

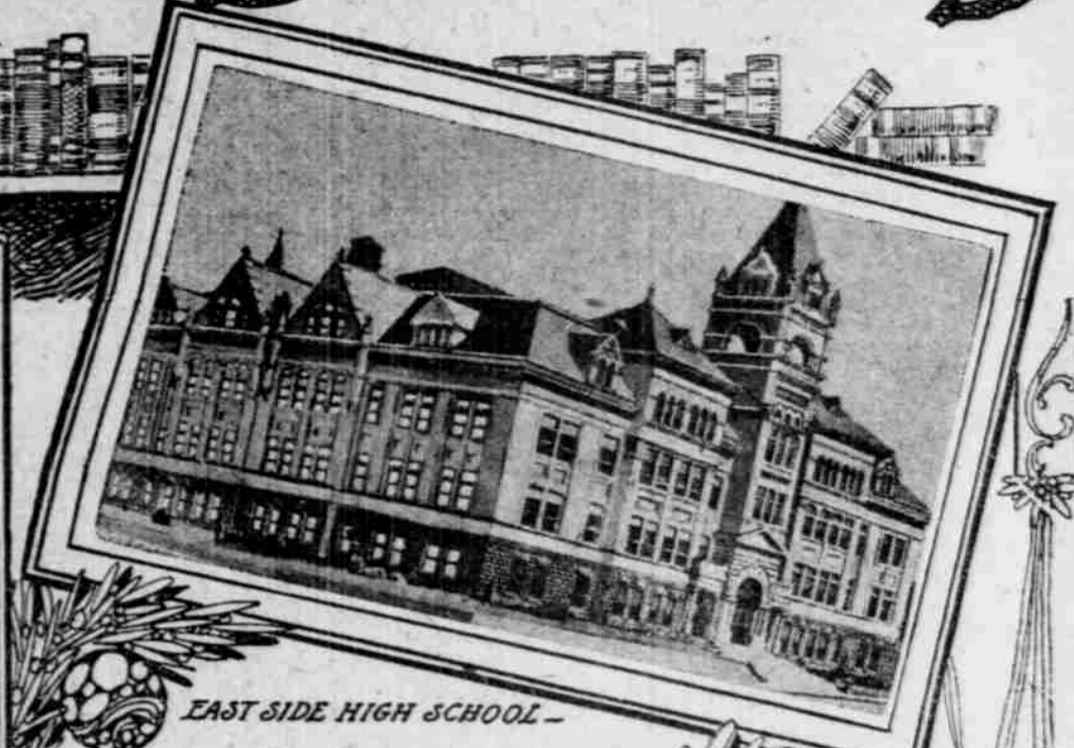
# PORTLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PORTLAND'S FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING



HIGH SCHOOL



EAST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



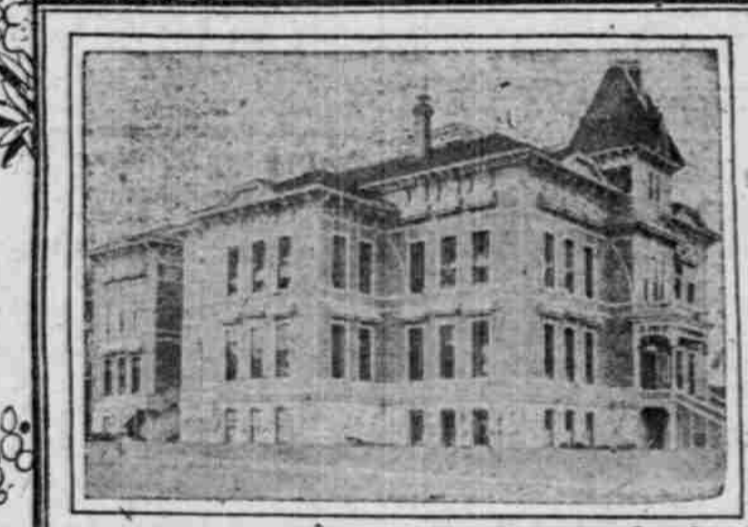
COUCH SCHOOL



BROOKLYN SCHOOL



CENTRAL SCHOOL



FAILING SCHOOL



CLINTON-KELLY SCHOOL



LADD SCHOOL



J.H. ACKERMAN, STATE SUPT.



J.F. ROBINSON, COUNTY SUPT.



FRANK RIGLER, CITY SUPT.



T.T. DAVIS, PRIN. HIGH SCHOOL



MISS APHIE DIMICK, PRIN. BROOKLYN SCHOOL



D.A. GROAT, PRIN. LADD SCHOOL



I.W. PRATT, PRIN. FAILING SCHOOL

By Marion Mac Rae.

