

Normal Department.

Prof. Young Presents a Solution of the Present Problem of Lack of Funds and Students.

Since having reigned long enough, I will endeavor, in a no wise critical spirit, but simply because of the interest I personally have in the matter, to make a few brief remarks on the subject of the Normal Department in the Big Stone Gap High School.

Needless to say, it is a source of much regret to us all, and especially to the writer, that we have not this department in our school this year. I will say that I have looked forward with a sense of gratitude from the day that I accepted my present position, feeling that during the greater part of the current year I would have an opportunity of helping to train, at least in a measure, those who had definitely decided to follow as a life work the noble profession of teaching, but as to this particular phase of my work, I have been sadly disappointed.

Where the Trouble Lies.

Now, just where the whole trouble lies would be hard to say. Our District Examiner, Mr. Worrell, recommended that the Normal Department in this school here be discontinued, for several reasons, yet, I understand, that he will give us his earnest support in getting it started on a better and firmer basis. This sounds something like, "I have killed the cat, now what are we going to do with it." However, knowing Mr. Worrell as I do, I feel sure that his motives are good, and that he is sincere in all that he has done. The discouraging features of the whole situation seems to be the lack of funds, and the dearth of students, two very vital requirements. I believe we can offer a common sense solution of the first part of the trouble, explain the cause of the second part and offer a remedy.

First, allow me to say that there seems to be a lack of interest and genuine spirit on the part of all who should be vitally concerned about the success and continuance of this Normal Department. We must get greatly concerned, although armed with good reasoning, in behalf of a worthy cause, if we wish it to succeed. We must have that fire and enthusiasm that compels men and authorities to listen and consider our plea.

Lack of Funds.

Well, you say, what about the funds? There is now, as I understand it, an annual appropriation of \$400 from the State to maintain a Normal Department here in connection with our High School. This is entirely inadequate for the purpose. We need at least \$500 more annually in order to employ a good competent teacher for a term of nine months each year, and thus abandon forever the half-year session, which has proved a failure up to this time. A good room and a fair amount of equipment we already have.

We will all agree, that as the pupils who are trained in our various Normal Departments labor in educational fields throughout the State, the State should make adequate appropriation for the establishment and maintenance of these departments. Well, how many of the school officials, directly or indirectly connected with this matter, have pushed this end of it? Is it impossible to get more help from that source? Who can definitely answer? Taking it for granted that any immediate help from that source is hopeless, let us look at the situation from another view point.

Shall We Allow This Department to be Discontinued?

Cannot Wise county, and Big Stone Gap in particular, shoulder the responsibility for the present? Would it not amply

pay them? Needless for me to take the time to explain the economy and advantages to the people and to their children, of having a training school for teachers in this county. Wise county justly boasts of being one of the most progressive counties in Virginia. Her recent stand on the good road question settling it at once and for all time, thus displaying her common sense in regard to so vital a matter, has placed her in the vanguard of progress. As a wide awake progressive county then can we afford to let this matter of a Normal Department, which has been partially established in your best and most suitable High School, that of Big Stone Gap, be abolished altogether? We must answer, No!

The five or six students who attended this department here last year, I understand, were nearly, if not all, from the county. The money that this number alone would leave in the county, rather than spend it in attending other Normal Schools, together with the services of two of these same students have rendered in the Wise county schools during the current year would more than justify the appropriation of the \$500 we ask from you. And we know that the profits for each succeeding year will be much greater. Further, allow me to say, the people of Big Stone Gap who should rise up as one in support of their school's best interest, should either pay liberally for the tuition of their children in this department, or else the town make a special appropriation of \$100 to \$200 annually for this purpose. I prefer the latter. The town is able to do it, and under the existing financial conditions, should gladly respond to such a just demand made upon her, and in the end she will be repaid many fold.

I will say that Big Stone Gap should go a step further than the above suggestion. Aside from the fact that this town would in all probability be the greatest direct beneficiary of this Normal Department, such things as we are advocating are great aids in placing any town or city upon a higher and better plane; they stand for progress, and for a higher mental and moral uplift to any people. Therefore, Big Stone Gap, from a selfish view point, it seems, should come forward and help us solve the other difficulty, namely small attendance in the past.

