

# TOU VELLE VS. BOARD ON COST OF SUPERINTENDENCE

## SCHOOL BOARD ANSWERS ATTACK BY COUNTY JUDGE

Declares That Supervisory Law Is in Interest of Rural Schools and That They Mean the Rejuvenation of Rural Life.

Denies Charges of Extravagance and Says Cost of Schools Should Be Higher.

Judge Tou Velle has requested the publication of the following statement from the educational board: Under the caption "School Graft Is Opposed by County Court," the Medford Mail Tribune of January 14 publishes an article purporting to be an interview with County Judge F. L. Tou Velle, in which the school system of Jackson county is attacked as a graft upon the public fund and a burden to the taxpayers of the county. Coming from the source it does, and on account of the numerous mis-statements and misleading statements contained therein, we believe this article demands an answer. It does not appear just who are accused of this graft, but "graft" is a strong term to apply to the actions of public officials for doing the very things enjoined upon them by the law. It is to be remembered that Mr. Tou Velle brought criminal action for libel against a certain editor of this county for the use of similar expressions.

### Says Judge Ignorant

If the county judge is correctly quoted in this interview, it is very evident that he has not given much consideration to the matter and has not familiarized himself with the facts in the case, otherwise there would not appear so many mis-statements. The first mis-statement, or rather this is a misleading statement, appears in the headline. "Would have law repealed by legislature, and enforce minimum instead of maximum." As a matter of fact which the judge ought to know, the schools now get the minimum in the very things he complains of. The law provides at least \$8.00 per capita for the county for all children of school age, and in accordance with this provision the county court levied a tax of 1.6 mills, which is the very least it can levy under the law. In some more liberal counties from \$10.00 to \$14.00 per capita is provided, but Jackson county gets the minimum, \$8.00. The high school levy is .3 of a mill, which is also the very least the law permits, and this law was made applicable to Jackson county by a vote of the legal voters at a general election, by an overwhelming majority. The people demanded this by a vast majority, and the county provides in accordance with this demand the very least it can.

### Ought To Pay More

The article further says: "The people of Jackson county are paying far more for schools than they are for state and county or municipal government." The levy for county school fund is 1.6 mills and for high school, .3 of a mill, against 1.9 mills for general county expense and 1.1 for state tax. This does not include warrant redemption nor road fund. Hence it does not appear that the county is paying more for schools than for county and state government. But it ought to pay much more. The county judge evidently overlooked the fact that there were employed in this county for the school year 1911-12, 231 teachers, while the number of county employes is perhaps not over 35 or 40, and cries "graft" because the county provides nearly as much for these 231 teachers as it does for general county expenses. Of course this 1.6 mills and .3 of a mill does not provide all the funds used for the schools, but it is all the county furnishes. In addition to this nearly every district in the county is compelled to vote upon itself a special tax for maintenance, ranging from one mill to 10 mills on the dollar, or even more. This the people vote upon themselves, and the county court, the county educational board, not the county school superintendent has anything to do with it.

### People Want High Tax

There is no tax the people will so readily vote upon themselves as a school tax, and any attempt to weaken the support of the public schools is striking pretty close to the hearts of the people. Many teachers in this county receive but \$50.00 per

## COUNTY JUDGE FRANK L. TOU VELLE



month and are employed for six months during the year. In comparison to the services they render the public, there is no class of workers so poorly paid as teachers. The reason for this is lack of funds, and yet the county judge maintains that the cost is excessive. The amount provided by the county for the schools is only about two-thirds enough to pay teachers' salaries alone, even at the low salaries teachers receive. Surely the county judge would not curtail the right of the people to vote upon themselves an additional tax for school maintenance. The article goes on to say: "We have a superintendent at \$1800 per year, \$200.00 a year more for travelling expenses, and a clerk for him at \$300.00 more." The county judge also gets a salary of \$1800.00 and we have heard no one say that it is too much. Does he think \$200.00 per year for travelling expenses or \$300.00 per year for clerk is excessive?

### Two Supervisors

Then again: "We have two supervisors at \$120.00 per month besides their expenses." This also is a mis-statement. The supervisors get \$120.00 per month and are furnished postage, stationery, telephone expense, etc., but pay their travelling expenses from their salaries. The law provides a minimum of \$100.00 per month and all expenses. The attorney general of Oregon has held that this means the county should pay travelling expenses as well as postage, stationery, etc. In their desire to reduce travelling expenses to the minimum the county educational board allowed the supervisors \$120.00 per month and required them to pay their own travelling expenses. These supervisors have travelled mostly on bicycles and on foot in order to keep their travelling expenses within the \$20.00 per month. The supervisor in reality gets the minimum pay instead of the maximum, as stated in the interview.

