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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active
Citizenship"

VOLUME VI

PORTLAND, OREGON, MARCH 26, 1926

NUMBER 25

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Hotel Benson, 12:10

SPEAKER

BERT E. HANEY

SUBJECT

"The Merchant Marine"

City Club Report

Building Program of the Portland Public Schools

SPECIAL MUSIC

CITY CLUB DOUBLE QUARTET

NEXT WEEK—

Special Program of Music

SPEAKER—

DR. W. B. HINSON

SCHOOL BUILDING REPORT PRESENTED

The report of the Education and Recreation section of the City Club on the building program of the United States Bureau of Education survey is presented in this issue of the *Bulletin*. The report takes into consideration particularly the Grant High School situation, which school has become over crowded because of the rapid growth in that community. The report has been approved by the Board of Governors for submission to the Club and will be presented on Friday, March 26th. Members of the committee are: Robert G. Dieck, James J. Sayer and William L. Brewster, chairman.

The report follows:

To the Board of Governors:

The undersigned, a sub-committee on the building program of the U. S. Bureau of Education Survey and particularly in reference to the Grant High School, beg to report as follows:

The survey made by the Federal Bureau of Education in 1923 and adopted by the School Board called for a change in the operation of the schools from the traditional plan to the work-study-play plan and based on the new plan

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PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

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

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."

CITY CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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ELMER R. GOUDY *Executive Secretary*

The City Club double quartet, which presented two numbers at the Annual Dinner last Friday evening, has been requested to repeat the numbers at the luncheon meeting of the Club this week.

A special program of music by the quartet of the East Side Baptist Church and an address by Dr. W. B. Hinson in keeping with the Easter season will provide the program for the City Club luncheon meeting next week.

CITY CLUB NOTES

City Club election day will be here in six weeks. The Board of Governors according to the provisions of the constitution of the City Club, has appointed five men to serve as a committee to nominate candidates for all offices which will become vacant on May 7th, 1926. This year the Board of Governors has selected the following men, all past presidents of the Club to serve as the nominating committee:

Edgar H. Sensenich, Chairman,
Robert R. Rankin,
L. D. Bosley,
Thaddeus W. Veness,
C. C. Ludwig.

The annual meeting and election of officers will be held at the regular luncheon meeting May 7th, 1926. Under the constitution it is the duty of the nominating committee to nominate one or more candidates for each office to be filled for the coming year. The constitution also provides that the committee must have completed and submitted to the Club its list of nominees not later than two weeks before the annual meeting. This means that the list must be completed by the committee and the candidates announced not later than the regular luncheon meeting on Friday, April 23rd. The constitution further provides that nominations may be made from the floor of the luncheon meeting not later than one week before the annual meeting, which in this case is not later than April 30th.

The third annual City Club dinner meeting held at Reed College Commons last Friday evening was another outstanding event in the history of the Club. At six-thirty the members and their friends were received in the college library by members of the Reed College faculty. Promptly at seven the doors of the Commons were opened and the entire attendance filled the dining hall where a splendid dinner was served. President Woodley, after greeting the members and their guests, introduced Dr. Norman F. Coleman, president of Reed College who delivered the address of welcome. Dr. Calvin S. White was then introduced as chairman in charge of entertainment. Stunts and specialties by City Club members, violin and piano solos by students of Reed College, and special numbers by the City Club double quartet provided the program of entertainment. An address by Paul Harvey, internationally renowned as a lecturer and author, was the outstanding feature of the evening.

SCHOOL REPORT**Continued from Page 1**

presented a building program covering three five-year periods ending in 1937.

It was estimated that the buildings for the first period ending 1927 would cost \$5,109,500. On December 31, 1925 there was left an unexpended and unincumbered balance of \$1,813,009. Nineteen grade schools, or about one-third, have been transferred from the traditional plan to the work-study-play plan. No high school has yet been included in the change. It will be seen therefore that substantial progress in building has been made and general compliance in this respect with the program.

It is well, however, to review the situation for many people are still ignorant of the meaning of the work-study-play plan. For convenience, we will use the term platoon schools as this is in more general use locally. Much misunderstanding and criticism has resulted from this ignorance and the School Board and school officials should do all in their power to keep before the public the meaning of the term "platoon." The essential features are that a third grade teacher, for example, will have her class in reading, writing and arithmetic and her room will be the home room for the pupils in her class, but for the special subjects of physical training, visual instruction, music, drawing, nature study, expression, history and geography and manual training, the pupils go to special rooms and special teachers. Many, if not all, of these special subjects can be taught to much larger classes than the subjects taught in the home room and this makes possible the saving in space. The school buildings have about one-third more capacity than under the old plan. It is necessary, however, to increase the hours in school for otherwise the length of periods would be shortened.

The plan also gives better facilities for teaching the special subjects. The auditorium, library and gymnasium are necessary parts of the school building. The auditorium is used for instruction in public speaking, debating, dramatization, etc. the teaching and practice of music, all special day programs, current events and community activities. Much of the auditorium work is in connection with and supplements the academic studies.

The platoon plan does not mean that the number of studies and activities for a school will be increased, but that in the elementary schools and outside of the academic studies, special work including gymnasium, manual training and

domestic science shall be under special teachers and in quarters adapted to the subject or activity and in larger groups than can be handled in the ordinary class room.

