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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active
Citizenship"

VOLUME VI

PORTLAND, OREGON, JUNE 11, 1926

NUMBER 36

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Hotel Benson, 12:10

SPEAKER

B. F. IRVINE
Editor, Oregon Journal

SUBJECT

**"Oregon's Problems As I See Them After
a Trip East"**

SPEAKER

SIGEL GRUTZE
Chief Deputy Auditor, City of Portland

SUBJECT

"The City's Special Tax and Tax Limit Amendment"

Report

Sanitation In The Portland Public Schools

SCHOOL SANITATION INSPECTION IS COMPLETED

Sanitation in the public schools of Portland is the subject of a report by the Public Health section which has been prepared as a result of careful unannounced inspections of the public schools made by a committee of City Club members.

Members of the Committee which made the inspections and prepared the report were: Dr. Calvin S. White, Dr. C. H. Manlove and B. J. Snow. Dr. Karl H. Martzloff, chairman of the Public Health section accompanied the Committee in making inspections and supervised the work generally. The report has been approved

by the Board of Governors and will be presented to the Club for adoption at the regular luncheon meeting on Friday, June 11th.

The report follows:—

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The scope of this report merely covers the sanitary condition of the lavatories in the public schools.

Your Committee has visited some 24 of the 80 public schools comprising the school district. Inasmuch as the findings were surprisingly uniform, and were considered to be indicative

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PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

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THE CITY CLUB

OF PORTLAND

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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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IN THE MAIL

A letter from C. F. Swigert has been received in reply to a telegram of congratulation sent at the close of the City Club luncheon meeting which marked the opening of the ceremonies for the dedication of the new Burnside bridge. Mr. Swigert, who is ill in California, is the president of the company which built the bridge.

The letter follows:

"Please convey to my fellow members of the City Club and officials of City, County and State, my deep appreciation of their thoughtful kindness in joining in the congratulatory telegram upon the occasion of the opening of the new Burnside Street bridge.

"To my mind it was entirely fitting that the exercises should have been held under the auspices of the City Club whose instant and forceful action had so much to do with purifying Multnomah County politics, and preventing a great injustice to our citizens and tax-payers as well as to my company."

CITY CLUB NOTES

The City Club informs its members on questions affecting Portland's welfare. Any man who is interested in Portland's civic progress should have an opportunity to assist in City Club work. Will you invite him?

Hugh C. Gruwell, W. H. Marsh and James A. McKinnon have been appointed by President Willard to serve as the Finance Committee for the present Club year. The duties of the Finance Committee are to prepare the budget for the operation of the Club and to oversee the collection and disbursement of all Club funds.

The City Club office will be glad to mail sample copies of the *Bulletin* to your friends if you will make the request. Call the Secretary, Broadway 8079.

The average attendance for luncheon meetings for the last year was 109. The high standard of City Club programs makes a luncheon meeting especially worth while attending. The luncheon meetings deserve a larger attendance.

Walter W. R. May, executive news editor of the *Oregonian* called attention of City Club members at the luncheon last Friday to "Civic Expansion Week" which is being promoted by the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following application for membership in the City Club of Portland has been received and will be presented to the Club for approval at the regular luncheon meeting on Friday, June 25th:

CLYDE C. FOLEY

Executive Secretary, Oregon Public
Health League
315 Medical Arts Building

Proposed for membership in the City Club by Dr. Frederick D. Stricker.

**MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
HELPING PEON CLASS**

"Mexico has never been owned by more than 10,000 persons," declared Rev. Frank E. Carlson, pastor of the Waverly Heights Congregational church in an address before the City Club last Friday, on the subject, "What is Going on in Mexico."

"'Freedom and Land' was the cry of the Revolution. To break up the large landed estates into small individual holdings is the great movement which is taking place in Mexico today. Marked changes are taking place but the division of the large estates is a slow process. The amount of land which any individual may hold is regulated by the constitution. It is the intention of the government that no foreigner shall hold land in fee simple.

"The peons have moved from the landed estates and are now living in the villages. In the past the peons who became indebted to the owners of the estates could not leave them until the debt was paid. This amounted to little more than debt slavery. Prior to the revolution the wages of laborers was from 2½ to 12 cents per day in American money. Up until 1912 there was no organization of labor in Mexico, now everything and everybody is organized. They are unionized on the industrial basis.

"Labor conditions were deplorable prior to 1910. 52 per cent of the laborers in the British mines were injured every year," said Rev. Carlson. As many as 62 per cent of the laborers in the textile manufacturing plants had tuberculosis.

"The present Mexican government is a labor government. The labor party is the only permanent party in the republic. When the labor party nominates a candidate for office it requires of him a pledge that he will resign upon demand."

Income from mines, oil and agriculture goes largely to the foreign land holders, stated Rev. Carlson. The Mexicans get the royalties. The present government is not favorable to the use of foreign capital in the development of its resources but is mostly concerned with improving the conditions of the peon classes.