**T**HE growth and character of a city's schools is generally conceded to be indicative of the material progress of the city. This being the case, Portland can be said to have made remarkable strides in advancement in the half-century of her history, for her public schools tell a good story. The public-school system was inaugurated in 1831, when a log building on First street near Oak was purchased and a teacher employed, who was compensated through public funds. John T. Outhouse was the first teacher, and there are a number of his pupils still living here, whose reminiscences of those early school days are almost as interesting as the story of our present-day school system. The first school which was built with public funds was the old Central High School, which stood on the site of the present Portland Hotel. This was built in 1837. At that time grades had been introduced into the school system, and in the '70s six grades were included in the high-school course. This was increased to seven, eight, and finally by Mr. Rigler to nine.

The change in the character of our schools has come with the increased attendance and necessary provision for the same. As new schools became necessary there was a demand for late improvements, and at present Portland is said to have one of the best systems in the country. The growth is best shown by the increased attendance. In 1873 the enrollment was 1700, in 1885 it was 2774, in 1895 it had reached 10,254, and last June it was 15,877. Today the average daily attendance is 14,112, and the one teacher of 1851 has been supplanted by 238 instructors and supervisors who, with their pupils, occupy 22 large up-to-date schools.

The character of instruction given the pupils of the Portland public schools is of the highest, and the addition of manual training this year is considered one of the best steps taken along the lines of material advancement. Principals and teachers are unanimous in agreeing that this training of the hand and eye is of greatest value to the mind. Miss Dimick, principal of the Brooklyn School, states that she finds pupils who were heretofore comparatively dull in mathematics to have brightened up wonderfully in this study since they have been taught to put its principles into active operation. Many look upon manual training as only learning to handle a saw or carpentry, but this mistaken idea should be corrected and the value of such a branch appreciated by parents. The latest step taken by the school commissioners was the election of a supervisor of sewing. When cookery is added to the public school system of this city, Portland will be abreast of the best cities in the United States.

City Superintendent of School Frank Rigler has devised and introduced a course of study for the Portland schools which has solved the problem of dull pupils keeping bright ones back in their course. The entire school course covers nine years, but by dividing it into a first and second division, so that the bright pupils can go into the first and when possible finish in seven years instead of being retarded by those who are not so quick at their studies, the two classes are divided according to their actual ca-

abilities and a pupil is not compelled to remain in school two years longer than is really necessary. Commissioner of Education Harris, of Washington, D. C., who spoke at the educational convention at the Lewis and Clark Fair, paid Mrs. Rigler the very high tribute of saying that he had done more toward the development of the individual child by this system than any other superintendent of schools in the country. The many Eastern visitors who attended this convention agreed that the Portland schools ranked with the best in the country, that they are free from conservatism and also from some of the useless fads which Eastern schools have taken up.

The fine display made at the Lewis and Clark Exposition by the Portland schools will bear out this opinion of the educational delegates, for it is one of which any city could well be proud. The entire school course was illustrated by several of the schools, and some of them took one study through from beginning to end. Brooklyn, for instance, and Couch, too, illustrated the course in mathematics from the primary to the last grade, making a thoroughly interesting exhibit.

More attention is now given to matters of health in the public schools than ever before, and the sanitary precautions are of the greatest. A few years ago there was complaint that our schools were not progressive on this point, and the City Federation of Women's Clubs took up the task of enforcing existing laws, introducing new ones and improving hygienic conditions in schools generally. The committee sent out on this task did earnest and effective work, for their agitation of the subject opened the eyes of the public to existing needs, and it was not long before funds were forthcoming to make needed improvements. The new schools which have been erected recently are all that could be desired in regard to sanitation, ventilation and light, and all up-to-date equipment is used.

There has been \$23,151.54 spent this year in new school buildings and additions, but, notwithstanding this fact, the school authorities are dismayed to find that there is still an overflow of pupils. The High School cannot accommodate its pupils, and many have to be accommodated in other schools. The erection of the new High School on the East Side will solve this problem, however, and its completion is eagerly anticipated. Real estate was purchased for the Brooklyn School at a cost of \$100,000, and for the Davis School at the amount of \$14,000. The new buildings and additions are of interest to all taxpayers.

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Atkinson School, addition	\$ 31,344.94
Portland Homestead School, addition	11,248.27
Brooklyn School, addition	24,229.43
Clinton Kelly School, addition	21,100.01
Portsmouth School, addition	15,993.05
Albina Central School, new	15,249.02
School building on E. 24th st., new	10,210.97
Davis School on 21st st., new	14,152.04
Ladd School, new	39,540.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$178,181.84</b>

In addition to this, \$22,474.45 was expended for repairs to buildings and \$167,597.79 for miscellaneous expenses, the latter including heating, lighting, insurance, manual training department, stationery, printing, school furniture and payable bills. The total disbursements of salaries last year reached \$26,628.00. This year it will exceed that, all of which shows that Portland is growing rapidly, and with it her school system is expanding into one of the largest on the Pacific Coast.

