

The Star.

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C. A. STEPHENSON, Editor and Pub.
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THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Principal of Reynoldsville Public Schools, Year Ending June 1, 1897.

REYNOLDSVILLE, JUNE 1, 1897.

To Board of Public School Directors,

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with rule eight of "Duties of Principal," Rules and Regulations adopted Aug. 3, 1896, I have the honor to submit herewith the first annual report of Principal for the school year ending June 1, 1897.

It is a source of great gratification to note the rapid evolution of the public school system of Pennsylvania. It is a matter of common comment among observing people that the public school system of our state is making more rapid strides in the direction of progress than any other institution in the commonwealth. For this condition of affairs our gratitude is due largely to the men in the Department of Public Instruction at Harrisburg, who are putting forth every effort to secure favorable legislation and to stimulate activity along educational lines.

This report, however, is devoted to the public schools of the borough of Reynoldsville and recommendations for their better advancement. The course of study adopted by the board on Aug. 3, 1896, has been faithfully carried out by the teachers and principal. The schools were not up to the course of study at the beginning of the year and some of the grades may not compare with it yet in a few of the minor details, but in the general plan of work the several grades conform now to the course of study laid out. It was scarcely to be hoped that the work of one year would bring the schools to the standard set for them.

The rules and regulations have been judiciously enforced with as little deviation therefrom as possible. We believe that the School Catalogue which was printed and distributed at the beginning of the year has been instrumental in producing many good results in discipline, in that it is the means by which the patrons of the schools are informed of the general plan of the year's work and of the rules to which their children are expected to conform, thus securing a co-operation of parents that otherwise might be lost.

The methods of instruction pursued by the teachers are in accord with the spirit of the times. While pursuing the latest and most approved methods of instruction and discipline, experimental and radical methods have been avoided. We believe that a judicious conservatism is necessary in methods of teaching in order to maintain school equilibrium and to secure a constant progress.

Teachers' meetings have been held weekly during the school term. These meetings have been well attended by a great majority of the teachers and have been the means of securing earnest and effective co-operation among the corps of instructors. The many problems arising in school management and the best methods of instruction are discussed at the meetings of the teachers. It is earnestly recommended that during the next school year the teachers as a body adopt and pursue a course of professional reading and that discussions be carried on along the lines of the reading course, in the teachers' meetings.

It is very gratifying to report also that we have been accorded the most hearty support of the patrons of the schools. This is evidence that the earnest efforts for the improvement of the schools are being appreciated by them. The lecture course and other public entertainments were well patronized. We believe that the good influences of these public entertainments have been felt in many homes and that they will continue to bear good fruits in the future. If this be true they are certainly a strong educational factor in the community.

Early in the year an alumni association was formed. This organization was composed of persons who, though not regular high school graduates, had received diplomas for work done in the schools and those who, having passed through the public schools, had received certificates qualifying them to teach. To these were added at the close of the school year, the first graduating class of the high school. The prime object of this association is not, as many suppose, to have an annual reunion, but to enhance by every honorable means the interests of education in this place. The alumni association has enrolled at present 26 active members. Each class when graduated will be eligible to membership.

A specialist in the art of Reading and

Expression was engaged during a part of the school term. The good influences of this work are very evident. A teachers' class was conducted during a part of this time and nearly all of the corps improved the opportunity to take special work in methods of teaching Reading. More of this kind of work should be done in the public schools. Reading is, generally speaking, one of the most poorly taught branches in the school course.

Perhaps better results have been obtained in literary work this year than ever before. This is due in part to the superior advantages for the same, and in part to the enthusiasm of teachers and pupils. The Assembly hall, with its well furnished stage, affords an excellent place for literary exercises. The value of earnest literary work cannot be over-estimated.

Our statistical report shows the average per cent. of attendance for the term just closed to be 93. In this respect our schools are surpassed by few districts in the state. Tardiness in the several rooms has, we believe, almost reached the minimum. This high per cent. of attendance and punctuality is due largely to an increased interest in school work and in part to our system of correspondence between teachers and parents. In almost every case where pupils failed to present a written excuse from the parent for tardiness or absence a note of inquiry was sent from teacher to parent, notifying him of such absence or tardiness and asking for a reply to the same. These notes of inquiry usually secure the co-operation of parents in attendance and punctuality. Parents should in all cases be careful to sign these inquiries themselves and return them to the teacher sealed.

