

TEACHERS HAVE HIGH PRAISE FOR BOISE SCHOOLS

Report of Commission Engaged to Make Critical Inspection—Special Report on Class Room Work.

The school board held a short meeting late yesterday afternoon at which the regular monthly bills were allowed, the resignations of Miss Irene Moore of Longfellow and Athletic Instructor O. W. Worthwine were accepted, and Miss Harriet Chase elected to fill the vacancy of the former and George E. Burroughs of the Chicago university of the latter, although Mr. Worthwine will coach the football team next season.

The report of the three educators, Dr. Stayer of Columbia university, Dr. Judd of Chicago university, and Dr. Edward C. Elliott, president of the University of Wisconsin, who were employed to go over the school system here making a full report on the same, was given to members of the board. The report contained 29 closely typewritten pages and is highly flattering to the work of the instructors employed here and the entire school system. The educators spent a week in the city visiting the schools and looking into the methods of teaching and having made similar reports on the schools in numerous cities throughout the United States, their report is regarded as giving the school system as found in comparison with those in other cities, which shows that the schools here are far above the average in cities of this size.

Report on Instruction.
In addition to the general report, Dr. Elliott of Wisconsin, who remained over in Boise for a week and visited the schools while in session, made a report on the instruction, which is as follows:
"To the Honorable Board of Education Independent School District, Boise, Idaho.

"Gentlemen:—In response to your superintendent of schools, I present the following report upon the class room work of teachers as observed during my visitation of the schools on Jan. 6 and 7, 1913.

"It was agreed by the members of the recent school inquiry committee that this special report should be presented independently of the principal report of the committee; it was, however, to be considered as supplementary to that report.

General.
"Purpose and Scope.—The primary purposes of this enterprise were to submit general critical judgments upon the methods of teaching and to present constructive suggestions for the betterment of class room instruction. The special character of these judgments and suggestions has been determined by the high level upon which the Boise public schools are operated. They have been formulated with the understanding that the city and its school officials desire to have the schools attain the highest possible usefulness.

"Basis.—At least one class exercise of 14 of the 29 teachers in the high school was observed. The work of 39 elementary school teachers was observed for shorter or longer periods.

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In a majority of cases these observations were followed by a conference with the teacher.

"The Spirit of the Work.—In every class room, high and elementary, the spirit of earnestness and industry on the part of the teacher and the ready responsiveness of the pupils were characteristic. At no time did I observe the slightest act on the part of any pupil evidencing a disregard of those conditions that must obtain before the work of the school may proceed with greatest profit. There was nothing of what had the appearance of 'school discipline.' Throughout there was self control without government or the imposition of authority.

"All of the teachers appear to be in possession of the greatest freedom in the conduct of their work. There was also every evidence of a desire to cooperate in any effort calculated to improve their own work. They constantly welcomed any effort to assist them.

High School.

"In addition to a number of matters of mechanical and minor importance to which the attention of the principal of the high school and the superintendent of schools was called, the following items are thought worthy of consideration in the further improvement of the school:

"Community Adaptation.—The ideal that has brought the Boise high school into national prominence is that of establishing a close vital connection with the whole life of the community which it serves. This ideal has been fruitful of numerous successful efforts by several of the departments, especially the departments of agriculture, industrial and household arts. It is believed that efforts for the adaptation of the instruction to present-day community social needs should be made by all of the departments of the school, even those departments where such adaptation is more difficult. In particular, I feel that the class room instruction and laboratory work in both physics and chemistry is yet of the formal, traditional kind and does not approximate what is now the established aim

of instruction in the school.

"Pupils.—If the instruction in the school is as a whole not what it should be, according to the most critical standards, I think the cause may be found in the absence of determined standards of accomplishment for pupils. Such standards appear to be greatly needed in English. The written work of the pupils in the school is not as a whole what it should be. It has been suggested to the department of English that steps be taken to give the constructive work of the pupils greater prominence and that some plan be devised for the preservation of the principle part of the pupils' written work throughout his career in the school. No pupil, except in emergency cases, should be permitted to pass from one class to another who is seriously deficient in the English standard of that class.

"Records.—The system of records of pupils now in the school is wholly inadequate. In order that the school may best fulfill its responsibility to pupils, the establishment of some system that will give in detail the record—intellectual, moral and social—of the pupil may be regarded as indispensable in the modern school that desires to be of service to the pupil, not only while he is in school, but until he finds a place in life.

"General.—In all of the elementary schools visited, it was plainly evident that a large effort has been made to select competent teachers and to assign them to that work for which they were best suited. The superintendent of schools and the several supervisors consider each class and each teacher as representing a special situation and as requiring individual methods of direction.

"I saw some teaching of the highest grade; I saw much that was very good; and some that was mediocre. I saw no teacher whose work would be classified as distinctly poor. In all grades the teachers have been led to plan each day's work and to accomplish a definite result in each recitation. The range and amount of supplemental work done in each subject are significant of the progressive attitudes of the supervisory staff toward the teachers, and of the teachers toward their own duties.

