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EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

In this opening week of a new year it may be well for us to occupy a few moments in reviewing the year just past, and in getting our bearings educationally for 1893. The great feature of the year in the district schools has of course been the introduction of the uniform series of books in almost all the schools of the county. With one or two exceptions, those who have not already made the change are preparing to do so, since the book companies have with great kindness, agreed to give the same rates on all exchanges for a short time. Throughout the county the children have fresh, whole books which may be passed on to the other pupils later, at a very small cash expense.

The satisfaction with the new series seems to be universal. Renters who must change farms the coming year are gratified to know that their children may assume in the school to which they come, the same place held in the school they left, with the same books and work.

The second great achievement of the year has been supplying each school with a new manual, based on the uniform system of books, providing the same plan of work for each school, and so arranged that each school is in touch with all others.

A classification record has been placed in each school in the country and teachers are being instructed in its use so that hereafter a teacher coming to a new school will find the work done by her predecessors so recorded, and suggestions as to the needs of the school so plainly made as to enable her to take up the work at the exact point where it was laid down at the close of the term, and avoid useless reviewing in order to classify pupils.

With a few exceptions our district schools are now divided into eight grades, though many pupils have not yet put all their work to any one grade. This necessitates much labor and time in the older classes especially. The teachers have worked hard and faithfully and deserve praise for the success they have so far been able to attain.

In June, thirty pupils took the final examinations, having completed their eighth grade work. Fifteen passed with honors and diplomas have been issued to them. Several of the number have passed the examination in Pedagogy and have received their certificates of the second grade. Two are teaching with marked success.

The records now in this office show an enrollment of 156 in the eighth grade work so far this year. Of this number, it is hoped fully 100 will pass the examinations and receive diplomas. The enrollment in the seventh grade is very large, showing increased attendance and interest and promising a large graduating class for the coming year.

From the ranks of these graduates will in future be drawn the most successful teachers of the country, because

they will be prepared on the topics they are to teach before beginning and not to have to become so by experience in the school room. Many of those who do not wish to teach will be so stimulated by their work in the district schools as to go on through higher institutions to attain wider knowledge. Two of this year's class have already entered an advanced school and three are taking the higher course in the higher school where they belong, acquiring an education at home that would be a heavy cost in time and dollars if obtained elsewhere.

There have been reported at this office during the year 12,130 school children in the county. Of these 10,076 have been enrolled in the schools. It has taken 310 teachers to instruct these children at a cost to the county in wages of \$98,367. The total levy for all expenses was \$103,798. The amount invested in school property in this county is reported to be \$235,610. The amount of bonded school debt is only \$10,498.

No teacher has taught for less than \$25, while the most received by any female in the district schools has been \$50, and by male \$60.

The average wages for the year are for females \$36, for males \$43. The average length of school year has been almost eight months, being an improvement in that respect.

The teachers' local institutes early in 1892 were very fully attended and the new methods with uniform books and system of graduation were very carefully taught. The annual institute was in session but two weeks. Thorough training in primary work, graduation, adaptation of work, organization of reading circles for both teachers and pupils were discussed. Those who failed to be present have shown so far this year, little advancement compared to those who had this drill.

A system of reports has been inaugurated in which a report of the actual conditions of the school, ground covered by each pupil, department, and difficulties to be met with, are put in the hands of the county superintendent eight times during the school year. These are filed in his office and are constantly referred to in planning work for various schools, in recommending teachers where needed, thus forming such a source of information to this office, as has never been attainable before.

A contract has been made with a school supply house by which such supplies as are necessary can be purchased at wholesale prices direct from the house. Considerable interest has been manifested in this question and many far-sighted directors are supplying their schools with indestructible slate blackboards, while such advantageous terms can be had. This solves forever the question of fixing blackboards every term. Many directors have supplied their schools with dictionaries, maps and globes. I am sorry to say that the great majority are still in need of these essential helps.

Nearly all the teachers of the county now belong to the Teachers' Reading Circle and are doing the best work that limited time will allow. The Children's Circle is very large numbering probably into the thousands, though the list is not yet complete. This is a very hopeful sign for the future of our young people, since a man is often very largely what he reads.

The Board of Supervisors have throughout the year shown a marked interest in the educational department of their work and have been generous in supplying what the schools so needed. To them much of the praise for what has been accomplished properly belongs.

Where ever the people have understood the work that was attempted, they have been prompt with their support and any opposition has come from a misconception of the purpose of the work done. More interest in school matters has been shown in the districts themselves this year than ever before.

The teachers have worked in two directions. They have nobly stood by the superintendent in his attempt to raise the standard, have prepared themselves for their work, and have the satisfaction of knowing that never at any time have the teachers of this county averaged so high a grade both for scholarship and teaching ability as they do now.

We wish in conclusion to thank the supervisors, people and teachers, for their hearty support in 1892, and ask for equal interest and effort in 1893.

H. A. FOSTER, Supt.

The Cannery.

