ORAL VERSUS SIGN FOR DEAF

Fight in Legislature to Change Law Requiring Articulation.

PARENTS DEMAND THE ORAL

Organize to Preserve Present Law, Citing Facts to Show Oral Method Modern and Far Superior to Other.

If the attempt to amend the state authorizing the oral system of education of Nebraska's deaf succeeds at Lincoln it will be over the united protest of the parents of more than 100 deaf children, students of the School for the Deaf in Omaha.

The present law says the oral system shall be taught. The bill introduced in the legislature would repeal this law and re-establish the sign language, formerly in vogue at the state school. A committee of parents of deaf children is extending its uttermost effort to defeat this bill. This committee consists of these: T. D. Olin, Major C. F. Scharmann, Frank Falbaum, S. J. Rockwell, John B. Fry, Omaha; E. J. Babcock, North Loup; A. N. Defoe, Tecumseh; J. F. McLane, Florence; J. S. Reed, Lincoln; Judge Beebe, Alma.

This committee is represented at Lincoln and is energetically placing before the legislators what it conceives to be cogent reasons for letting the law stand as it is, preferring the oral to the sign system.

Old Issue in Nebraska.

This is an old issue in Nebraska. Years ago the oral system was established here by Superintendent Gillespie of the Deaf Institute and displaced when Superintendent Stewart took charge. Following Stewart came Superintendent White, also a sign man, and then F. W. Booth, the present superintendent, and an oral teacher. Mr. Booth, it is said, stands at the top of his profession in the United States, having made a life-long study of the deaf, their needs, limitations and idiosyncracies and having taught in some of the leading deaf institutes. He was formerly associated with the Volta Bureau for the Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge of the Deaf, in Washington.

But a difference still exists in the faculty of the Omaha institute. Some members, not adept in the oral system, oppose it, and, it is said, exert a quiet influence for its displacement by the sign language, still taught in the higher grades.

Parents Are Organized.

"We parents prefer the oral system simply because it is far superior to the sign language, and, while we realize that Mr. Stewart is seeking to regain the superintendency of the deaf institute, we are not willing to make our fight upon personal grounds; we are making it simply on its merits. As we represent more than 100 deaf children, all of whom, themselves, wish to learn the oral language, we think we are entitled to a fair hearing. I am glad to say that we also think we will get it and that the bill will not be passed, but the law left as it is."

Mr. Olin has received letters from the heads of various standard schools for the deaf all over the country, which teach and urge the preference of the oral system. He has data which shows that, whereas forty-six years ago there was not a public day school for the deaf in the United States, today there are seventy, and that all but two of these use the oral system. He also says that most of the leading schools everywhere use it. Mount Ary, the celebrated school at Germantown, Pa., uses it exclusively.

Some Persuasive Figures.

"My statistics, which are taken from the January American Annals for the Deaf," said Mr. Olin, "show that in these seventy day schools there are 1,773 pupils and that in sixty-four public and state schools with an aggregate enrollment of 10,837, the oral method was taught last year, wholly or chiefly to 61.3 per cent or 6,592 pupils. In twenty denominational schools this system was taught wholly or chiefly to 67.2 per cent and that in the year ending November 16, 1912, the total number of pupils in all these schools for the deaf increased from 12,588 to 13,193, or 605, and that 542 of these 605 took the oral system.

"Forty-six years ago there was not an employed teacher in this articulation method. During the last year the number increased from 962 to 1,013. I quote from a letter received from Fred DeLand, librarian of the Volta Bureau of Washington: 'Foreign experts who have thoroughly investigated the American schools for the deaf declare that the orally taught deaf in the United States are the best taught deaf in the world.'

"Now, as a matter of fact, you never find a deaf person who can use the oral method skillfully wanting to go back to the sign language. The oral system is far and away beyond the sign, and it is, as I think I have shown, the modern system. It enables a deaf person really to talk without the use of his hands, vastly increasing his efficiency as a part of the great mechanism of life. Politics should have nothing to do with this contest. It should be settled absolutely on its merits."

Cement Men Meet in Omaha

G. P. Lillie, Fremont Vice-Pres. Frank Whipperman-Sec.-Treas. Frank Berger

H. R. Park, Bruning Milo Brown, Sutton

Peter Palmer of Oakland, president of the Nebraska Cement Users' association, arrived in Omaha yesterday to finish up the remaining minor details of the Midwest Cement show to be given in the Auditorium from Tuesday to Saturday, and the cement users' convention to be held at Hotel Rome Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Arrangements have been completed for both the convention and show and indications are that the cement users will make a bigger success this year than ever before.

The convention is the eighth annual meeting of the association, and the show this year will be the seventh consecutive exhibition. The numbers and novelty of the exhibits transcend all former shows. There will be practically everything shown that is possible to be made from cement or concrete, and the great variety of uses to which the material can be put will be interesting to everybody. For this reason the show at the Auditorium is expected to prove unusually popular.

There will be concrete fence posts with concrete wire fasteners, silos, concrete tanks, vats and bins, coal chutes and collapsible bridges, culverts and all manner of other things to interest ordinary citizens as well as building contractors and cement users.

Among the features of the entertainment at the Auditorium will be moving pictures of the construction of the Panama canal and the Keokuk dam. A reel of 3,500 feet showing the erection of the great work on the isthmus and two reels picturing the work at Keokuk will be thrown on the screen every afternoon and evening on the Auditorium stage. There will also be shown more than 800 stereopticon views of various concrete construction works.

Another interesting sight will be the actual construction of buildings, sidewalks and silos on the main floor of the big building. Green's band will furnish music for the show.

