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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active
Citizenship"

VOLUME VI

PORTLAND, OREGON, MARCH 5, 1926

NUMBER 22

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Hotel Benson, 12:10

SPEAKER

C. C. CHAPMAN

Editor, Oregon Voter

SUBJECT

**"The Dollars for Education, From Whom Are They
Taken, From Whom Can We Take More
and How Can We Take Them."**

Because of the many requests which were received following Mr. Chapman's address delivered at the Lincoln high school last Tuesday evening, he has consented to speak on the same subject at the luncheon meeting of the City Club this week.

TUESDAY EVENING:—

March 9th— Speaker, RICHARD W. MONTAGUE
Lincoln High School Auditorium.

Subject, What Does the Community Expect From the
the Schools and What Do the Schools Expect
From the Community."

CHAPMAN ANALYZES SCHOOL EXPENSES

That taxation and cost comparisons prove that Portland is not out of step with other cities of like size in school expenditures; that there is no evidence of extravagance in the Portland school administration; but that there is some evidence of penny wise economies which tend to interfere with efficiency which can be ironed out by capable administrators backed up by an intelligent board and wise public sentiment, was the opinion expressed by C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter at the Lincoln High school auditorium last Tuesday evening. Mr. Chapman spoke on the subject, "The Dollars for Education, from whom are they taken, from whom can we take more and how can we take them." His address was the seventh in the series of public lectures sponsored by the City Club.

Continued on page 3

GENERAL BOOTH TELLS OF VOLUNTEERS' WORK

"The leading avenue to crime is poverty," declared General Ballington Booth, founder and president of the Volunteers of America, in an address before the City Club luncheon meeting last Friday.

"We are responsible not merely for picking people up. We must make a straight path for the feet of the brotherhood that is to follow us. It is much easier to keep people on the straight path than it is to return them to that path after they have once left it for other ways."

General Booth said that the Volunteers of America was organized in the interest of preventive Christianity, to provide organized effort to prevent crime and to prevent the hunger and want that lead to crime. He told of the great enthusiasm which marks the work of his assistants in ministering to those who are in need of physical and spiritual help.

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

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CITY CLUB PURPOSE

"To inform its members and the community in public matters and to arouse them to a realization of the obligations of citizenship."

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CITY CLUB NOTES

Richard W. Montague, attorney and prominent member of the City Club will speak next Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the Lincoln high school auditorium on the subject, "What does the Community Expect from the Schools and what do the Schools Expect from the Community." This is the last of a series of eight free public lectures on our public school system. Mr. Montague's ability as a speaker is known by Club members and his power of clear and forceful presentation of facts is recognized by the citizens of Portland generally. The City Club series has been given each Tuesday evening in the Lincoln high school for the purpose of acquainting the public generally with the problems confronting the community with relation to the schools. In order to do this the Club has presented eight persons who are recognized authorities on school problems, and who, from their experience and training, are fitted to discuss the problems assigned. Preceding the address of Mr. Montague, Mr. Chapman, who delivered the address last Tuesday, will answer questions which have been turned in.

Paul Harvey, internationally renowned as a writer and lecturer on international affairs will deliver a course of six lectures beginning on March 18th in the auditorium of Lincoln high school. Mr. Harvey has recently returned from a first hand study of conditions in six European countries. He was a delegate throughout the meetings of the Third Conference of the International Chamber of Commerce at Brussels in June, 1925, where economic restoration was the subject discussed by experts from all nations. Mr. Harvey also participated in the Round Table Conference at the Institute of International Politics at Williamstown this past August, and the conference on American relations with China at Baltimore in September. He is a Harvard graduate, former publisher of the International Interpreter, writer and lecturer. The subjects upon which he will speak are: "The Causes of War," "Europe Today and Before the War," "Economic Restoration," "The Pathway to Peace," "Some Problems of the Pacific," and "America's Foreign Policy." Season tickets for the course are on sale at Sherman-Clay and Company and cost \$2.50.

