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"Harmony in  
Diversity"

# PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active  
Citizenship"

VOLUME IV

PORTLAND, OREGON, JUNE 6, 1924

NUMBER 34

**FRIDAY, JUNE 6**

*Hotel Benson, 12:00 Sharp*

SPEAKER

**A. E. COOKE**

*A Distinguished Irish Orator  
of Vancouver, B. C.*

SUBJECT

**"Anglo-American Friendship  
the Supreme Bond of Enduring Peace"**

DR. CALVIN S. WHITE . . . *Chairman*

## **REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

(READ REPORT BELOW)

No one can resist the Irish, especially so famous an Irishman as A. E. Cooke. Because of his contributions toward friendly relations between the British and American peoples he was granted a private interview with the late President Harding on the occasion of his Western visit. You will want to hear him and bring a friend.

## **THE MT. HOOD CLIMB, JULY 4th**

All members interested will meet this Thursday afternoon, 4:00 p. m., at 701 Oregon Building to discuss the trip and receive instructions.

## **FEDERAL SCHOOL SURVEY APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

THE report of the City Club Education Committee presented in this issue of the *Bulletin* marks a notable milestone in the progress of the City Club. It is the confirmation of work begun three years ago for an intensive survey of the needs of Portland's schools, in order that a comprehensive plan for meeting those needs might be developed. The Board of Governors recommends this report to every City Club member and acquaintances. It will be presented for adoption on Friday. The complete report follows:

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS:—

The City Club Committee on Education one year ago recommended to the Club and to the School Board of this district that an expert

survey should be made of the building situation, including existing resources and facilities, the order in which new erections or additions should be built and a study of the types of buildings required to meet progressive educational policies for different degrees of educational development and for given conditions as to prospective population.

### *Analysis of Fiscal Policies Asked*

The Committee further asked for a thorough analysis of the fiscal policies of the district to determine:

- "(a) Adequacy of present revenues from taxation for maintenance and operation.
- (b) Extent to which provision should be

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# PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

Published Weekly By

## THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

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Entered as Second Class Matter, October 29, 1920, at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879

City Club dues are \$1.00 per month, payable semi-annually on May 1st, and November 1st. There is no initiation fee.

### CITY CLUB OFFICERS

C. C. LUDWIG . . . . . *President*  
GEORGE N. WOODLEY . . . . . *First Vice-President*  
ROY DENNY . . . . . *Second Vice-President*  
MACCORMAC SNOW . . . . . *Secretary*  
A. L. ANDRUS . . . . . *Treasurer*

### GOVERNORS

R. M. BOYKIN  
THADDEUS W. VENESS  
JOHN A. LAING  
DR. FREDERICK D. STRICKER  
L. D. BOSLEY  
RICHARD F. SCHOLZ

ROBERT W. OSBORN . . . . . *Executive Secretary*

### Membership Honor Roll

Every man in the City Club is a member of at least one Committee, according to Roy Denny, 2nd Vice-President, and that is the Membership Committee. In his initial program on membership, the idea of inviting prospective members to the Club meetings is urged, and the meeting this week is one that will be exceptionally interesting to members and guests alike. An aggressive membership policy has been outlined by the chairman and one of the features will be frequent reports on progress made. For instance, the "honor roll" for May consists of the following who have proposed new members:

R. W. OSBORN (3)	H. R. LUCAS
W. F. ROUSE (2)	EARL KILPATRICK
THADDEUS W. VENESS (2)	G. N. WOODLEY
D. F. MCCURRACH	F. D. STRICKER
G. E. BURGET	ROY DENNY

### OSBORN RESIGNS

Robert W. Osborn, Executive Secretary of the City Club of Portland since September 1921, has resigned his position to accept an appointment in organized public health work in New York City, reporting there about August 1st. In his letter of resignation to the Board he described the new post as follows:

"The offer comes unsolicited from Mr. George J. Nelbach, executive secretary of the New York State Committee on Tuberculosis and Public Health, with offices in New York City. The position is that of executive assistant to Mr. Nelbach, having direction over the work of five staff officers.

