

Medford Public Schools Up-to-Date in All Respects

(By U. S. Collins, City Supt.)

Our public school system is one of the most important branches of our municipal government. Every good citizen should seek to inform himself thoroughly of its needs, and of the work it is doing. To render the accomplishment of this desire accessible to all, and to keep abreast with the progress of the age, and the advancements that are constantly being made in the field of education, we have placed in convenient form a course of instruction now in operation in our school, which covers a broad field, yet emphasizes, thoroughly, the fundamentals in education, stress being placed especially upon the three R's.

The intellectual and industrial requirements of the day are much in advance of the past. To meet present needs the best of what is new and good must be made use of, not forsaking however, the excellent foundations of the old.

Teaching Requirements

The teacher of today must be well educated, active capable and up to the times. Only the best of teachers should find a place in our schools. There is no more important problem than how to prepare the youth for the activities of life. His fitness for everyday duties affects not only his own, but our own persons and prosperity. Our whole school system is a means to that end.

As in the grades so in the high school departments of public education, Medford may feel justly proud as our high school ranks among the best. Its curriculum is in accordance with the best modern thought, being not only strong on the side of vocational and industrial training, but equally strong on the classical side. The various courses embrace the following departments: English, Latin, German, history, science, mathematics, agriculture and horticulture, commercial work, domestic science, domestic art, mechanical drawing, ore and manual training.

Well Trained Teachers

The thirteen instructors who have charge of these departments are teachers of excellent training and experience. It is doubtful if another high school in the west can boast of a faculty drawn from so many different sections of the United States. This in itself is a source of inspiration as it gives the school a wealth of resource not only in methods of instruction, but in matters of general school government.

That the Medford high school stands accredited at the best colleges and universities the country over speaks enough for its purely academic side, but its departments of industrial and commercial training need an added word to make them fully appreciated.

To the thoughtful person who has followed the trend of educational affairs for the past fifteen or twenty years, it has seemed inevitable, that, to some degree at least, the secondary schools must sooner or later give heed to the cry for a more practical line of school work, especially with relation to industrial training. Medford has kept in the front rank in that, it has all of the various departments of vocational training that are considered by the best educators to be consistent with good judgment.

Tree Roots and Latin

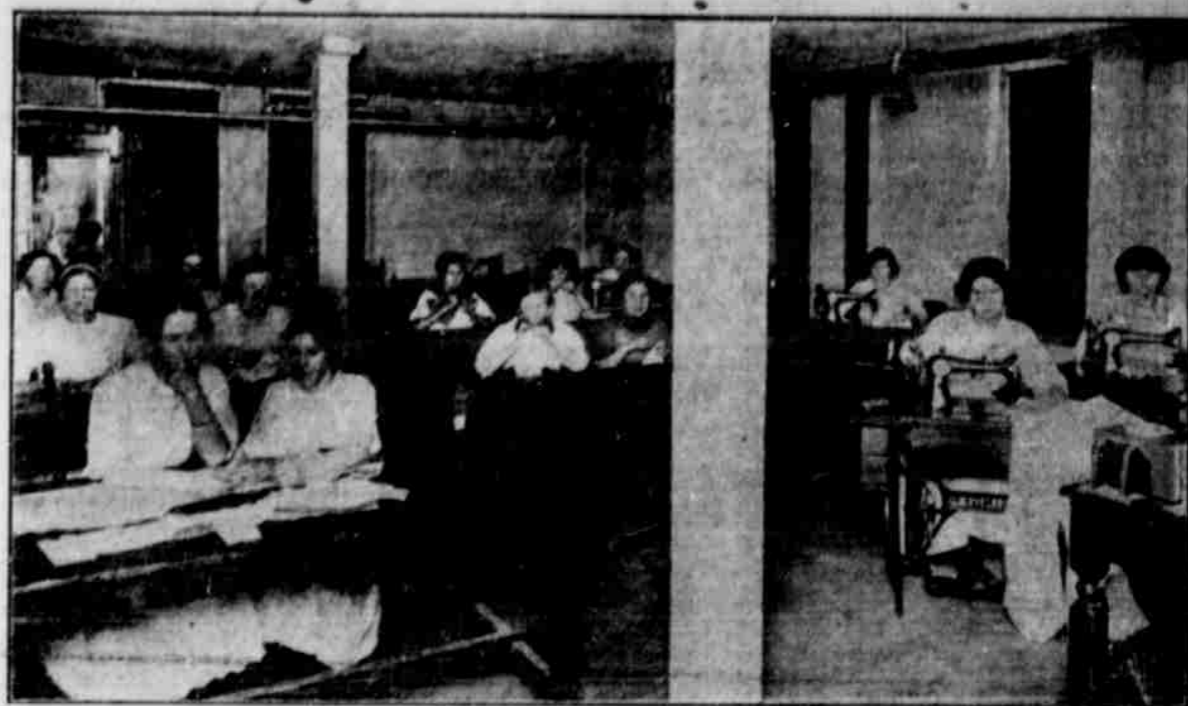
The conditions under which we live today make it no less imperative that the boy or girl understand the kind and classification of tree roots as well as Latin roots. We have come to see that quite as much skill is required in the proper cooking of a meal or the making of a garment as in the writing of an essay. Certainly the boy who discovers his natural aptitude in the manual training department, and who constructs an admirable piece of wood work, is no less to be commended than he who can give the causes and results of the Pacific Wars.