### More Mis-statements

It is also stated that "we have the maximum number of supervisors." Also mis-statement. The number of school districts in this county entitles it to three supervisors, and we have almost enough school districts to entitle us to four supervisors, but only two are appointed. Another misleading statement: "It (the law, permits counties having more than 60 school districts, to organize and divide the districts into supervisory districts, etc." The law does not only permit but requires the county school superintendent of any county with more than 60 school districts to appoint a county educational board and put the law into effect. In accordance with this requirement the county superintendent of Jackson county did appoint a county educational board, which proceeded to divide the county into supervisory districts and appoint supervisors as required by law. In their effort to economize the pay of the supervisors was placed at the minimum, the \$120.00 allowed them covering travelling expenses as well as salary. This board had the option to appoint one, two, or three supervisors. Two were appointed.

### Helps Rural Schools

The supervisory law was passed in the interests of the rural school, on the ground that the boy or girl in the

country is entitled to just as good advantages as the boy or girl in the city. The county over \$33.00 is being expended annually for the education of the town and city pupil, and only \$13.00 for the county pupil. There is no reason why the country school should not have as much attention as the town or city school. In the Medford schools a superintendent is employed at \$2000.00 per year, and five supervising principals at from \$900.00 to \$1500.00 per year, though only about 45 teachers are employed in the schools. Similar conditions prevail in every wide-awake city or town. But in all the rural schools of the county but two supervisors are employed, and the county judge would repeal the law that provides for their employment.

### Advocated By Many

The school supervisory law has been endorsed by the State Grange, the State Teachers' association, and by every body of school officers in the state that has taken a vote on the question. It is advocated by all leading educators and writers on subjects pertaining to rural life. The rejuvenation of rural life is to come largely through the improvement of the rural school. The great influx from the farm to the city is caused largely because of better school advantages in the city. We hope the time will come when the country school will be as attractive and as well organized as the city school. If the time ever comes, it will come through close rural school supervision.

The statement in the Mail Tribune that "all this brigade (superintendent and supervisors) has to do is to inspect and supervise schools and enforce the course of study, is as absurd and meaningless as to say that all the county judge has to do is to audit and pay the bills of the county. County Educational Board J. PERCY WELLS, chairman T. T. SHAW, secretary MRS. J. C. PENDLETON WELBORN BEESON C. P. BRIGGS.

### Masonic Notice.

Regular communication, also third degree, Friday night.

## \$3.85 PER PUPIL COST OF SUPERVISION ASSERTS TOU VELLE

County Judge Declares That Taxpayers Are Now Paying \$5000 a Year in Salaries for Work That Was Done for \$1000 Two Years Ago.

Says Teachers Say Supervisors Are a Pest—Reiterates Charges of Unnecessary Waste.

"I stand pat on the assertion that the cost of our public school system is excessive for the results secured, and that there is a waste of money for county superintendence," states County Judge Tou Velle in reply to the statement issued by the county educational board, through County Superintendent J. Percy Wells, its chairman and creator. "Mr. Wells is long on words, but does not stick to the facts. I asserted that one county superintendent can furnish all the supervision necessary for the schools outside our incorporated cities, and that there is no necessity of two assistant superintendents, nor a clerk for the superintendent—in addition to the county's paying his expenses.

### \$3.85 For Each Pupil

"The county treasurer's books show that the cost of salaries for superintending the country schools here last year was over \$5000. The superintendent's records show there are 1277 pupils in the country schools so superintended—though some are only for a few months in the year. This makes the cost of superintending alone \$3.85 for each pupil.

"Since its creation, and until the last 18 months, one superintendent has supervised all the schools in Jackson county—and has done it for \$1000 a year. Mr. Wells himself was glad to do it for two terms at that rate. There has been no visible improvement in the standard of the students turned out or in the schools themselves to justify the employment of two extra superintendents and a clerk.

### Only Criticizes Supervision

"Mr. Wells should not take refuge behind the skirts of the school teachers. I am not criticizing them, I have made no complaint on salaries paid teachers. Many of the teachers may be underpaid, and I would rather have the money spent in providing good salaries for teachers who are needed than for superintendents who are not, and who are described by many teachers as pests.

### Poor Way to Utopia

"I repeat the assertion, that had it been desired, only one supervisor, at a salary of \$1000 a year need have been employed to fulfill the laws' requirement—instead of two at \$120 a month, but this would leave some work for the superintendent and his secretary.

"I cannot see how it gives the country school the advantages of a city school to hire a few more superintendents, nor is it any reason because the Medford schools cost is high why the county's should be. Those are the city's troubles, and Medford does not ask the county to foot the bill. Mr. Wells does.

"I do not think the 'rejuvenation of rural life' will come from increasing the number of school supervisors, nor will people go back to the farms because the county superintendent

has several assistants and a clerk. Still less do I believe that Utopia will arrive through increased rural school supervision at the taxpayers' expense."

## BILL TO PROTECT SCHOOL TEACHERS INTRODUCED

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 17.—Senator Farrell today introduced a bill by making it necessary to give two month's notice of discharge in school districts of more than 200,000 population. The bill also makes the position of a teacher permanent after service of two years, so that thereafter she may be removed only for cause and after being given opportunity for a hearing.

## INDIGESTION FIVE YEARS

Relieved By Vinol Strength and even life itself depends upon the nourishment and proper assimilation of food, and unless digestion is good the whole body suffers.