"Mr. Nelbach being both the general organizer and supervisor for the two public health demonstrations being conducted in a New York rural county and in the city of Syracuse, extending over a five year period and expending over a million dollars, has created the office of executive assistant, carrying a salary of \$4000 annually.

"Briefly, the position offers exceptional experience and association with the leaders in the specialized public health field, and offers a chance to study in the extension centers of New York. Weighing heavily against these attractions are the personal ties in this community, chief among them being my obligation to the City Club, whose members have given me that unmeasurable stimulus of genuine friendship."

Osborn's resignation takes effect on July 1st. Candidates for the vacancy are being reviewed by a special committee of the Board.

### GIRLS' SCHOOL VISITED

A surprisingly large attendance of City Club members and ladies were present at the entertainment given by the Girls' Polytechnic School, two weeks ago. Following an excellent cafeteria luncheon on the third floor of the old Lincoln High building the party descended to the assembly room where music and a "style show" constituted the program.

For a delightful half hour representatives of the different classes appeared before the group to show striking examples of workmanship in dress making, millinery, and suit and coat making. It was a revelation to many citizens that the Portland school was rendering such intensive training to so many girls, and the thanks of the Club are due to Miss Arnold, the principal, for giving us the opportunity to see the school in operation.

FEDERAL SCHOOL SURVEY

Continued from page 1

made in tax revenues for current additions to school buildings.

(c) Character and extent of bond issues necessary to make up past deficits in school buildings and the conditions under which such bond issues should be authorized.

(d) Necessary provision in annual budget for replacement and depreciation of existing plant and equipment.

(e) Such remedial legislation as may be necessary to adjust the conditions as found to the policy determined upon as necessary for the future maintenance of the schools."

The result is the report recently received by the School Board, made under the authority of the United States Commissioner of Education, of Washington, D. C., by Miss Alice Barrows assisted by Mr. William Wirt and Dr. Frank M. Phillips. The survey covers the requests made by this Club except as to fiscal policies and in addition considers educational reasons for making the principal change recommended. The educational discussion is most valuable and while it may have been advisable for the School Board to omit the request for a survey of its money affairs, yet the need exists for an investigation on this subject of the kind described above and asked for by the Club a year ago. A pamphlet now being published by the School Board clearly shows that one feature of School finances, namely, the limited and inadequate tax levy, requires immediate attention and amendment by the legislature.

This Committee, therefore, as its first recommendation urges the Club to study:

(a) The school tax levy and to determine what limit, if any, should be placed upon it; and,

(b) The five points on fiscal policy above set out.

*Work-Study-Play Plans Offers Saving*

The Survey recommends the adoption of the Work-Study-Play Plan, quite generally known as the Platoon Plan, because it offers the opportunity for a building program with a saving of one-third of the cost as compared with the present system, and because it offers better educational advantages to the children.

The reasons given for a saving in expense appear convincing. The building program of the survey for the first five years calls for \$5,109,150 under the Platoon Plan as against \$10,645,650 under the present system, and for

the fifteen year period \$14,166,150 under the Platoon Plan as against \$23,919,650 under the present system. The teaching cost would be nearly the same under either plan and the cost for janitor service and other maintenance and operating charges would be about one-sixth less under the Platoon Plan. If it becomes advisable to abandon the Platoon Plan and return to the present system the building alteration expense would be slight.

*Platoon Plan More Elastic*

On the educational side the school day might be lengthened. Probably it would be advisable. The essentials of the Platoon Plan are that the school child has two periods in the morning and two in the afternoon under the same teacher and in the same room studying the three "R's" and for the other subjects goes to special rooms with special teachers. The special subjects would be history, geography, science, hand work, domestic science, music, art and would include library, auditorium and gymnasium work. From the pupil's standpoint, half the time is spent with one teacher in the same room on the ancient and honorable elements of education and half the time is spent with special teachers in different rooms equipped for special subjects. From the teacher's standpoint, instead of teaching all the above mentioned subjects to the same children all day, she has a chance to specialize. If she teaches the three "R's" she has two sets of children each day in those subjects. If she teaches one of the special subjects like history (with which geography or civics is generally combined) she

Continued on next page

HONORABLE SERVICE

"Whatever our place, we should each one as a City Club member and as a Portland citizen take the Athenian oath:

"We will never bring disgrace to this our city by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks; we will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will revere and obey the city's laws and do our best to incite to a like respect and reverence those who are prone to annul or set them at naught; we will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of public duty; that thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this city, not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

teaches it all day with a different group each period.