A RESOLUTION

The following resolution has been accepted by the Board of Governors and will be submitted to the City Club for adoption at the regular luncheon meeting Friday, March 5th, 1926:

Whereas, Marshall N. Dana has been recommended by the senators from Oregon to the President of the United States for appointment as commissioner on the U. S. Shipping Board from the Pacific coast:

Whereas, The said recommendation was made at the request of a committee representing the business interests of the Port of Portland irrespective of political party and with regard solely to the high qualifications of Marshall N. Dana to serve the interests of shipping in the United States and on the north Pacific coast in particular;

Whereas, Mr. Dana has proved his eminent fitness for the position by his intimate knowledge of the relation of shipping to the progress of the north Pacific coast and by the deep, unselfish interest he has displayed in development of the shipping business of the Port of Portland;

Whereas, It has become an established custom since the Shipping Board was re-organized in 1921 to appoint a citizen of Oregon as regional representative of the north Pacific coast;

Resolved, That the City Club of Portland hereby petitions President Coolidge to appoint Marshall N. Dana as commissioner on the Shipping Board from the Pacific coast to fill the office which has now become vacant.

Be It Further Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded as promptly as possible to President Coolidge and that copies thereof be sent to Senators McNary and Stanfield.

The annual Reed College dinner featuring a speaker of world wide renown and a special program of entertainment that will far surpass anything yet presented by the Club has been arranged by the Music Committee. Full details will be given in next week's *Bulletin*.

The first concert tour of the Portland Symphony Orchestra outside the state of Oregon was made last Monday when a special concert was presented at Aberdeen, Washington, under the auspices of the Grays Harbor Musical Club. The orchestra was accompanied by a group of Portland citizens prominent in the work of local musical organizations and in the promotion of symphony music.

School Expenses Analyzed

(Continued from Page 1)

"Portland's public school system is the largest public enterprise conducted by the people of Portland," declared Mr. Chapman. "The teacher pay roll is the largest public pay roll. For 1926 the teacher pay roll will amount to \$3,500,000, an amount \$700,000 greater than all the pay rolls of the city government.

"This year's school budget is \$5,000,000, of which \$4,750,000 is to be paid by Portland tax payers. Of this \$5,000,000, \$100,000 is destined for outlays and \$400,000 is for interest and principal of bonded debt, leaving \$4,500,000 for current operating expenses of which 78 per cent is to be paid out for teacher's salaries.

"Of the \$4,750,000 of taxes paid for public school support by Portland taxpayers, not to exceed \$1,000,000 is paid on occupied residences. Of this \$1,000,000 not to exceed \$600,000 is paid on residences occupied by owners. Of this \$600,000 not to exceed \$475,000 is paid on residences occupied by owners who have children of school age. In other words, only one dime of the school tax dollar is paid on the homes of parents owning their own residences and having children in our public schools. The other ninety cents of the school tax dollar is collected on property held for investment or business use.

"Whether the school tax dollar is paid easily depends upon the prosperity of the community rather than upon the willingness of the parents to sacrifice to educate their children.

"As to costs, reviewed by common sense rather than by a technical survey, there is much to reassure parents that the tax dollar is not being wasted and that Portland taxpayers are not paying unduly for public school education.

"We are on common sense ground if we compare school costs of Portland with school costs of other cities of similar size, similarly situated. First, let us compare on a per capita basis, with 20 cities, including cities of the 250,000 to 500,000 class in the northern states, and all the larger cities of the Pacific coast. Per capita expenditures for pupils in the public schools, current expenses only, increased in Portland from five dollars before the war to \$15.00 at the latest report by the United States Census Bureau. The average for cities of the same class was an increase from \$5.50 to \$15.50. In Los Angeles the increase was from \$9.00 to \$18.00; for San Francisco from \$4.25 to \$8.25. Portland's per capita expenditure and increase ran along

about the same as that of Denver, St. Paul, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Rochester and other similar cities for the 12 year period.