NURSES DECLARE A TRUCE

Miss Henry, Head Nurse, to Stay at Hospital Until May 1.

OTHER NURSES ARE TO STAY

Matter of Insurance on the Life of One of the Inmates of the County Hospital is Still a Mystery.

Sympathetic strike was threatened by a majority of the county hospital training class nurses when they were informed the head nurse, Miss Danie E. Henry, was about to leave the hospital because of the strike between herself and Ed N. Robinson, superintendent of the hospital and county farm.

County Commissioner Frank C. Best, chairman of the hospital and farm committee, prepared to don white coat and trousers and work in the hospital himself. He told the girls such action as they contemplated would work to injury of the hospital, but would ruin their professional reputations and blast their chances for success in their chosen field of endeavor.

At noon a truce was declared; Miss Henry and Superintendent Robinson agreed to work in harmony as best they can until May 1, when Miss Henry will leave; the traning class girls agreed to remain with Miss Henry.

Mystery still shrouds the circumstances in which the name of Miss Ada Andrews, one of the training class nurses, was placed on an accident insurance policy of Patrick Maloney, a patient who died about January 1.

Miss Henry admitted she wrote two letters to Maloney and advised him to have his life insured for the benefit of some of his friends. The letters were found with the policy by Miss Andrews after Maloney's death. With the policy they were turned over to Superintendent Robinson. The policy was given by Robinson to Duffy & Johnson, undertakers, who were given charge of the body and who buried it.

Miss Henry said she hoped the contents of the letters would not become public, though she had no serious objections to publication of their contents. The letters were written last summer while Maloney, having left the hospital, was traveling.

The policy in question was written by the Continental Casualty company. It provides for a benefit of $2,000 in case of accidental death. In the policy itself Miss Andrews is named as beneficiary as the intended wife of the insured. Louis Crum, supervising manager of the Nebraska district of the insurance company, said his office records show no beneficiary was named in the policy when it was issued. The man who wrote the policy no longer is in the company's employ and Mr. Crum does not know where he is.

Railroad Men See Good Crops Ahead

Railroad freight men continue optimistic over the outlook for a big fall wheat crop the coming season and none of them are alarmed over the lack of precipitation so far this winter.

W. W. Johnston, assistant general freight agent of the Burlington, who for more than twenty years has studied crop conditions and kept in touch with the situation says that in his judgment the cold weather of the last few days has in no wise injured the fall wheat. He says that he has noticed that in the past, the best crops of wheat in Nebraska have been raised during the dry winters, especially if the early spring rains have been up to the normal.

Last fall, says Mr. Johnston, when the ground froze up there was sufficient moisture so that the soil has not been blown away from the roots of the grain, exposing them to the sun and weather. The plant covered the earth and was as thick as wool, consequently what snow has fallen during the last winter has melted and the water has soaked into the ground, putting it in good condition at this time.

Elevator men and grain dealers generally agree with Mr. Johnston and express the belief that with seasonable rains in the early spring, prospects point to better than an average wheat crop next season.

Breen Asks Special Charter Election Ordinance Killed

John Paul Breen, father of the commission form bill as now in operation in this city, has appealed to the city commissioners to repeal the ordinance calling a special election February 11 to nominate thirty members for the charter committee, which will be selected March 11 and will consist of fifteen members.

"I simply ask this in behalf of some of the South Omaha men I represent who are in favor of annexation," said Mr. Breen. "They believe that if the city is annexed to Omaha they ought to be given a voice in the drafting of the new charter. There are also men in Florence and elsewhere who want this same thing. The best way to get this would be to postpone this election for a while."

City commissioners have taken no steps to repeal the special election ordinance, and probably will not. They answered Mr. Breen's argument with an invitation to South Omaha to appoint as many delegates as was needed to appear before the charter committee and suggest laws the South Omahans would desire. These suggestions, they said, would be given due consideration and would as likely as not be incorporated in the charter as if South Omaha was represented by members of the charter committee.

POSTOFFICE SHOWS A GAIN

Increase of 23 Per Cent is Made Over Last January.

PARCEL POST IS HELPING OUT

Amount of Increase to Be Attributed to This Branch Cannot Be Determined Because of the Character of Business.

The gross receipts of the Omaha postoffice for the month of January showed an increase of 23 per cent over the month of January of last year. The receipts for January, 1913, were $126,414.71, as against $102,529.35 for January, 1912. This is an increase of $23,885.36.

These are figures for Omaha and South Omaha, as the two offices are now consolidated. The figures for 1912 are the combined figures of the two offices, which were not then consolidated. Just to what extent the parcel post helped to swell the figures during January of this year cannot be determined, as all fourth class matter which was formerly sent by regular letter postage is now being sent by parcel post stamps. For this reason any figures for the parcel post do not accurately represent the business that would not have been sent if the parcel post had not been in effect.

There were 513 more special delivery letters delivered in Omaha in January, 1913, than in January, 1912. The number delivered in January just closed is 6,451, while the number delivered in January last year was 5,938. This is an increase of 12 per cent over January last year. The figures represent the special deliveries of the Omaha office alone and do not include the South Omaha station.

The Persistent and Judicious Use of Newspaper Advertising is the Road to Business Success.

E. E. Hart Dies Suddenly While in Los Angeles, Cal.

Word has been received from Los Angeles of the sudden death of Ernest E. Hart, president of the First National bank of Council Bluffs. He left about fifteen days ago for California to look after business interests there and his death comes as a surprise because when he left here he seemed in good health. The details have not yet arrived here, but it is presumed it was heart trouble. He was a member of the National Republican committee since 1900, and was 52 years old.