Last March one of the Assistant Superintendents of Portland schools visited and studied the systems in Gary, Detroit, Akron, Youngstown, Pittsburg, Washington and Kansas City and summarizes his judgment of the educational side of the Platoon Plan as follows:

"The Platoon school does not give more time as a rule to special activities. It insures better results in these subjects because they are taught by teachers who are specialists. Leaving out entirely the matter of economy, either in operation of schools or in the construction of buildings, it is my opinion that the platoon plan of organization has advantages and merits that are well worth while. The big question is—What does it do for the child? Does he receive a greater value for the money expended? Based upon my study during the last few weeks, my answer is in the affirmative. If the school is organized on the platoon plan, I believe the child gets all the things he would get in the traditional school plus better instruction in the special activities."

#### *Installation To Be Gradual*

The Survey recommends that the Platoon Plan be installed gradually beginning with two schools in September 1924, going on with four schools in February 1925, six schools in September 1925, and nine schools each half year thereafter until the whole system is brought under the Platoon Plan. This would be accomplished if followed out by 1929. While the Survey's first period of five years would expire in 1927, yet, it is very probable that instead of dating the changes from 1922 the School Board would in fact date them from this time and that it will be in fact a five year program ending in 1929 instead of 1927 as contemplated by the Survey.

The net result of the recommendations of the Federal Survey is that Portland gradually install the Platoon system with a saving in building construction of about one-third over the present system if carried to the end of the fifteen years planned for, but a saving of one-half for the first five year period.

#### *Bond Issue and Tax Levy Needed*

The pamphlet now being issued by the School Board states—"The Board of Education unanimously decided that it should adopt the building program for the Platoon Plan as recommended by the Survey which as may be seen above will cost less than half the amount required under the traditional plan"—and to carry out the building program the voters are asked

at the coming school election to authorize the School Board to issue \$5,000,000 of bonds for construction of buildings. The Board further asks for an additional tax levy to produce \$750,000 for operating expenses during the coming year. In the same pamphlet the reasons for this are clearly stated and should leave no doubt in any one's mind as to the necessity for the increased levy.

Members of this Committee have had the advantage of information furnished by Mr. Frank L. Schull, one of the School Directors, and Mr. Charles A. Rice, one of the Assistant Superintendents, also, of details furnished by the School Clerk's office.

#### *Recommendations*

The Committee recommends:

1. The approval of the School Board's request for an additional tax levy of \$750,000.
2. The approval of the School Board's request for an issue of \$5,000,000 of bonds to carry into effect the five year building program recommended by the Survey.
3. The approval of the Survey made by the Federal Bureau of Education as outlined in this report.
4. The further study by the City Club of the fiscal policies of the district as more fully set forth above.

Further, the Committee is of the opinion that a sympathetic and thorough-going attempt by the School Board to follow out the recommendations of the Survey for the five year period will produce a satisfactory and economical result in the construction of buildings and better educational advantages for the school children. This favorable solution presupposes, of course, that the members of the School Board are conscientious, intelligent, open-minded and firm. The large number of the public, including this Club, who interest themselves in public school affairs can take a long step toward accomplishing the advantages recommended by actively interesting themselves in the coming school election and supporting candidates who have the qualifications above noted.

The program promises much financially and educationally, but its adoption amounts to little unless the School Board shall be so constituted as to carry the program through with sympathy, intelligence and sound business sense.

#### CITY CLUB EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A. F. BITTNER    RICHARD W. MONTAGUE  
 W. G. HOLFORD    JAMES J. SAYER  
 JOHN A. LAING    WM. L. BREWSTER,  
 Chairman.