The high school has been during the year the seat of much activity and interest. The people of Reynoldsville have reason to be proud of the fact that the Board of Education has placed them in possession of a school in which their children may receive an education at home. No movement should be tolerated that would impair the efficiency of the high school, but on the other hand every effort should be put forth to promote its efficiency and to raise its standard. We deem it expedient to say a few words here upon the high school movement in general. Much interest has been awakened along this line within the past few years. In 1895 an act was passed by the legislature providing for the establishing of borough and township high schools. It lacks only an appropriation of funds to make the law effective. However, without the stimulant of a special appropriation from the Legislature it is clearly the duty of every school district able to do so, to promote the welfare of its young people by some system of higher education. Too frequently boards of directors are restrained from acting in a progressive manner by the general complaint of "hard times." We will quote in this connection some words and figures from the late report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: "The men who think and talk money from January to December are prone to ask whether there is any material return for the money expended upon our public schools. Fortunately a convincing answer is possible from their own point of view. Although the return which the schools make cannot be exhibited at an annual fair like the products of the farm and garden, the superior intelligence which results from good schools makes itself felt in more productive forms of labor in augmenting the earning power of the individual. These can be measured in dollars and cents. The general effect of intelligence upon the earning power of the individual is seen in the figures of the last census which shows the average earnings of the industrial classes in the different states of the Union and the percentages of illiteracy, that is, the number of persons out of every hundred of population above the age of ten who are unable to read and write. Wyoming heads the list with an average earning capacity of \$768 credited to the industrial classes and a percentage of illiteracy below three and a half. For New York the average earnings are \$549 and the percentage of illiteracy is five and a half; for Pennsylvania the average earnings are \$492 and the percentage of illiteracy is seven; in South Carolina the average earnings sink to \$267, and the percentage of illiteracy rises to forty-two and three-tenths. As a rule the earning power of the industrial classes rises as the percentage of illiteracy falls."

We find a tendency too prevalent on the part of high school authorities to adopt only such branches of study as will fit their pupils for entrance to the colleges or to pursue a professional life, neglecting the demands of the business world. There is a just demand on the part of many that their children receive from the public schools a practical business training; such a training as would qualify them to enter upon the practical duties of a business life. To supply this much felt want it is recommended that there be established in the high school a commercial course of study and that when pupils reach the high school department they be allowed their choice of the regular high school course or the commercial course. It is believed that this would not only prevent many pupils from leaving the schools before reaching the high school but would also draw students from a distance to avail themselves of the advantages of such a course. The experience of other high schools has proved that a commercial course may be maintained with success. The standard of a school is always determined by the standard of its teachers. Therefore, it is of the first importance that the very best available teachers be employed. In performing this highly important duty a board of directors cannot exercise too much care. True merit and the qualities required to make a truly noble teacher alone should be considered. While scholarship is a highly essential quality in a teacher yet it is of no more importance than a high moral character. It is a well established fact that pupils are always influenced by the moral character of their teacher. It should also be remembered that a successful teacher is one who is willing to do more than he is hired to do. A teacher who does not throw his whole soul into his work, who is not willing to work out of school hours as well as while his school is in session and who will not make the interests of his pupils his own interests is scarcely worthy the board's employment and is dear to the district at the smallest salary. In graded schools especially it is necessary that teachers be interested not only in their own school but in all the schools, who understand what a course of study means and are willing to carry it out and who are ever ready to co-operate with the school authorities in whatever may benefit the school.

Perhaps the greatest need felt in the Reynoldsville schools at present is that of suitable apparatus. The primary grades should be supplied with busy work and the high school with a set of chemical apparatus. A few dollars expended in this direction would greatly facilitate the work in these departments.