High Rate of Living in the Gap.

We will agree with our efficient County Superintendent and District Examiner when they say that the present high rate of living in the Gap keeps away students, although our attractive little town in many other ways is a decided inducement. It is a well known fact that students can go to any Normal School town in the State, such as at Williamsburg, Farmville, Harrisonburg, and other places I could mention, and easily get as good board for \$14 and \$16 per month, and in nice families, as they can get here for \$18 and \$20 per month, and then almost beg to get in. This difference per month, we well know, is a big item to the man or woman who has to struggle to earn an education. Of course, we realize that those schools have their dormitories and boarding departments attached, and they can thus in numbers give the flat rate. But in the towns mentioned, some of our best people make it a business of taking a dozen or more boarders and some do not have to do it for a living either. They are people with a big spirit, and rejoice in the opportunity to welcome homesick boys and girls, and thus add joy to their own as well as to the young folks' lives by taking them under their watchful care and protection. I do not mean to say they do all this gratis, for as I said, in numbers they make additionally enough to justify them financially. Now, this is

what Big Stone Gap must do. She must offer these students some inducement in the way of board. All of you claim there is no money in it. I agree with you; then, without being antagonistic, let some worthy citizen open up an attractive private home for this purpose, give him the crowd, and let him make this inducement, if possible. We should see that the necessary arrangements are made in due time. If necessary, until some such arrangement can be brought about, the Board of Trade, which, I am glad to say, has promised their cooperation, should arrange with the hotels for a limited time. The plans I have laid down, namely, a good competent teacher for a full year, instead of half as heretofore, inducement in the way of board to pupils, I believe will bring about the required results to convince all the educational authorities concerned that the Normal Department at Big Stone Gap is a real success. How long must Wise county and Big Stone Gap carry the burden? I answer, just a short time, because it will only be at our present rate of progress and growth just a year or two before the Normal Department would have to vacate the present room set aside for it in our school, and thereby make room for the enlarged High School Department. The State then would come to our aid. Instead of this Normal Department, with the proper push and interest manifested, we can get in its stead an up to date State Normal School for the whole Southwest Virginia located here.

The boarding problem is solved, for now there is a dormitory and boarding department attached, and the pupils of this section with equal boarding rates and educational advantages, will come to Big Stone Gap, the prettiest and healthiest little mountain town in Virginia, to get their Normal training.

The Conclusion of the Whole Matter.

The Normal Department is not dead. Let us one and all rally to its support, and at the beginning of the next schoolastic year start work anew, under the most favorable conditions we have ever yet had. I believe it can be done. The many inquiries this year even from prospective students is encouraging.

As a progressive town we must hold on to the good things we have, as well as attract others to us. Good roads and business enterprises are essential to growth and prosperity, and we are going to have them; but the very foundations upon which the whole citadel must rest is wrapped up in the churches and the schools. The Good Book says, "They who are wise will ponder these things in their hearts."

H. H. Young.

RAILROAD TO BE EXTENDED.

Freeling, Va., Feb. 10.—The Currier Lumber Company is considering the advisability of extending their narrow gauge railroad from Pound down the river to the mouth of Brush Creek, and perhaps up the creek to Clintwood. It is thought the road will be thus extended if the right of way can be secured. This road would give the merchants along the line and in the adjacent sections, an advantage in transportation. Most of the people along the proposed route will gladly lend a helping hand to the project.

LUMBER INTERESTS ACTIVE.

Freeling, Va., February 10.—The lumber interests in this immediate section are quite active. The Self Brothers are engaged in cutting a considerable quantity of oak and poplar stuff for John F. Trivitt and Nelson Radtiff. Most of this output will be shipped, Peter Whitaker's mill is running, on Pound River, turning out a quantity of oak and poplar stuff.

Furnace Property

Will Probably be Sold in a Short Time.

