

County Superintendent's Annual Report of the School of Columbia County.

The most promising features of the work during the past year were the increase in the number of pupils attending school and greater regularity in attendance.

While more interest was manifested in the work this year than ever before by patrons, directors, teachers and pupils, yet there is room for improvement in various ways in many districts.

The majority of our directors are careful, capable and conscientious, and seem ever ready to do whatever in their judgment tends to make the schools more efficient.

The attendance of directors at the directors association at our last county institute was the largest ever known at a regular meeting of the association.

Excellent addresses were made by Superintendents B. R. Johnson of Union county and J. George Becht of Lycoming county.

It seems no more than right that directors should receive actual expenses for attendance at the sessions of the association for the one day during the county institute.

It was suggested at the last meeting that as the district receives through the directors who attend, the benefits of the association, that it would be proper for the district to pay the actual expenses of those who attend the meeting.

The county institute was held October 21-25. All the teachers in the county except two were present. One of these was absent on account of sickness.

The institutes during the past few years have been very largely attended by teachers, directors and citizens, and have been unusually interesting and successful.

Interesting and excellent instruction was given by Dr. Arnold Tomkins of Chicago, Ill., Supts. B. R. Johnson of Union county, J. George Becht of Lycoming county, Miss Margaret McCloskey of the Lock Haven Normal School, Mrs. E. N. Allen of Yorkers, N. Y., Prof. Wm. Noetling and Dr. J. P. Welsh of the Bloomsburg Normal, and Prof. E. K. Richardson of Berwick. Prof. J. A. Spinkel had charge of the music. The lectures were given by Dr. James Hedley, Dr. Byron King and Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., and a concert, by the Arion Concert Company.

Eight local institutes were held. They were better attended by teachers, directors and citizens than ever before.

Special efforts were made to give natural science a prominent place on the program of these institutes and Prof. Cope of the Normal did good work in this subject.

Valuable instruction was also given by other members of the Faculty of the Normal as well as by many of the teachers of the county.

It is necessary to state this year again that a number of the out-buildings are not what they should be and that therefore the law in this particular has not yet been complied with in some districts.

One new school house was built during the year and many were repaired and made more attractive and comfortable.

The P. O. S. of A., erected poles at a number of school houses in the county and presented those schools with beautiful flags. This society is to be commended for the good work it is thus doing.

While many of our schools have unabridged dictionaries, some libraries, or the beginning of a library, and a few have good supplementary reading yet there is a great need of immediate attention to these matters and improvement in them.

Each school should have an unabridged dictionary and a library.

Our directors as a rule have been careful and wise in refraining from spending large sums of money for useless charts, but they might invest to great advantage more money in dictionaries and supplementary reading.

In many districts teachers are more carefully selected, and most directors are now fully awake to the fact that the little people, or primary pupils, should have the very best teachers.

There are in the county two hundred and thirty (230) schools. Of these eighty-nine are graded. Twenty-two (22) school rooms have not sufficient seating capacity.

One hundred and thirty-seven school houses are considered good. In two hundred and two (202) schools the Bible is read.

We held twenty-five (25) examinations and examined two hundred and twenty-six (226) applicants. Of these forty-three (43) were rejected.

One hundred (100) of the teachers of the county are males and one hundred and forty-three (143) are females.

Thirty-five (35) is the highest average age of the teachers of any district and nineteen (19) the lowest average age of the teachers of any district.

Fifty (50) teachers this year had no previous experience. Of these one (1) was a college graduate, three (3)

came direct from the common schools, six (6) were educated in seminaries or academies, seven (7) were from High Schools, twelve (12) were Normal graduates, and twenty-one (21) had attended Normal Schools.

Ninety-two (92) teachers had more than five years' experience in teaching. One hundred and fourteen (114) held provisional certificates, thirty-five (35) held permanent, eighteen (18) held permanents, seventy-two (72) are Normal graduates, and two (2) college graduates have State certificates.

One hundred and fifty-nine (159) of our teachers attended Normal Schools, thirty-six (36) were educated in the common schools, forty-five (45) in academies or seminaries, and three (3) are college graduates.

Every school in the county was visited once, seventy (70) were visited a second time, and a number were visited three times.

It was found at the time of the regular visit that one hundred and fifty-eight (158) schools had been visited by directors.

During the past six years I have visited every school once each year and always from seventy (70) to a hundred (100) a second time.

A teacher was employed to teach music regularly in the schools of Bloom and Catawissa. The work accomplished along this line in these schools shows that this was not only a desirable move but a successful one.

The graded course of study prepared for the ungraded schools of the county and placed in them two years ago has done much to systematize the work in these schools and make it stronger and better. It is hoped that this course or a similar one, with all possible improvements, will be continued, and that the time may soon come when each rural district in the county will regularly graduate each year a number of young men and young women who may most properly upon such graduation receive from the directors and the superintendent a common school diploma. It is done in other counties and it can be successfully done in this as the work with the course during the past two years fully demonstrates.

The Berwick directors have successfully continued the cooking school. This school is under the efficient supervision of Mrs. Kusel and it has proven an excellent thing for the young women of Berwick. The Berwick people may be proud of their cooking school, and this department of their schools should receive the united and hearty support that it deserves.

Our teachers as a rule, do faithful, hard, honest work. I shall ever gratefully remember the generous and kind help that so many of the teachers always so willingly and cheerfully gave me.

A few years ago not more than fifty per cent. of the teachers were regular readers of educational journals but to-day less than seven per cent. do not read regularly such papers.