Music is coming to be recognized more every year as an essential part of a child's education. While this accomplishment may not directly aid him in earning bread, "it will sweeten all the bread he may earn" and will help him to live a higher and nobler life. We anxiously look forward to the day when this art will be accorded an equal place in the school curriculum with the scientific branches of learning. We believe it practicable in a school like ours to conduct a music course without additional expense to the district and thus afford this advantage to the patrons who desire it.

The school building, furniture and grounds have been well cared for and carefully guarded from damage. We believe it a valuable lesson for pupils to learn that public property should be held in as high regard as private property. No effort should be spared to enlarge and beautify the public school grounds. A child's surroundings have much to do with the making of his character.

We shall conclude this report in the following eloquent words of Mr. Hyde which cannot be too strongly urged upon the attention of all persons interested in popular education:

"This world in which we live is established through wisdom; founded on truth; governed by law; clothed in beauty; crowned with beneficence. The business of the school is to open the mind to understand that perfect wisdom; to appreciate that wondrous truth; to respect that universal law; to admire that radiant beauty; to praise that infinite beneficence. Humanity, of which we are members, has brought forth great men and glorious deeds; it has formed languages and reared civilizations; it has expressed its ideals and its aspirations on canvas and in stone; it has uttered its joys and its sorrows, its hopes and fears in music and poetry. The province of the school is to interpret to the scholar these glorious deeds of noble men; to open to him the languages and civilizations of the past; to make him share the pure ideals and lofty aims of artist and architect; to introduce him to the larger world of letters and the higher realms of song."

"The public school is the institution which says that the poor boy, though he may eat coarser food and wear a shabbier coat, and dwell in a smaller house, and work earlier and later and harder than his rich companion, still may have his eyes trained to behold the same glory in the heavens and the same beauty in the earth; shall have his mind developed to appreciate the same sweetness in music and the same loveliness in art; shall have his heart opened to enjoy the same literary treasures and the same philosophic truths; shall have his soul stirred by the same social influences and the same spiritual ideals as the children of his wealthier neighbors."

G. W. LENKED, Principal.

The True Remedy.

W. M. Repine, editor Tiskilwa, Ill., "Chief," says: "We won't keep house without Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds. Experimented with many others, but never got the true remedy until we used Dr. King's New Discovery. No other remedy can take its place in our home, as in it we have a certain and sure cure for coughs, colds, whooping cough, etc." It is idle to experiment with other remedies, even if they are urged on you as just as good as Dr. King's New Discovery. They are not as good, because this remedy has a record of cures and besides is guaranteed. It never fails to satisfy. Trial bottles free at H. Alex. Stoke's drug store.

Fine stock of shoes at J. K. Johnston's shoe parlor at reasonable prices.

Free Pills.

Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of constipation and sick headache. For malaria and liver troubles they have been proven invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 25c. per box. Sold by H. Alex. Stoke druggist.

Wall Paper.

Undoubtedly the handsomest line of wall paper ever shown in Reynoldsville is now on exhibition at Stoke's. Prices lower than ever. The public are invited to come and see the display.

Shoes from 15 cts. a foot up to \$3.00 a foot at J. S. Morrow's.

All the latest styles in Oxford's and prices below the lowest at Robinson's.

Subscribe for THE STAR and get all the local, county and general news.

Pennsylvania Railroad Summer Excursion Route Book.

On June 1 the Passenger Department of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company issued the 1897 edition of its Summer Excursion Route Book. This work is designed to provide the public with short descriptive notes of the principal summer resorts of Eastern America, with the routes for reaching them, and the rates of fare. There are over four hundred resorts in the book to which rates are quoted, and over fifteen hundred different routes or combinations of routes. It is compiled with the utmost care, and altogether is the most complete and comprehensive handbook of summer travel ever offered to the public.

Its 219 pages is enclosed in a handsome and striking cover, in colors. Several maps, presenting the exact routes over which tickets are sold, are bound in the book. It is also profusely illustrated with fine half-tone cuts of scenery along the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad and elsewhere.

Any doubt as to where the summer should be passed will be dispelled after a careful examination of the contents of this publication.

On and after June 1 it may be procured at any Pennsylvania Railroad ticket office at the nominal price of ten cents, or, upon application to the general office, Broad Street Station, by mail for twenty cents.