Medford feels that it has not only answered the demands being made upon the public schools but has been instrumental in helping to establish, firmly, as a part of the general school curriculum this branch of school work. Our work has received most favorable comment, not only in our local, but in our state papers as well. In the Industrial Contest at the Oregon State Fair last September, the Medford high school secured first and second awards in competition with all the high schools of the state for the best work in Manual Arts. The first award secured an imported turning saw, and the second a cash prize of ten dollars. The exhibit from the sewing department did equally as well. The grand prize, a beautiful Willamette sewing machine, fully equipped, was awarded the Medford high school. Also the fifth cash prize.

To secure the two grand prizes in these two important departments, in competition with such schools as Portland and others, are facts of which we are justly proud. The Manual-Arts magazine, the largest of its kind published in the United



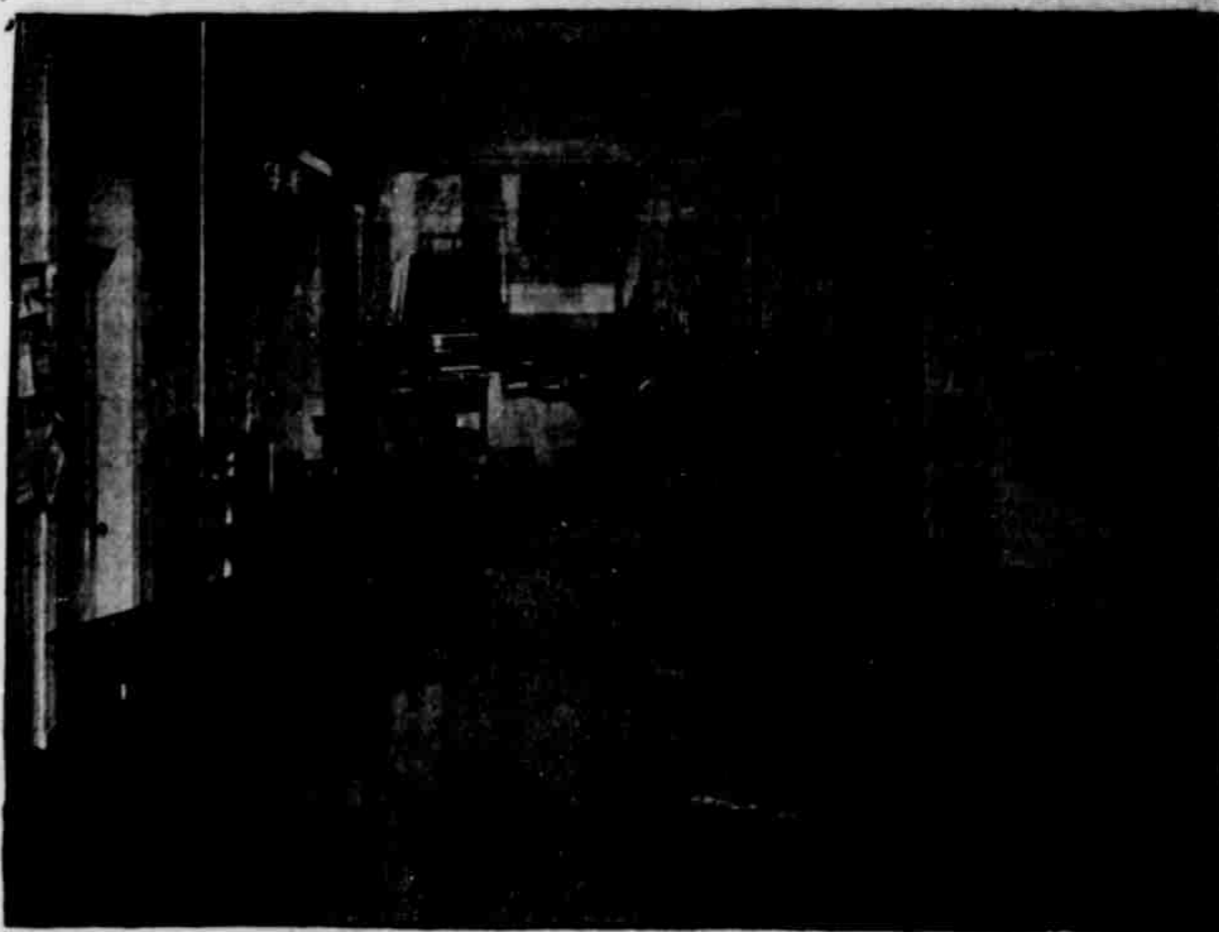
Cooking Class in Domestic Science



Sewing Class in Domestic Science



Vegetables Grown by Primary Pupils in School Gardens



Furniture Made by Manual Training Department

States, upon the news of our success in the state contests, immediately sent for pictures of the work in the department. From the pictures sent them, copper plates were made and the publication which is mailed to city superintendents and school men in the United States as

well as in other countries gave the news of our splendid work. Many letters of inquiry as well as congratulatory letters have been received. Charles Coolidge Parlin of the Department of Commercial Research of the Ladies' Home-Journal—the Curtis Publishing Co.—under date of

December 24, congratulates the management of the Medford city schools upon the high state of proficiency to which they have attained, and requests pictures from the sewing department and especially the ones of the graduating dresses made by the senior girls.

It may be of interest to many patrons to know that industrial work in the city schools of Medford begins in the first year of the child's school life and continues throughout every grade until he is graduated from the high school. No broader course of study can be found in any city, many times the size of Medford.

Besides a complete course in Industrial and Manual Arts, the Medford city schools instruct in Drawing and Art, under a special supervisor and an assistant. Drawing begins in the first year and continues throughout the grammar grades to the high school. In the high school Art and Mechanical Drawing are elective. Some artistic paintings are turned out by this department.

The high school maintains a complete Commercial course, instructing in Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typewriting, Commercial Law, Commercial Correspondence, Commercial Geography, Commercial Arithmetic, Spelling and Penmanship. The graduates of this department have no

trouble in securing and holding positions.

Horticulture Taught

Owing to the fact that Medford and the Rogue river valley is a favored place for agriculture and horticulture a department for instruction along this line was created three years ago and a graduate of an agricultural college was secured to take charge. This proved to be a popular department and today it is a firmly established part of the course of study receiving its share of patronage from the students.