Oregon has a compulsory education law, but it is said to be a dead letter, for the reason that there is no way to enforce it. The appointment of an officer or commissioner to attend to the enforcement of the law, with funds placed at his disposal for the purpose, would be of greatest service to the coming citizens as well as to the present. The crying need for a regular business course in the High School is another that should receive the attention of taxpayers and the public at large, as it doubtless will in the near future.

Portland is to be congratulated on having good schools, efficient superintendents, principals and teachers, and clever pupils. The boys and girls who graduate at the High School go out into the world well equipped for the battles of life, and where not able to add college courses to the education received there, will never find themselves handicapped through lack of knowledge.

## One Rule for Bringing Up Children

"WELL, thank heaven, they are gone!" exclaimed Mrs. Purvis, wiping nervous perspiration from her brow. "Of all the fortnights of miserable uncertainty I ever spent, this has been the worst. Marta Voorhis was my best friend in our school days, she was my maid of honor at my wedding, and she is the most lovable woman on my list of friends to this day, but that little girl of hers is an impossible proposition. I never want her to visit us again."

"Here we were with a lovely yard and back side and front porch for that child to play in, but nothing was quite good enough for her playground except the parlor or Harry's den. When she was not making Indian tents out of Harry's new views of Pompeii, she was using my Cloisonne tassel to serve her dolls a luncheon—and all her mother would say was: 'Isn't she the most inventive little thing? She takes pleasure out of everything, and you do not have to start games or buy toys to amuse her!'"

"Gladly would I have invented \$10 a day in toys if she would have played with them and left my property alone. Imagine my feelings when one afternoon she came into the parlor where her mother and I were receiving callers, wearing my new real Chinese kimono. She did look absurdly cute, but that did not prevent the pale pink tining from mopping up the dust on the floor. And Maria said with that appreciative smile of hers: 'Doesn't she look cute? You mustn't mind, Helen. You see, she is used to dressing up in my clothes at home; but if you really do mind—you can just picture the accent with which she said that. 'Very well, baby, 'Aunt Helen don't like little girls to wear her pretty clothes. You had best take it upstairs.'"

In the form of a return visit, I am sorry—but never again that child in my house."

How many hostesses have echoed that sentiment on the heels of the departing guest? And how few have ever dared to talk selflessly to the young mother about the child's unfortunate proclivities? It is certainly overdoing one's duties as a hostess to endure such treatment at the hands of a small and utterly irresponsible guest.

The child who "never lets things alone" is the child who in later years develops an inordinate desire to run the affairs of her neighbors, to read the letters addressed to other persons and to fall entirely in respect for the rights of her neighbors.

The evening paper is training that child in the direction which leads to disrespect for the property and rights of other persons. The woman who takes her child calling and interferences neighborhood gossip with such remarks as "Now, Beattie, don't touch that vase," and "Beattie, dear, be very careful. You might break Mrs. Jones' very statue," has neglected to implant in her child's mind the invaluable habit of keeping her hands off the property of other persons.

As soon as a child learns to differentiate between the things that are good to play with and the things that should be left alone he has taken his first lesson in private respect for public property. This lesson is taught not by nagging after the child is old enough to be taken about, but from the moment the little hands reach out for the shiny things which were never meant for baby fingers to handle.

## Woman a Wedding Director

She Discovers New Way by Which Sex Can Earn Money.

A wide-awake woman in Boston has found a new outlet for a woman's activity by taking charge of weddings. On the day of the marriage ceremony the bride and the bride's mother are generally too busy and too nervous to give much attention to the management of details. As a helper in this household emergency, the wedding director fills a long-felt want. The name of this pioneer is Mrs. Nellie Biffins, and she lives with her husband and daughter on Boston's aristocratic Beacon street.

has gone on her wedding tour. Mrs. Biffins attends to all that. The value of the work of the wedding director is best attested by the popularity it has attained. Most of her business, Mrs. Biffins says, comes indirectly. It has grown on the principle of the advertisement of a certain merchant some years ago: "If you don't like it, tell me; if you do like it, tell others."

At first many people were inclined to pooh-pooh the idea of a wedding director. Today, however, they have learned that even to run a wedding properly takes some expert knowledge. Mrs. Biffins is a student of design and decorative art as well as of the changing fashions. Frequent visits to New York and occasional ones to Paris enable her to bring back ideas of how they manage these things in other places. But more valuable yet are the many suggestions her woman's wit and her woman's taste enable her to add to the convenience or the beauty of the wedding.—Philadelphia Telegraph.