"It is interesting, and highly significant to know that we are and have been spending less per pupil since the beginning of the war than we were spending in 1914, as related to the cost of living, if we figure educational costs and living costs in 1914 money. This would indicate, product considered, that we are getting more for our school tax dollar than we got before the war.

"When we compare the school tax rates in the four northwest cities we meet some startling figures. Portland's school tax rate is not only far below those of any of the other three cities, but remains below if the comparison is based on equalized values. In Seattle the combined tax rate of state and district levies has averaged higher than 20 mills for several years, with Spokane and Tacoma about the same. Our average rate has only been about 11 mills.

Why are school taxes so much higher in Washington cities than in Oregon? Adjusting them to the difference in valuation we find that the outstanding reason is that they have a high annual interest bill to pay. Seattle pays in interest in one year more than Portland paid in ten years up to the time we recently voted building bonds. During the ten year period Portland paid a total of only \$350,000 interest, while Seattle paid nearly \$3,000,000, Tacoma over \$450,000 and Spokane over \$1,100,000. Seattle has budgeted \$465,000 for interest in 1926, more than enough to pay for all the new school buildings caused by the year's increase in population. Beginning this year as a result of our recent bond issues, Portland must pay \$250,000 a year interest, enough to build and equip school space to care for 40 per cent of our annual increase of school population.

"If Seattle had taxed herself each year for all the school buildings she needed instead of borrowing, the interest charges she has paid would have cared for the bill. The same is true as to Spokane. Tacoma could have provided for all the additional school buildings she needed by levying only double the amount she had to levy for bond interest. Portland has lower school taxes than the Washington cities in part because up until recently we had little interest to pay. If we had been wise enough to have kept pace with our building requirements, by levying enough each year to provide whatever new buildings were required to care for population increase, our taxes would have been little higher during the last ten years and would be considerably lower than they will be for the next 25 years. If there has been one particular in which we, as a community, have been

financially extravagant in our school policy, it has been in failing to take care of our annual building needs by current taxation instead of putting off construction so long that we had to resort to bonds.

"These taxation and cost comparisons prove that we are not out of step in school expenditures; that other communities have had to face similar problems that we have had to face, especially in the huge increase in the proportion of young people attending high school; that for many years we were wise enough to pay our building costs out of current tax levies instead of out of bonds; that we are conducting our schools in a manner that gives us more of a quantity output than we had prior to the war, and at less cost figured on the basis of pre-war prices and salaries; and that we must look forward to slightly higher costs in future because of our having resorted to bonds and because of the prospective further increase in high school attendance. These conclusions are based upon our continuing our school operation pretty much along the same line as at present.

"There is no evidence of extravagance in the Portland school administration. There is some evidence of penny wise economies that tend to interfere with efficiency, but capable administrators backed by an intelligent board and a wise public opinion will iron these out.

"There is danger that failure of our educational system to respond to parental demand for new projects may result in voting heavy taxes and large bond issues for kindergartens, vocational schools, junior colleges and other advanced educational enterprises. If our school administration can adapt our system to satisfy reasonable requirements without having to embark wholesale in new undertakings, it will have done much to keep taxes within bounds. For instance, gradual adoption of a free text book system can be accomplished without serious tax increase, while its sudden adoption would involve a heavy expense. Aside from the dangers of having new, expensive undertakings voted onto our school system as a result of its lack of progressiveness, there would seem to be no reason to expect future increases in school taxes beyond maximum rates which we have already paid in Portland.

"The main thing is for parents to do their utmost to foster prosperity by a friendly and encouraging attitude towards industry and business. With a prosperous community, a high tax rate can be carried without hardship. With an unprosperous community even a low tax rate is burdensome. Give us prosperity and we, who pay taxes, will satisfy every reasonable aspiration for Portland's school progress."