In the matter of the Union Iron & Steel Co., a bankrupt, notice has been served on the creditors that a petition has been filed praying for authority to sell the property of the company in Lee and Wise counties, Virginia, and a hearing on the said petition will be held at the office of the trustee in Wilmington, Dela., on the 20th of this month. If this petition is granted a sale of the property will doubtless be made soon. The notice to the creditors is as follows:

"Notice is hereby given that the Trustee in the above case has filed a petition, praying for authority to sell at public auction, the personal property of the said Bankrupt at Ewing in the Western District of Virginia; also the real estate of said Bankrupt situate in Wise County, in said Western District of Virginia, part thereof in the Town of Big Stone Gap—said sale to be made clear of all liens and encumbrances created by or recovered against said Bankrupt or L. O. Pettit, Receiver. The Trustee further prays in said petition, for an order marshaling the liens upon and interests in said property, to determine the validity, amount and priority thereof, and that the sale of said property be made (with the exception of the town lots in Big Stone Gap, in the District aforesaid) upon the following terms, namely: fifty percent of the purchase price, when the property is struck off, and the balance (secured in a manner satisfactory to the Trustee) at the expiration of six months."

There's No Risk

If This Medicine Does Not Benefit You Pay Nothing.

A physician who made a specialty of stomach troubles, particularly dyspepsia, after years of study perfected the formula from which Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets are made.

Our experience with Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets leads us to believe them to be the greatest remedy known for the relief of acute indigestion and chronic dyspepsia. Their ingredients are soothing and healing to the inflamed membranes of the stomach. They are rich in pepsin, one of the greatest digestive aids known to medicine. The relief they afford is almost immediate. Their use with persistency and regularity for a short time brings about a cessation of the pains caused by stomach disorders.

Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets will insure healthy appetite, aid digestion and promote nutrition. As evidence of our sincere faith in Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets, we ask you to try them at our risk. If they do not give you entire satisfaction, we will return you the money you paid us for them, without question or formality. They come in three sizes, prices 25 cents, 50 cents and \$1.00. Remember you can obtain them only at—The Rexall Store. Kell Drug Co.

Tortured For 15 Years

by a cure defying stomach trouble that baffled doctors, and resisted all remedies he tried, John W. Modders, of Moddersville, Mich., seemed doomed. He had to sell his farm and give up work. His neighbors said, "he can't live much longer." "Whatever I ate distressed me," he wrote "till I tried Electric Bitters, which worked such wonders for me that I can now eat things I could not take for years. It's surely a grand remedy for stomach trouble. Just as good for the liver and kidneys. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50c at J. W. Kelly's Drug Co.

THE BEST FOR BILIOUSNESS AND KIDNEYS

Greatly Interested

In the Exhibits of the Southern States at Fairs and Expositions.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—As the result of exhibits made by the Southern Railway and affiliated lines at various fairs and expositions in the North and West last fall, the Land and Industrial Department of the Southern has the names of several thousand people who are interested in the South with the view of looking for homes. Exhibits were maintained by the Southern and affiliated lines at the Pittsburg Land Show, the Illinois State Fair at Springfield, the Wisconsin State Fair at Milwaukee, and the New York State Fair at Syracuse. These exhibits were viewed in the aggregate by over half a million people, according to reports just compiled by the Land and Industrial Department of the Southern. In addition as large a number visited the exhibit of the South and its resources made jointly at the Ohio Valley Exposition in Cincinnati by the railroads of the Southeast.

The agricultural possibilities of the Southeast were displayed to magnificent advantage at these fairs, the Southern Railway exhibits receiving most favorable notice of them all. From 10,000 to 15,000 persons visited the exhibit daily at the Pittsburg Land Show, coming from all the middle states and from Canada. A large number of thirty German farmers were among those most interested at Wisconsin State Fair. The exhibit of the varied products of Southeast at the Illinois State Fair and the New York State Fair interested thousands who had previously considered cotton practically the only product of the South. Thousands of pieces of literature were distributed, showing the opportunities for profit in other lines of agriculture in the South.

RUTH WINS IN NOTED CASE

In the circuit court here Saturday was concluded one of the most remarkable civil suits that has doubtless ever been instituted in this or any other court. This suit has been pending in the circuit court here for a period of nearly two years.