Rev. Carlson recently visited Mexico as a member of the Conference on Understanding. Members of the Conference spent ten days in Mexico City where they interviewed President Calles, the members of his Cabinet and agrarian, educational and business leaders generally.

**LOCAL SUBJECTS WILL
FEATURE SHORT TALKS**

Ten minute talks on important community problems by the men who are directing the municipal affairs of Portland will be a feature of the Friday luncheon programs of the City Club for the remainder of the year. In the hurry of everyday business life few citizens have opportunity to become acquainted with or follow the many problems of a large and rapidly growing city such as Portland.

The City Club is a group of public spirited men who are organized for the purpose of learning more about the city in which they live, to disseminate accurate and impartial information to members of the Club and the community at large, to assist the officers of the city, and to arouse in the citizens generally "a realization of the obligations of citizenship." In the past the Club, through its published reports to members on civic matters, has stood out as one of the foremost agencies for the spread of accurate and unbiased information. To augment the report work of the Club and to further develop the service of the Club to the members and the community, the Board of Governors has determined to set aside ten minutes in each Friday luncheon program during which time some problem of special local interest will be discussed by a competent authority.

**SCHOOL SANITATION
(Continued from Page 1)**

of all types of buildings, further inspections were deemed unnecessary.

The schools visited were in all parts of the city and all visits were unannounced. A period of three weeks intervened between the first and second tours of inspection. It was the intention of the committee to visit every type of school represented in the district, as well as schools that were more or less representative of the districts in which they are located.

The advisability of approaching some member of the School Board prior to the survey was considered, in view of the fact that the Committee did not relish the role of spying. However, it was deemed inadvisable by the Board of Governors to advise anyone of the contemplated survey, so the consequent tours were made unannounced. The schools were visited in rapid succession, and nothing was observed that might indicate any hasty preparation for our coming.

(Continued on Next Page)

The following items were noted in the survey of each school:

1. General condition of lavatories, floors, wood work, writing on walls.
2. Cleanliness of toilet bowls and seats.
3. Cleanliness of urinals.
4. Toilet paper supply.
5. Ventilation of lavatories.
6. Facilities for washing hands and face: number of wash bowls, soap supply, towel supply.

The conditions found were as follows:

1. The toilet bowls and cubicals were kept in the best of condition.
2. The urinals were kept in the best of condition also.
3. The general condition of the lavatories was excellent, with an absence of writing on the walls, obscene or otherwise.
4. In most of the schools inspected the pupils took their toilet paper from a central rack. An individual supply was not placed in each toilet booth.
5. In a few of the schools there was an inadequate number of wash bowls, and also an inadequate soap supply.
6. In none of the schools did we find paper towels furnished, or any other means of drying the hands and face after washing. In one school we found that the pupils were using toilet paper to dry their hands.
7. In all schools the main intake for fresh air was the windows. In the older schools, the windows were the sole means of ventilation in the lavatories. In some of the newer schools, there was a ventilation register opening from the lavatory to the main corridor of the school building, thereby making it possible for any foul air to pass out from the lavatory to the corridor. Also in regard to ventilation, we found that the lavatories that were kept at lower temperatures were free from odor. This latter condition was found in practically all the older school structures.

Conclusion:

As a general statement, we would say that the conditions in all of the schools were remarkably good, and showed a diligent and constant effort on the part of the principals and janitors to keep conditions at their best. Their efforts merit commendation.

We offer the following for consideration:

1. Individual toilet paper racks would improve conditions, and would probably be of

economical value in reducing the waste of paper.

2. We believe that the lack of sufficient wash bowls is being cared for in new structures.
3. The question as to the actual need of paper hand towels is probably a debatable one, and has undoubtedly been considered by the School Board. Naturally, the problem is an economical one, and it is necessary to estimate the actual benefit derived from paper towels, as compared to the expense. The Committee does not feel qualified to express an opinion on this topic, but we might state in passing, that there is not a public building of any consequence in the city which does not furnish paper hand towels in their lavatories.
4. The practice of having a ventilating register opening from the lavatory to the main corridor is questionably conducive to sanitation and should be corrected in further new construction.

These suggestions are offered for what they are worth and are not in any sense a criticism.

In conclusion, it might be well to mention that though this report may appear unduly favorable, and even in the nature of a "white-washing process," it should not be so considered.

When this study was commenced, the attitude of at least part of the Committee, was altogether critical, and probably unfavorably biased, due to adverse rumors that had been heard concerning the sanitary conditions in our public schools' lavatories.

The conditions as actually observed in the schools were very much in the nature of a surprise to some members of the Committee, and this should be remembered, when this apparently all too favorable report is perused.

It has, therefore, been the aim of the Committee to express itself conservatively in reporting on a subject that has been the source of unfavorable comment, and even possibly, the cause of apprehension on the part of some, who through the attendance of their children, are personally interested in our public schools. The Committee has found nothing that might serve as even a fairly reasonable basis for such rumors.

Signed: DR. CALVIN S. WHITE,

Chairman

DR. C. H. MANLOVE

B. J. SNOW