition, and if an adverse report was decided on as to accepting the park site, to embody objections in resolution form at the next meeting.

R. T. Dabney, owner of Think-of-Me hill, Harbor Heights, offered blocks 8, 9 and 14, for park purposes, or 14 acres in all, for \$7500, or blocks 8, 9, 14, 10 and 13 for \$9000, three lots being reserved, all on easy payments and Mr. Dabney to contribute \$500 in cash towards the park fund. The proposition was referred to the council as a whole.

A committee was given power to act in the matter of a request for an extension of the water main to the garbage dump. At the suggestion of Mayor France, water pipes exposed in all District No. 2 will be covered with earth to keep the water cool.

MRS. LEITCH MEETS DEATH ON FOURTH STREET BRIDGE

Community is Shocked by Accidental Death of Estimable Lady Yesterday While Trying Out an Automobile

Mrs. Minnie Leitch, an admired beauty of Aberdeen society, was killed yesterday afternoon when an automobile she was learning to drive went over the rustic bridge, on East Fourth street. Word of the fatal accident shocked the community, and hundreds crowded to the scene of the disaster.

Mrs. Leitch was riding in a car she was contemplating the purchase of with Leslie A. Paulson, of the Paulson Auto company, who was demonstrating the car and teaching her to drive it. When the accident occurred, Mrs. Leitch was at the wheel under the direction of Mr. Paulson, her father, Mr. William Hunt, was in the rear seat. Coming east on Fourth street from west of Broadway, the grade is down hill, and Mrs. Leitch, as the car approached the rustic bridge on Fourth street became confused, and when too late for Mr. Paulson to resume control of the wheel, the car crashed into the bridge rail, turning completely over in the fall of about 20 feet.

In falling to the bottom of the gulch, Mrs. Leitch was pinned between the side of the falling car and the hard ground. Mr. Hunt, as the car went over, crouched in the bottom of the rear seat and escaped with a few minor injuries. Mr. Paulson was cut and bruised severely in the fall, and it is almost miraculous that he and Mr. Hunt escaped with their lives. Mr. Hunt and Mr. Paulson were immediately taken to a local hospital, but it was seen at once that Mrs. Leitch was past medical aid, and the body was conveyed to the Whiteside morgue, where it lies pending such funeral arrangements as her shocked friends may make.

Mrs. Leitch was the widow of the late John H. Leitch, who erected the Bryden & Leitch saw mill in South Aberdeen, afterwards bought by the Donovan Lumber company. She was about 45 years of age and was a lady who became endeared to all who enjoyed her acquaintance, and to say that her untimely taking off was a severe shock to a legion of friends in Aberdeen is placing it mildly.

HARRIMAN TEAM PLAYS ABERDEEN ON SUNDAY

Next Sunday at Electric park the Aberdeen Baseball club will play the Harriman railroad systems, made up of employees of the Oregon-Washington, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad & Navigation company. The ball tossers are known as the Harriman club, and have been traveling over the extensive systems playing the best aggregations.

The game will commence at 3 o'clock. The visitors will arrive here on the "owl" Sunday morning. Galvin will twirl for the Harriman club and Bryson will receive. This is a strong battery. The outfield consists of Shunn, Mallard and Madden, and the infield, said to be lightning fast, of Schade, Hyland, Hall and Voss. The visitors have lost but three games this season.

ABERDEEN READY TO ENTERTAIN GUESTS

Veterans, Dentists, Photographers and Woman's Association Meet Here During Summer

This city is expected to take care of 1,000 delegates during the summer months to several conventions—the Spanish-American War Veterans' association, which will gather June 1 for a three days' session; the State Dental association that will meet June 15 for a three days' convention, and the Northwest Association of Photographers that will meet in August.

Plans for the conventions are making by the different local organizations that are expected to entertain the visitors. In June also the members of the National Y. M. C. A. will meet at Cohasset beach. It is planned that each convention will at least one day's session on north beach.

T. H. O'CONNOR DIES

HOQUIAM, May 21.—T. H. O'Connor died May 19, at the Hoquiam General hospital. The body is at the Pinnick & Kenny undertaking parlors and was taken yesterday morning to Vader, where the remains will be laid to rest by the Masonic lodge by the side of his wife, who died Sept. 26, 1913. Deceased is survived by two small daughters, Mollie, aged 7 years, and Alice, aged 1 year; two nieces, Mrs. G. A. Denny of Aberdeen, and Mrs. A. Haley of Everett, and a nephew, Al O'Conner of Seattle. The two girls have been left in care of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Childron of this city. Deceased was born in Jackson county, Iowa. He was well known in this city, in Toledo, Ohio, and leaves many friends.

EXTENDED AUTO TOUR

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fairbairn, Mrs. E. C. McFarland and Mrs. Walter Heller returned Tuesday night from an auto tour of three days, which included the Mount Rainier road, Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Snohomish and Monroe. They covered 453 miles and among their most sensational experiences was that of being arrested for exceeding the speed limit at Montesano. Mr. Fairbairn preferred to forfeit \$10 ball rather than submit to delay and expense of attempting to prove the speed cop was in error.

CONVENTION OF WAR VETERANS

Local Veterans of Spanish-American War Will Entertain State Delegates

The finance committee of the Spanish-American War Veterans met Tuesday night to discuss the entertainment of the state convention, in Aberdeen, June 11, 12 and 13. It was found that nearly sufficient funds had been subscribed for the purpose of properly entertaining visitors.

The coming convention was discussed from sundry angles and the appointment of committees authorized, including the program and decoration committees. The latter will be instructed to get busy immediately and make a canvass of the city in ascertaining who will dress buildings during the three days of the convale. It is likely that a decorator will be here from the Sound the week prior to the convention.

ACCIDENTAL DROWNING

John Hamberg Falls in River at Donovan Mill and Drowns Tuesday—Body Recovered

John Hamberg, 45 years old, fell from a float in the pond at the Donovan mill Tuesday and was drowned. The body was shortly afterward recovered and sent to the Whiteside morgue, where it was prepared for burial.

In falling into the pond, Hamberg's head struck a log. The skull was fractured. Rendered unconscious, Hamberg sank to the bottom without making an outcry. He disappeared so suddenly, in fact, that William Caldwell, boomman, on the platform at the time, could not account for Hamberg's disappearance. He instituted a search immediately and located the body and pulled it to shore. Deceased is survived by a widow and four children. They live in South Aberdeen.

Funeral arrangements are awaiting advices from relatives in the east.

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Send the twice-a-week Herald to your inquiring Eastern friends.

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