In the spring of 1908 J. M. Peters desiring to locate in the West sold to W. A. Ruth a tract of land containing about 200 acres for the consideration of \$4,825. Peters claims that in making this conveyance a verbal collateral contract was agreed to between him and Ruth to the effect that if he should become dissatisfied in the West that Ruth should reconvey the land to him at the price paid, together with a year's interest thereon. Ruth denied having made such an agreement, and when Peters returned from the West, nearly a year later and demanded a reconveyance of the land, Ruth refused the demand, and because such contract was not incorporated in the deed, it could not be enforced by law. Seeing that all attempts to regain possession of the land were futile, Peters again returned to the West, but did not remain there but a very short time until he returned again and upon his arrival here produced a receipt which purported to have been by W. A. Ruth on the 29th day of January, 1909, in which he acknowledged the payment of the money for the reconveyance of the land, which Peters claims was paid in currency on the court house steps at the time of his former visit here. This Ruth emphatically denied, and said he never

signed the receipt and had never seen it before. Peters was thereupon indicted and tried for forgery at the June term, 1909, of the circuit court, which resulted in acquittal for want of sufficient evidence. Following his acquittal, Peters immediately instituted suit for a reconveyance of the land in question, which was tried in June, 1910, resulting in a mistrial, and was continued until the present term.

More than one hundred witnesses were summoned and an imposing array of counsel were employed on each side, the plaintiff being represented by Coleman and Carter and E. M. Carter, of this place, and J. P. Wilson, of Lebanon, while the defence was represented by Commonwealths Attorney J. P. Cornes and S. H. Bond, of Gate City, and J. F. Bulitt, of Big Stone Gap. Because the case was so well known over this county and had been more or less discussed and practically everyone had formed an opinion about the case, a jury was summoned from Russell county to hear the case and determine whether or not W. A. Ruth executed the receipt in question.

The case was bitterly contested on each side, and the jury, after hearing the evidence lasting one week, rendered a verdict for the defendant. Thus ends one of the most remarkable civil suits ever heard in this section of the country.—Gate City Reporter.

Boy Scouts.

A boys' organization, with the above name, was started in England some years ago by General Sir R. S. S. Baden Powell, and in two and one half years its members numbered four hundred thousand.

Adopting the same plan, the nature writer, Ernest Thompson Seton, as Chief Scout, has had even greater success in the rapidity of its spread among the boys of this country and Canada.

The object of the organization is character building for boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen by training them in works of self reliance, manhood and good citizenship in such ways as are attractive to the boys themselves. A military aspect is given to it only as a means of inculcating discipline, obedience, neatness and order and in so far as it appeals to the boys, "Scout craft" includes here any activity which may be made to serve a useful purpose, either to the boy himself or through him to others.

It is proposed to start a branch of the organization—Boy Scouts of America—in Big Stone Gap.

PRESENTED PICTURE OF LONGFELLOW

A beautiful picture of the past Longfellow was presented to Grade II Tuesday as a reward for selling the greatest number of Red Cross Seals previous to Christmas.

Meslames Irvine, Pettit, E. E. Goodloe and McCormick represented the League. Mrs. J. G. Nesbit, the regular teacher of Grade II was present for the first time since she was taken ill with appendicitis directly after Christmas. Miss Bailey, the substitute teacher, was also present, and Professor Young.

Mr. Young received the picture for the Grade in a neat little speech, and the children gave the visitors a rising vote of thanks.

The ladies then inspected the sanitary drinking fountain, which has been installed on the second floor.

Life Saved At Death's Door.

"I never felt so near my grave," writes W. R. Patterson, of Wellington, Tex., as when a frightful cough and lung trouble pulled me down to 100 pounds, in spite of doctor's treatment for two years. My father, mother and two sisters died of consumption, and that I am alive today is due solely to Dr. King's New Discovery, which completely cured me. Now I weigh 187 pounds and have been well and strong for years. Quick, safe, sure, its best remedy on earth for coughs, colds, la grippe, asthma, croup and all throat and lung troubles. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by J. W. Kelly, Druggist.