The Domestic Science department covers work in the chemistry of foods and cooking, together with proper food preparation, serving, and systematic and economical buying. Those who avail themselves of the opportunity to buy the product of this department at the annual spring exhibit know that work of real merit and of the highest kind of practicality is done by the young ladies who avail themselves of the opportunities offered here.

In Manual Training instruction is given in reading and following blue prints, estimating costs of material, together with the uses of the various woodworking tools, and the building of pieces involving more or less difficult joints. All work made here is stained and properly finished and in pieces requiring upholstering that work is done also by the pupils. Much work has been turned out that would require the eye of an expert cabinet maker to detect the errors made by the unpracticed but willing hands that work in this department.

Sewing is Taught

The Domestic Art department offers instruction in the use of the needle and the sewing machine, together with the cutting and fitting of garments. One needs only to see the work of the girls of this department to appreciate its value. Economy as well as skill is an object aimed at in this department.

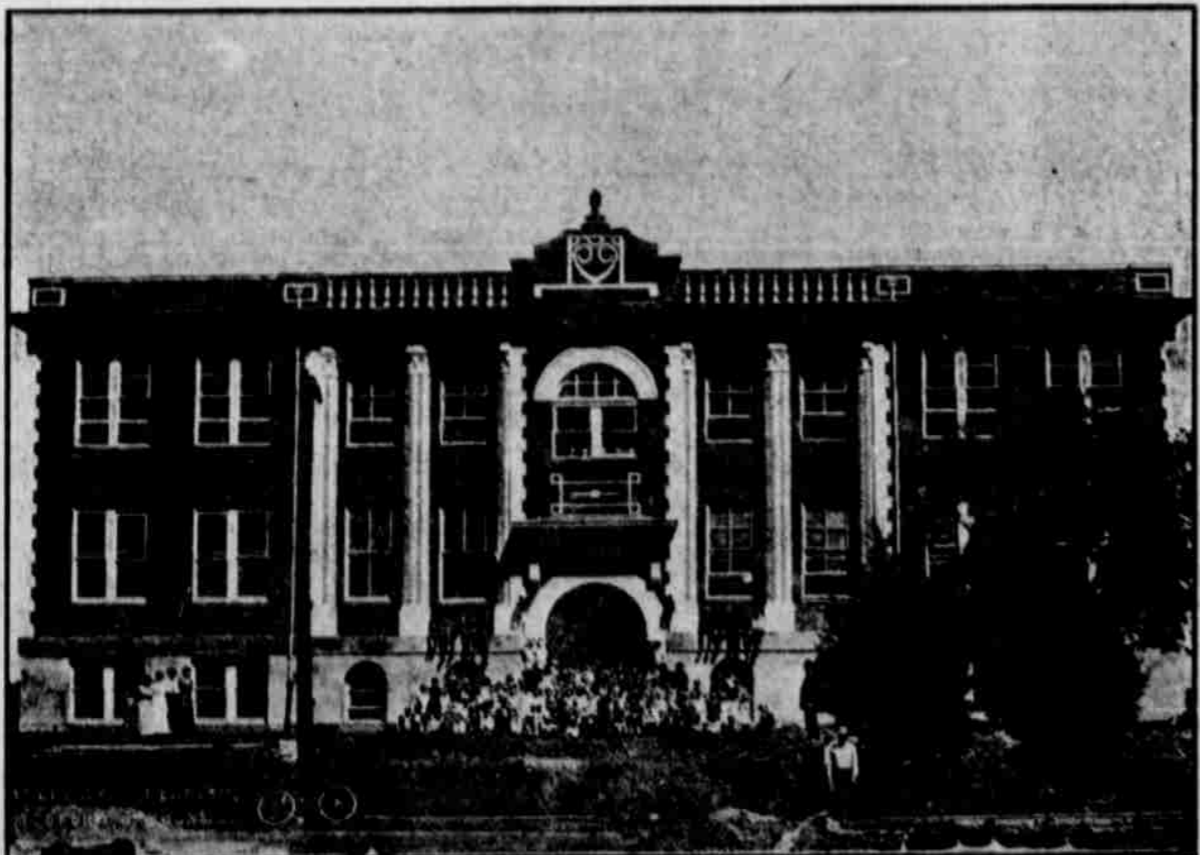
In the department of Agriculture

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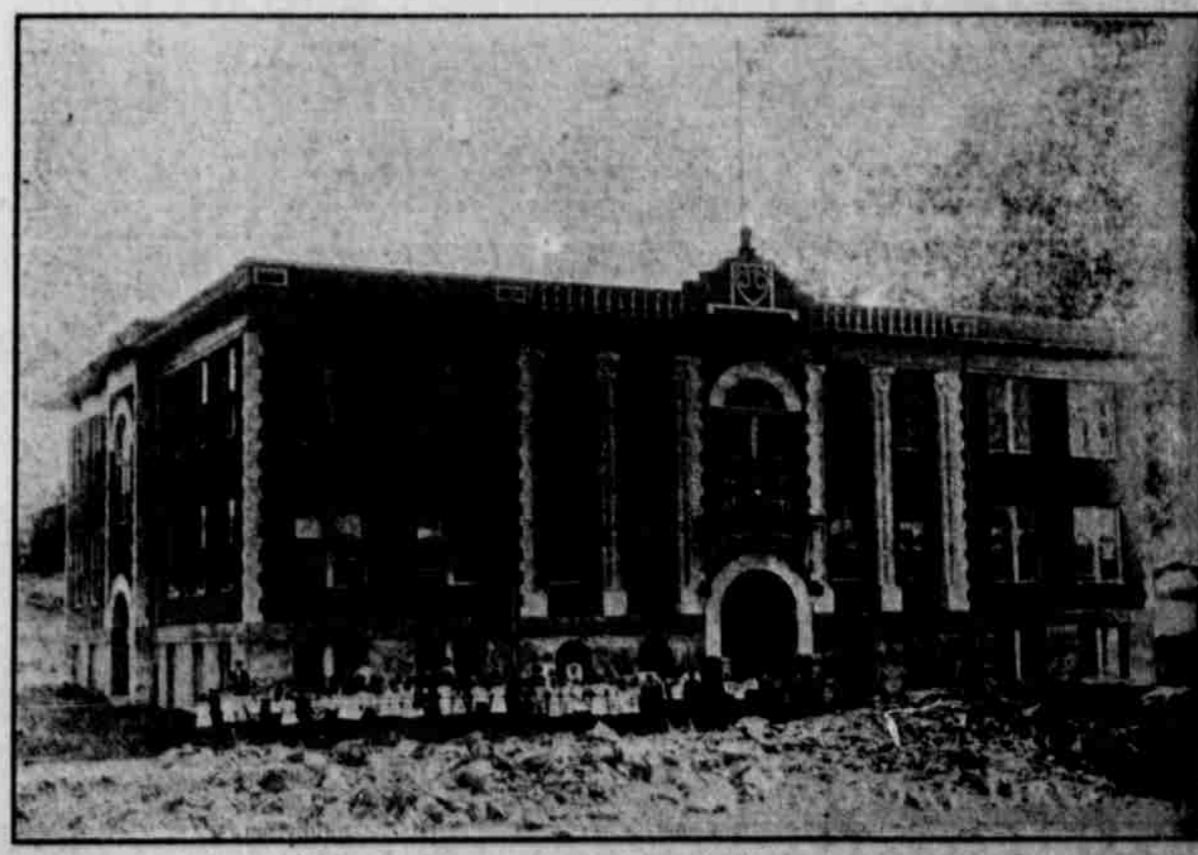


Medford High School

Type of New Public Schools Being Erected in Medford



Jackson School



Roosevelt School