

# THE OAKLEY EAGLE

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## The Schools Again.

We call attention to the splendid article in these columns from the pen of J. A. White of Twin Falls. It is worthy the careful consideration of every citizen of Cassia county. We would like to have nothing but praise for everything that concerns our county for we realize that commendation and praise are stimulating and that censure frequently has the opposite effect, but when it comes to the educational conditions of our county it seems to us that we are hardly worth praising. Perhaps we think we are doing fairly well, but we certainly are not doing well enough. Our school-buildings, our apparatus, our teachers in many instances are not up to date. Our school terms are altogether too short in many districts, and our students are, as a general rule, four years short of where they should be.

Cassia Stake Academy has a large class of bright intelligent young men and women—students of such calibre as should—if they had proper advantages would now be doing college instead of high school work. Fourteen to eighteen are the high school students here range from 16 to 22. An average age of those doing first and second year high school, we are confident, would be at least 18 years. That these young people are backward is no fault of their own. They have not been put in graded schools and kept there in the time and season thereof. We hope the conditions will be remedied. We invite also such correspondence as that of today—not only on matters educational, but on all matters that pertain to the development of Cassia and the welfare of her citizens.

## Interesting Communication on School Matter.

TWIN FALLS, Oct. 13, '05  
MR. A. M. MERRILL,  
Editor OAKLEY EAGLE.

DEAR SIR:—I have just finished reading the article in your paper of the fifth instant, from County Superintendent Charles R. Lowe, about the condition of the schools in our county; together with your article,—"A Crying Need."

As a teacher, and a citizen, interested in the improvement of the educational conditions in our county, I want to say that, in the main, I approve what you and Mr. Lowe have to say on this subject, and I sincerely hope that the agitation for better schools will continue until Cassia county will be in a position to boast of a school system second to none in the "Great New-West."

Superintendent Lowe, in his letter, states there are two vital problems to be considered before attempts to remedy other defects are attempted. viz: "Length of Term," and, "Getting the Children to School." I heartily agree with the superintendent that the two problems mentioned are, perhaps, the most important. However, I would change the order, and put first: "Getting the Children to School." This, in my opinion, is the greatest problem school officials of our county have to deal with. The absolute indifference of some parents to school matters is as appalling as it is incredible. Indeed, there are still those in our county who even go so far as to oppose school entirely,—contriving all kinds of excuses for keeping children out of school. Fortu-

nately, however, these are few.

While a seven or eight months term of school is desirable, and, indeed, quite necessary to attain the most satisfactory result, I believe that a four or five months term of continuous and regular attendance, with a good, well-equipped teacher, modern apparatus, backed by the interest and co-operation of parents, guardians and school officers, is far better than a seven or eight months term with a "good, well-equipped teacher," and poor, out-of-date apparatus, and an indifferent lot of parents, guardians and school officers. An indifferent parent, an indifferent child, an indifferent teacher. Some will say this should not be so; that it is the teacher's business to always be "alive and enthusiastic." While this is quite true, it must be remembered that teachers are only human, and where is the teacher that can go into some of the "old, backwoods settlements" of our county, and remain enthusiastic in the face of conditions and opposition? If there are any I would like to get a peep at them.

While I believe it is incumbent upon parents (and other citizens as well) to make some sacrifice, if necessary, for the education of their own, and their neighbors' children, I would not advocate their going to the extreme of mortgaging their farm, or "selling their last cow." This should not be necessary, and if done, might imperil their home, and leave upon them a worse condition than the lack of an education. This, however, is no argument for the majority of districts in Cassia county that have four five months school, and less. If I am not mistaken, nearly all of the districts referred to, contain men of considerable means, when the special assessment of five, ten, or even fifteen mills would not inconvenience in the least, and this special assessment would amply provide for all school purposes and would soon accumulate a surplus. But as I said before, the first, and more important thing is to get the children in school. That is the "Crying Need."

Let something be done to arouse the people to the importance of education for their children. I well remember my first experience in teaching school. It was in a newly organized district and where the people were, for the greater part uneducated. I had several large boys and girls who would soon finish the district school course and, my every effort was being put forth to encourage them to continue their education in some higher institution of learning. Of course the agitation of the college appealed strongly to them, and the matter was taken up at their homes. The result was that I was brought into the discussion with the parents over it. The statements of two heads of families will serve to illustrate the attitude of the people on the subject, and is I think typical to all communities. Both men were uneducated so far as "book learning" goes, but were thrifty and progressive, and had accumulated a sufficient amount of this world's goods to keep them in comfortable circumstances. Both were able to expend something in the education of their children. One was enthusiastic itself, on all matters pertaining to the school and declared that: "I never had a chance to go to school myself. I have no education but I re-