The platoon plan seems to be adapted to high schools as well as to elementary schools. Already under the traditional plan the high schools have special teachers and the pupils are accustomed to move from one room to another as the subjects require.

In making the building program under the platoon system the growth of population had to be estimated and these estimates after only three years show errors. This was bound to happen in a city growing as fast as Portland.

Turn now to the Grant High School situation, where the building at present has a capacity of 1400. On October 30, 1925 it had a registration of 1334. On February 8th, 1926, it had a registration of 1431. Either the building must be enlarged again or the platoon system put into effect. After a trip East last winter, Mr. E. H. Whitney, Assistant Superintendent, in his report of March 20th, 1925 to the School Board discussed fully the high school situation with particular reference to the Grant High School and showed that under the platoon system 1944 pupils might be accommodated in the building as it stands today. This building has a gymnasium but no auditorium and the room assigned for the library has a comfortable seating capacity of 72 which is crowded by increasing the chairs to 100 and even then pupils are standing around the room. The auditorium and library are essential to the success of the platoon plan.

It has been stated by some of the school authorities that a re-arrangement of rooms at the Grant High School would very largely overcome the lack of an auditorium, but it is evident that such a re-arrangement would be a makeshift and the operation of the school would be handicapped. This building was constructed before the platoon plan was adopted, and it emphasizes the difficulties of the change and the necessity of watching carefully any future construction so that sufficient and appropriate space be allotted to take care of the special subjects included in the use of the platoon plan.

The School Superintendents, the teaching staff and the School Board will always find it difficult to induce public opinion to keep up with them in making changes required by the best educational policies because of the public's reluctance to expend the necessary money. The program involved in the platoon system should

work out as a saving in building costs and with no detriment to the school work, if the building program is kept in unison with the changes in methods of instruction. If on the other hand the platoon system is adopted only for the sake of saving building costs and the adaptability of buildings to instruction is made secondary, we will shortly arrive at the time when the citizens as well as the school authorities will be dissatisfied with the results.

It is therefore to be hoped that the request which is being made by the School Board to the U. S. Bureau of Education to return to Portland in the near future and resurvey the situation will be granted and that we may obtain a further report on the building situation, showing how far the buildings erected since its last visit are fitted in type and equipment to the platoon plan, and more important still, that the Bureau examine and report on the administration of the platoon system so that we may know how nearly the platoon system agrees with its former recommendations and wherein the situation can be improved.

It is regrettable that the original survey has not been published either by the Bureau of Education or by the School Board. A few copies are in existence, but except for the Superintendents and the members of the Board and possibly a few laymen, it is doubtful if there is any definite knowledge of what the survey contains. It is not too late to publish a condensed statement of the survey sufficient to show its theory and how it can be applied to different grades and types of school. The School Board would do well also to publish periodically, perhaps semi-annually, a bulletin giving rather full information as to the condition and the changes in buildings, administration and types of instruction, so that the public may keep informed.

The errors in estimated growth of the city contained in the Federal survey will involve modifications of the building program. The Bureau of Education may be able to bring this estimate up to date, but some modifications will have to be made from time to time, probably each year. Population growth and trend is of such importance in locating school buildings and in determining their capacity that we believe it advisable for the School Board to have on its staff an engineer-statistician who will devote himself to these questions, which alone would absorb his attention for the next year and we believe it would be found that a continuation of his services would result in economy in the construction program.

This committee therefore recommends:

1. That a condensed statement of the Federal Bureau of Education survey of 1923 be published and that subsequent bulletins be issued from time to time by the School Board showing the condition and progress that is made in building construction, school administration and in types of instruction.

2. That the U. S. Bureau of Education be requested and report on the building situation, particularly as to the fitness of buildings to the platoon system and as to the progress which has been made in installing the platoon system.

3. That the School Board employ an engineer-statistician to advise the Board as to the growth and trend of population in the City of Portland for the purpose of determining the location and capacity of school buildings to be erected.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. Brewster, Chairman,
Robert G. Dieck,
James J. Sayer.

Thousands of water users of federal irrigation projects have asked for deferment of payments due the national government during the fiscal year of 1925. During the last five years there has been a progressive decrease in payments made on certain projects. Delinquencies from this period amount to the staggering total of \$8,500,000. Arrears in payments for 1924 alone amounted to more than \$3,000,000.

The commissioner of the bureau of reclamation points out that the theory of federal reclamation is that it shall be self-supporting. The money spent to build irrigation works is to be returned to the government. Water users are to pay all the costs of operation.

Seven irrigation projects have paid more than 85 per cent of the charges and assessments. Seventeen have paid more than half. The payments of the remainder are so inadequate and the morale of the settlers on some is so low that measures will have to be taken to check the downward course toward insolvency.

It is estimated that the lands irrigated from federal reclamation works in 1924 produced crops worth nearly \$110,000,000, an increase of \$7,000,000 over the previous year. On the projects proper, 1,216,610 acres were cropped, the gross value of all crops being \$66,488,000, or \$54.65 per acre. Water was also supplied under the Warren act contracts to 889,640 acres, which produced crops having a gross value of \$43,237,000, or \$49.28 per acre.

—*National Municipal Review.*