Bon Ton ice cream nonpareil.

Men's working shoes, congress or buckle, all solid leather, for only \$1.25 at Robinson's.

First-class Demorest sewing machine at J. S. Morrow's for \$19.50.

There is no better place for obtaining valuable pointers on bicycles than at Stoke's. All the '97 improvements are shown in our cycles.

Hot weather shoes for everybody, in colors and black, at Robinson's.

Finest cotton hats in town at J. S. Morrow's.

Baby shoes 20 to 35 cents per pair at J. E. Welsh & Co's.

Single Fare for Round Trip.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that for the Eighteenth National Saengerfest, to be held in Philadelphia, June 21st to 24th, 1897, it will sell excursion tickets to Philadelphia from all points on its line June 19th to 23rd inclusive, good to return until June 26th, 1897, inclusive, at a single fare for the round trip. No rate, however, will be reduced to less than fifty cents.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by H. Alex. Stoke.

Dress shoes, work shoes, in fact any kind of shoes, at James K. Johnston's shoe parlor.

The best in town—bicycles at Stoke's. More improvements, more good features than any others.

Ice cream at the Bon Ton bakery, guaranteed strictly pure, only 30c. a qt.

If you want stylish and fitting shoes patronize Jas. K. Johnston's shoe parlor.

We Court Comparison.

We will be glad to compare any sample of wall paper you may have, with our stock. Stoke's Pharmacy.

For neat fitting suit, go to Snyder & Johns, fashionable tailors.

J. E. Welsh & Co. keep a fine line of ladies', gentlemen's and children's shoes constantly in stock.

Twice as many bicycles were sold by Stoke in 1896 as all the other dealers in town. Good stock counts.

We invite the public to call as we are closing out our stock of drygoods, groceries, Hardware, Shoes &c. and they can secure bargains from this stock, when later public sales will be made to close out balance.

J. C. KING & Co.

Snyder & Johns, fashionable tailors.

If you want good shoes cheap go to J. E. Welsh & Co.'s shoe store in the Wm. Foster block.

We have the best bike shoes in the land, colored and black, from \$1.25 to \$2.00, at Robinson's.

Stoke's Advertising Space.



CANCELLED

and so at the end of its usefulness. Our assortment of stationery, however, is equal to all demands. "Fine" receives a new meaning when used in connection with

Our Goods.

They please the eye. They satisfy the taste. They command approval. They fulfill every requirement of practical utility. Here you'll find what cannot be excelled at figures that cannot be found elsewhere. Our stationery position is stationary at "Highest."

STOKE'S PHARMACY.

We give the best value in the town.

MILLIRENS.

Our straw hats beat the world.

You Can't Afford to Miss that Great Suit Sale of Ours.

That recent purchase of ours, the entire stock of the world's best Clothing Makers, has brought well-made, serviceable and up-to-date clothing, down to a low price that has never before been reached at any previous clothing offer. We give you the whole benefit of the manufacturers' loss and offer choice of these suits at prices, quality considered, that make them the Greatest Clothing bargains in the world.

Men's and Boys' Hats.

We have just received a big invoice of new summer shapes in Men's Stiff Hats; come and see them. We have the finest and largest line of Men's and Boys' Straw Hats shown in the county. Prices ranging from 5c. to \$1.50.

Outing Shirts.

Men's laundered outing shirts made of fine percale, collars and cuffs attached, all the new spring styles and coloring, real value 75c., your choice only 50c. Fine grades of Men's outing shirts in percale and madras cloth, all shades and styles, 25c. to 50c.

Underwear

Men's French Balbriggan underwear, the celebrated Bon-Bon make, sold everywhere at 75c., here only 50c. Men's medium weight natural wool underwear, soft and fleecy to the touch, a regular 75c. grade, here only 50c.

Here's What's Wanted!

Ladies' Shirt Waists

A line right up-to-date in styles—none better.

Ladies' Suits and Skirts, Wash Goods,

French Organdies, Grass Linens, in Silk Stripes and Checks, very pretty. Call and see them.

BING & CO.