There were not many citizens met at the citizens meeting Monday night at the town house. Either it was not generally known, or else lots of people like to hear themselves talk about factories, but are not willing to do anything when a chance is given them. There were about fifteen present, and a letter received by the editor of the STAR AND HERALD read for the information of those present, regarding the cost of machinery, etc., and the average cost of a case of canned corn ready for market. Mr. Famous, the gentleman of Maryland, has a complete outfit and would move it here if properly encouraged, or would come to Dwight if his fare was paid, and tell those interested what he knows about the business, whether he makes any arrangements to locate here or not.

If his machinery is modern and his work what he claims, this would be an excellent opportunity to have a cannery without investing any very great amount of money at first. Mr. Famous in his letter gives good references, and there is no reason to believe that he is anything but what he represents himself. If the people want anything of the kind here is an opportunity. If they do not, they should make no such pretensions.

It was thought best to postpone the meeting to Thursday night and try and have a better representation. The report of the second meeting was too late for this weeks paper on account of issuing early and moving.

The matter of a coal shaft being sunk was also talked over, but no action taken.

Pleasant Party.

Last Saturday evening Miss Lizzie Andrews, teacher in district No. 8, invited her scholars to Mr. Schroeder's, where she boards, to a watch party. They arrived about 7 o'clock and spent a very happy evening in games, gymnastics, singing, etc. Lunch was served about 9 o'clock to which all did ample justice. In the course of the evening Miss Andrews, who was greatly taken by surprise, was presented by her scholars with an album, dressing case and jewelry box. In accepting the presents she very feelingly thanked them for their kindness. In the fall of the year Miss Andrews had all the scholars taken to Dwight, in conveyances kindly granted by the parents, and had their pictures taken in a group, which was highly appreciated. This is her third term in the district and the first school she has taught, and during that time she has proven herself an ornament to her profession. Long may she continue to teach in the district, is the fervent wish of all.

The Auxiliaries.

The Dwight Keeley League Auxiliaries entertained the gentlemen herculean treatment at the club room last night and day evening. A nice lunch was served and the attendance was good, result and ladies composing these leagues. He the country are doing well. FELLER has given both in making the Chicago University. pleasant while bestowed \$3,600,000 also raising the institution, mainly entertainment and promptly invite the people fell by the way to contribute \$500,000 for needs in the way of building equipments.

Epworth League Reception.

The reception given Tuesday evening by the Epworth League, to the members and friends of the M. E. church, who are fifty years of age and over, was an occasion that will not soon be forgotten by those present.

The young Epworthians received their guests at the door with a hearty welcome and cheer, after which introductions, handshakings and greetings caused new life and joy to spring up in many hearts. About 7 o'clock refreshments were served.

At the close of the repast, Prof. Wilson, president of the league, spoke a few words of welcome. Addresses were given on the following subjects: Old and Young, by Rev. A. M. Conard.

The Early Church in Dwight, paper written by Mr. D. McWilliams, read by Mrs. I. H. Baker.

The Epworth League, Mr. D. Bartholice.

Woman's Influence in the Church Mrs. Heatherington.

The Influence of Christianity on Society, Mr. Kneeland.

Use of Money, Col. R. P. Morgan.

At the close of his address Col. Morgan presented Rev. Conard a purse of money in behalf of his Sunday school class.

The program was interesting throughout and greatly enjoyed by all.

After singing that hymn so appropriate to the occasion, "Blest be the Tie that Binds," pleasant good-byes were said and the guests retired to their homes.

Dwight Still at the Front.

We note with pleasure that on the 22d of last month, our fellow townsman, Col. Richard P. Morgan, was tendered the presidency of the Western Society of Engineers, by the nominating committee, in the following highly complimentary language.

"Mr. Morgan has liberally bestowed his time and money in behalf of the society, and his first thought will be for its honor and welfare. His dignity and integrity of character and his standing in the engineering profession make him the peer of any in its ranks and peculiarly fit him to represent our society during 1893."

The full import of this is that the Western Society of Engineers, of Chicago, has called and organized a congress of the civil engineers of the world, to be in session at and during the Columbian Exposition, and Col. Morgan was invited to the most distinguished position in this scientific congress.

It is to be regretted that the professional engagements of Col. Morgan made it necessary for him to decline so great an honor.

Walked up to the Doctor's Office.

While taking in the town to gather a few items of interest, our reporter dropped into the handsome offices of our esteemed townsman, Dr. Conway, one day this week. This genial man of medicine has only been a resident of Dwight about a year, but has worked up a splendid practice, and his success has been great. He has neatly furnished offices over Seymour's drug store, and gave us a few minutes of his valuable time, explaining the recent additions he has made to his armamentarium, which is now equipped equal to any in the larger cities. Among those instruments that we noticed were electric batteries, compressed air apparatus, instruments of precision, etc.

Dr. Conway is well pleased with the people of Dwight, and expects to make his permanent home among us. Another feature we noticed was a large and well selected library, thus enabling him to keep abreast of the times.

Pontiac.

Court and the grand jury session this week, and law and meters out of the way.

We noticed Dr. Conway, Dwight, on our way.

According to the report of the Agricultural Society, all kinds of

implements in the

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