Mrs. L. D. Cook, Vineland, N. J., says: "I was sick five years with indigestion. My stomach seemed to have a heavy load in it and at other times it seemed to be tied in knots. Nobody knows how I suffered.

"I tried a great many doctors and a great many kinds of medicine but nothing did any good until I took Vinol. It is helped me wonderfully. I am improving fast, feel better and am getting my flesh back again. Vinol has done me a world of good."

We know the great power of Vinol our delicious cod liver and iron tonic without oil, in curing chronic stomach trouble and building up all weakened run-down persons, and that is why we guarantee to return your money if it does not help you. Medford Pharmacy, Medford, Ore.

## Hotel Medford

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Special rates by week or month.

Combination breakfasts every morning 25, 35 and 45 cents.

25c MERCHANTS LUNCH 25c Tomorrow 11:30 to 2 p. m. Puree a la Jackson Boiled Tenderloin of Young Flounder Hollandaise Pommes Disbrow Ragout of Ox Joint aux Champignons German Pot Roast with Egg Noodles Baked Veal Pie Farmer Style Mashed Potatoes Creamed Rice Spiced Pickles Green Apple Pie Lemon Sherbet Tea Coffee Milk

Announcement We have engaged for a short time at a very large expense Herr Carl Grissen of Berlin and Mme. Captolina Elyne, concertists, commencing January 22d.



Now that Election is over

And you have time to think of your real wants wouldn't it be a timely suggestion to see that your feet are properly protected during this cold and wet spell? You can't afford to be on the sick list when "Good Shoes" as well as Rubbers can be had at

Schmidt's "Good Shoes" at "Right Prices" Opposite Post Office

**1/2 OFF**

**ALL EVENING DRESSES**  
**ALL LONG COATS**  
**ALL MACKINAW COATS**  
**ALL CHILDREN'S COATS**  
**ALL TAILORED SUITS**

**MILLINERY ONE-HALF PRICE AND LESS**

The above lines are all on sale to make a quick clearance at exactly one-half former prices.

\$10.00 Coats.....	\$5.00	\$7.50 Children's Coats .....	\$3.75
\$25.00 Coats.....	\$12.50	\$5.75 Children's Coats .....	\$2.88
\$20.00 Tailored Suits .....	\$10.00	\$35.00 Evening Dresses .....	\$17.50
\$25.00 Tailored Suits .....	\$12.50	\$45.00 Evening Dresses .....	\$22.50
\$35.00 Tailored Suits .....	\$17.50	\$60.00 Evening Dresses .....	\$30.00

*Ahrens*  
"GIVE A SUIT NOW!"

# Underwear

1 Lot Children's regular 35c to 65c quality Union Suits and Vests and Pants, sale price, ea. **25c**

1 Lot Ladies' and Boys' fleece lined Union Suits \$1.00 and \$1.25 value, each.....**75c**

1 Lot Ladies' \$1.50 and \$1.75 Union Suits, sale price, each .....**\$1.00**

2000 yards fine Val. and Torchon-Lace Beading and Insertion, sale price, 1 Lot 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 Fancy China Cups and Saucers

**3c** yard **50c** each

Men's heavy leather Work Gloves .....**50c**  
 Men's water proof Duck Gloves, pair.....**25c**  
 2 pair for **35c**

Men's water proof and cotton flannel Gauntlet Gloves with leather palm, a pair.....**25c**  
 Men's Husking Cloth Gloves, knit wrist, pr **10c**  
 3 pair for **25c**

Choice of any Boys' or Misses' 25c Hose in the store, tomorrow, pair **19c**, 2 for.....**35c**

# HUSSEY'S

## Placed \$127,500 Insurance Upon \$3.96 Household Goods

Astounding revelations of incendiarism are brought to light in a report from the commissioner of the New York fire department backed by a speech in which Mayor Gaynor severely criticises the fire insurance companies doing business in New York City.

An exhibition on "Incendiarism and its relation to fire insurance" includes a display of dishes costing the city twenty cents and insured for \$19,000 and a collection of household goods costing \$3.96 on which 133 policies amounting to \$127,500 was obtained by members of the fire department acting under Commissioner Johnson's instructions.

Commissioner Johnson declares that the ease with which policies are obtained is responsible for the destruction of property amounting to over four millions of dollars each year. Both he and the mayor urge

that the laws relating to insurance policies be changed and that the companies be compelled to inspect the premises before they issue policies.

"The exhibit sinks into significance," it is said, compared with the report on incendiarism which Commissioner Johnson has submitted to Mayor Gaynor.

It is a book of 153 pages of text and illustrations and a startling arrangement of the methods of fire insurance companies by which incendiarism is made practically inevitable.

Insurance was obtained by the fire department on \$3.44 worth of property to the amount of \$59,000 on 40 cents worth of property \$59,000, 12 cents worth of property, \$8,000 and no cents worth of property \$1,000.

Every one the report states can get a policy in America for the mere asking.