solved years ago that my children would not grow up like I did. I don't blame my parents, because they couldn't do any better, but I can do better, and my children would have a right to blame me if I didn't. If I live and keep my health, they shall not grow up ignorant." The other man was indifferent to the school and its interests. But what he said will convey to my readers a better idea of what sort of man he was. He said: "Schooling may be all right for lawyers, doctors and school teachers, but it don't help to pitch hay or shear sheep. If my children can read and write and figure a little, that's enough. I never went to school myself and I never failed to make a living yet, and if my boys can't do the same, they can starve". I have quoted the above as near as I can remember it and I dare say my fellow teachers will agree that it is typical of the two classes of people they have to deal with in school matters. The former class is I believe, in the majority but the latter class is far too numerous. Let something be done to lessen their number: nay, to eliminate them entirely!

Let us not permit them to blight the lives of their children, by allowing them to grow up in ignorance! For, an ignorant citizen is the curse of the state.

By all means get the children in school and keep them there during the entire school term. If by no other means, then enforce the compulsory attendance law.

Too much praise cannot be given those citizens of districts eight, eleven and twenty, who recently petitioned the county commissioners to increase the school levy sufficient to enable a nine months school to be held in their respective districts. Let us hope that they will manifest the same spirit in supporting the school for the number of months they now have.

Finally, let us build good school houses; supply first-class apparatus; put a real, live, competent teacher in charge; get the children to go regular, and on time; get the cooperation of the parents, and results will be forthcoming, whether there is a term of three, four, five or nine months.

Success to the county superintendent and all others in their efforts to raise the educational standard of our county.

Very truly yours,  
JACK W. WHITE.

## Good Words for Cassia.

The Oakley correspondent to the Deseret News, relates among other things this interesting bit of history:—

The almost unequalled advantages of southern Idaho may be estimated by the following: One gentleman moved to this state less than eight years ago with scarcely enough means to pay his transportation, but he saw the opportunity offered to enterprise and industry; he rented a low roofed log house and began life on the ground floor and today that man can count his wealth by the thousands; houses, lands and money of his own in abundance, with a vast field of possibilities inviting him on to boundless prosperity. And this is only one circumstance in many that might be cited of a similar nature. All testifying of the intrinsic value of homes and the reward of industry in the Gem state. Men living in crowded cities, or working day labor for a scant living, as well as young

men employed in stores and other concerns could not do better then venture out into these new districts, and "grow up with the country." Every 80-acre tract of land under this irrigating system will be worth \$5,000 in five years. From this viewpoint of possibilities in Idaho, Cassia county is in the lead and will take on a larger and more permanent growth in the next 10 years than any other locality of the west.

## Brief and Breezy.

(By our Associate Editor.)

Gen. Gomez is now "viewing with alarm." He is apparently the Bryan of Cuba.

A nephew of Gassaway Davis who has been working "incognito" in the steel mines has disappeared. Probably he is in hiding and intends sometime to run for vice-president 'incognito.'

Pat Crowe says he had a scheme to kidnap John D. Rockefeller and hold him for \$2,000,000 ransom, but had to abandon it because he could not get a trusty pal. Wonder if he offered the job to Tom Lawson?

This contention that there never was an angel with whiskers, looks like a personal thrust at Dr. Parkhurst and Dr. Dowie.

The Mutual Life has paid President McCurdy and members of his family something over \$4,000,000 in salaries and commissions. One purpose of the investigation seems to be to show that "Violet" Jimmy Hyde was a mere "piker" at the insurance game.

Some men are born rich, some achieve riches, and some get jobs under their fathers in the life insurance office.

Some day, let us hope, the college will produce a graduate who is a happy compromise between the football player who is all brawn and the physical wreck who is all brain.

Count Witte will probably go down in history as the man who saved the Russian bear from being skinned, after it had been licked to a standstill.

Mr. Thos. Ryan of N. Y. has engaged a private chaplain. As Mr. Ryan has been dabbling in life insurance syndicates, the private chaplain has a big job cut out for him.

Young Leonard who secured \$360,000 worth of securities N. Y. bank by working a bluff, ought to try and get his case before a jury composed of dummy directors of life insurance companies.

M. Witte has one cause for congratulation. He is barred by both birth and "trains" from being made a Russian grand duke.

Russia threatens to abolish the Finnish constitution and establish martial law in Finland. If reports are true, the Finns will have difficulty in noticing any difference.

"The only trouble now to be feared, is that before long money will be too plentiful!" says a N. Y. report. The public will refuse to be scared.

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