The High Schools of the county graduated about the usual number. The Normal is in a very prosperous condition and continues to graduate large classes.

Having been reliably informed at the County Institute in October by those requested to look into the matter that it was the intention of a large majority of the directors of the county to reduce the salary of the county superintendent at their next triennial convention, I informed the directors of the county and the public immediately after the Institute that I could not, therefore, be a candidate for a third term.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the directors, the teachers, the citizens and the pupils for the kind, generous, faithful support given me during the past six years, and I trust my successor may be accorded similar kind treatment and hearty co-operation.

WM. C. JOHNSTON.

Reading Employes' Relief Fund.

The statement of the Reading Railroad Relief Association for May shows payments for benefits aggregating \$18,030.30. Of this total there was paid on account of deaths, \$5,420.60; accident disablements, \$5,544.50; sick disablements, \$7,083.20. Eleven death claims were paid, five occurring from accidents and six from natural causes. The total number of new cases reported during the month was 573.

The Same the World Over.

The following is the statement of some observing individual: "Never judge a person by his outside appearance. A shabby old coat may enwrap a newspaper publisher, while a man wearing a plug hat and sporting a gold headed cane may be a delinquent subscriber.

Taken in time Hood's Sarsaparilla prevents serious illness by keeping the blood pure and all the organs in a healthy condition.

Subscribe for the COLUMBIAN.

TRY TRY AGAIN.

—Keeping vegetables with the stalks in water till cooked.

—Keeping eggs by burying in salt.

—Keeping carrots and turnips by burying in layers in a box of sand.

—For seeding raisins, pouring boiling water over them and then draining.

—Roasting or broiling meat over as hot a fire as possible.

—Roasting potatoes with meat by paring and putting on a rack in the pan.

—Hickory-nut macaroons made of five unbeaten eggs, one pound of chopped meats, one pound of powdered sugar, one tablespoonful of flour, two small teaspoonfuls of baking powder, dropped in tiny cakes in waxed paper in the pan.

—Rubbing irons with a little wax to prevent starch sticking.

—Taking ink stains from wash goods by rubbing with yolk of egg before washing.

—Adding a pinch of salt to the white of egg in beating to make it froth.

—Removing scorch from linen by spreading over them this mixture: The juice of two onions, one-half ounce of white soap, two ounces of fuller's earth and one-half pint of vinegar, all boiled together and cooled before using.

—Peach pudding sauce of the extra juice in a can of fruit, with a little sugar and water and a few drops of almond extract; boil up and serve.

—Good Housekeeping.

Don't think that your liver needs treating if you are bilious. It don't. It's your stomach. That is, your stomach is really what causes the biliousness. It has put your liver out of order.

See what's the matter with your stomach.

Sick stomach poisons liver and then there's trouble. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures stomach and then all's well. That's the case in a nutshell.

Shaker Digestive Cordial is no secret. Formula's on every bottle. But it's the simple honest way it's made, the honest Shaker herbs and other ingredients of which it's composed, that make it so efficacious.

Any real case of indigestion and biliousness can be cured with a few bottles of Shaker Digestive Cordial. Try it.

Sold by druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 per bottle.

CONGRESS AND THE CANNON.

How Monument Associations Are Supplied With War Relics.

"Congress keeps right on passing resolutions donating condemned cannon to the various battlefield, Grand Army and monument associations throughout the country," said an officer of the ordinance corps at the War Department, "though it is a well-known fact that the Government has had no condemned cannon on hand for twenty years or more. All that were left on hand after the war were given away in ten years, and since then to supply these donations the Government has had to make hundreds and hundreds of cannon for the express purpose of condemning them.

"As a rule these soldier monuments are placed on a square or oblong base and four cannon are needed, one for each corner, to properly set them off. With the cannon always go the carriages; kept properly painted they will last practically forever. The present Congress has donated 120 cannon so far, and probably forty more will be added before they sojourn. As there is on hand but seventy-five cannon for which there is no present use, seventy-five or one hundred will have to be made immediately, and also immediately condemned, so as to comply with the law."—Washington Letter in the Chicago Record.

The season is approaching when one opens his mouth at the risk of letting in a fly. Scientists claim that the common fly is not a very nutritious article of food for human beings. To our knowledge, no one has ever contradicted the statement. The taste of flies is not pleasant, but that doesn't handicap them as a luxury. The pickling factories haven't introduced them yet, and until then the savory olive will hold dominion over popular delicacies. Don't swallow more flies than you positively must. They usually die a violent death and in "be things very unpleasant for the stomach. Never eat the wings of a fly. Science proves that they are quite indigestible.

No Cripe

When you take Hood's Pills. The big, old-fashioned, sugar-coated pills, which tear you all to pieces, are not in it with Hood's. Easy to take and easy to operate, is true of Hood's Pills, which are up to date in every respect. Safe, certain and sure. All druggists, 50c. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Hood's Pills

out in the rain

A good drenching in a cold rain is often the beginning of consumption. Yet no one claims that the germs of this disease existed in the rainwater. Then how was this brought about? The exposure was followed by a cold; the vitality was lowered; the cough continued for some weeks; the throat and lungs became congested; and thus all the conditions were favorable for the growth of the consumption germs.

Scott's Emulsion

of Cod-liver Oil, with hypophosphites, does not directly attack these germs and kill them. But it does tone up the whole system and restores the body to health before serious harm is done. The germs of consumption thrive best when the system is weakened and the throat and lungs congested. Do not delay until it is too late, but treat your cough early. Scott's Emulsion is one of the very best remedies.

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