"Over-Age and Instruction.—In certain of the schools which have been recently annexed to the independent school district of Boise (Washington and Garfield), the number of over-age pupils in the upper grades was noticeable. This is, however, explained by the fact of annexation. The absence of over-age pupils in the lower grades of these schools is evidence of the positive influence of the existing methods and organization in bringing about more effective instruction and consequently a better classification of pupils.

"Departmental Instruction.—In all of the elementary schools departmental instruction obtains in the seventh and eighth grades (the sixth also in some schools). This departmental instruction represents the best that has come under my observation. The departmental teachers exhibit a high degree of competency; and what is more important, their broader interest in the welfare of the individual pupils has not been lessened.

"Grade Standards.—In any school system which is being developed in the rational and progressive manner, as is the case of Boise, there is an increasing need of establishing in the minds of pupils and teachers, especially by teachers, definite standards of accomplishment for the pupils in each class. There is yet a large opportunity for the supervisors and teachers in co-operation to work out standards that will present a goal to teachers and

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serve as stimuli to pupils. Such standards would, of course, take into special account those numerous cases of pupils for whom the ordinary regime of the school is not readily adaptable. One of the grave dangers of the modern public school is that the pupil will become a mere time-server instead of being accustomed to the performance of definite recognized results. The absence of such standards is to be plainly observed in the writing of pupils throughout the elementary schools. I have suggested to the superintendent of schools and the supervisors that a large use be made of certain recognized standards for elementary school subjects. Such standards now exist in arithmetic, writing and composition. There is no reason why local standards might not be developed for the other subjects for the purpose of determining and regulating the advancement of pupils.

Conclusion.
"I cannot refrain from emphasizing one conspicuous feature of the work of all the schools; that is, the recognition on the part of all supervisors and teachers that the work of the schools is not perfect and that they have not rendered their full responsibility to the community and to their individual and collective endeavor has been made to accomplish larger and more effective results. The teaching and supervisory staff of the Boise schools is characterized by the absence of any professional self-satisfaction. This may be regarded as the biggest asset of the schools and the children for it underlies all fruitful progress in public education.

Very respectfully submitted,
"EDWARD C. ELLIOTT"

SEVEN NEW BILLS ARE INTRODUCED INTO THE HOUSE

Bond Issue for Good Roads, Regulation of Business of Investment Companies and Other Measures.

The house of representatives convened yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock and though the session lasted less than an hour seven more bills were introduced. To date a total of 37 bills have been submitted in the house since the legislature met on Jan. 6.

House bill No. 31, by Clark of Latah, has for its object the regulation of the business of investment companies in Idaho. The measure outlines a plan whereby such companies are required to file statements containing information pertaining to the corporation and its business with the state insurance commissioner and this official is given considerable authority in regulating the operations of the companies.

Oversmith of the same county introduced two bills, Nos. 32 and 33, both of which ask for changes in legal procedures. No. 32 relates to the posting of notices in three public places in the precinct or city where a sale of property under execution is to be had. The service of summons by registered mail in suits against officers of corporations is authorized by the provisions of house bill No. 33.

Definition of Injunctions.
Evans of Lincoln submitted house bill No. 34, which amends the present statute defining injunctions. The bill also gives the probate judge authority to issue an injunction in the event of the absence of judges of superior courts.

The Feltish Mining company will be refunded \$150 from the state treasury if house bill No. 35, authored by Campbell of Blaine, is adopted. It is explained in the proposed bill that the mining company paid that sum as its annual license tax in 1908 and 1909 and that owing to the fact that the property should have been classified in the non-productive list no such amount was due. The appropriation committee has the bill in charge.

Automobile owners will play an important part in the good roads development of the state if house bill No. 36, by Booth of Twin Falls, is passed by the legislature. Booth's proposed law provides for a bond issue, amount not stated, as a good roads fund; every automobile owner in the state under the law would be required to pay to the state a registry fee of \$1 and an additional \$1 for each horsepower of his machine. For instance, a man owning a 20-horsepower auto would be required to pay \$20 annually in addition to the registry fee of \$1. The funds so derived would be used to pay the interest on the bond issue. The operations of the law would be statewide



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and the good roads proposed would be constructed and maintained in all parts of the state. Control and license of autos in the state is also sought by the bill.

Chairman Harshe of Idaho county introduced a bill asking for an appropriation of \$18,000 to construct a wagon bridge across the Salmon river near Waukeet in Idaho county. The house adjourned to convene at 10 o'clock this morning.

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OFFICERS OF BONNEVILLE COUNTY ARE SWORN IN

(Capital News Special Service)

Idaho Falls, Jan. 15.—The newly elected officers of Bonneville county were sworn in and commenced their duties Monday. They are as follows:

Commissioners—C. G. Peck, Lars Hanson, Eli T. Simmons; sheriff, Joseph S. Mulliner; treasurer, Kathrin T. Johnston; probate judge, Squire G. Crowley; superintendent of schools, Miss Ella M. Miller; assessor, Moses J. Wright; county attorney, Robert S. Myers; surveyor, N. E. Snell; coroner, Joseph Morley.

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