

Educational Department

Conducted by County Superintendent Crocker

Dist. No. 24—We have had four weeks vacation. School began last Monday with an enrollment of 17. Interest is very good. We shall give a short Christmas program.

RULO SCHOOL NOTES.

The Rulo schools observed Thanksgiving day but returned to work Friday following. The percent of attendance has averaged high for the first part of the year. The fine weather and interest in the work have conspired keep about 90 per cent of the pupils in school so far.

We are well pleased with the steam-heating plant which does away with much of the dirt and discomfort of the banished stoves. The present season has been very light on fuel and the change will no doubt save the district some money besides keeping the temperature of the school rooms more equal.

The pupils of the first and second primary rooms expect to furnish the program for a public school Christmas tree at the opera house on Christmas Eve. A pretty play by the little ones with selected musical numbers will furnish entertainment for old and young.

The Reading Circle of the teachers of this vicinity meets every two weeks with a fair attendance. The next meeting will be at the home of Miss Julia Cronin on the evening of Dec. 16. The eighth chapter of Common Sense Didactics will be discussed, and a paper by Miss Verna Vastine will be the literary feature.

Dist. No. 35, Pearl Snethen, teacher—School is progressing nicely, interest is good. We gave a basket supper last Saturday evening, and cleared \$15.30, part of which will be used to improve the interior of our school room and the rest to purchase two well framed pictures. Proceeding the basket supper we gave a program in which all the pupils took part. Nearly all our patrons were present. It was a real social time, and the evening passed very pleasantly. Such meetings bring about a closer bond of co-operation and sympathy between the home and the school.

Dist. No. 66, Gustav Herr, teacher—Our school was dismissed last Thanksgiving Day that teacher and pupils might do Thanksgiving turkey justice. On the following Friday attendance was small, but Monday all were eager for work again. Most of pupils are small, and this beautiful weather has given us a splendid attendance.

Dist. No. 23 has an enrollment of 78.

The school board in Dist. No. 31 have given their teacher permission to order necessary text books and supplies. Accordingly Miss Koenig ordered song books for her school last Saturday.

Field Notes.

After a ten mile Monday morning November 28, I reached the school in Dist. 45, Grace Bain, teacher, enrollment is 20, but only 10 were present. The personal appearance of the teacher was good. Under the topic "Personan appearance" Henry Sabins says, "Hair neatly brushed, teeth pearly white finger nails immaculate as ivory. These things will exert a more potent influence over thoughtless boys and girls than switch or ferule can possibly have. The frown of such a teacher is a terror to evil doers, and her smile is a perpetual reward to those who do well." The pupils in this school are good readers. The discipline was good. There is good slate blackboard all around the room, and the school has a nice new organ. A few weeks ago, the school had been troubled with the stove smoking. The teacher finally dismissed, announcing that there would be no more school until the school board fixed the stove. The repairs were promptly made and school work resumed the next day.

I took dinner with the treasurer of Dist. 46 and as we parted he said, "If our teacher needs supplies of any kind, tell her to make her wants known and she shall have them." With such encouragement from the board, I expected to find a good school, and was not disappointed. Miss Allen has teachers' helps and knows how to use them. The school has a basin, towel, mirror and comb and several pupils made use of them during the visit. Everything about the school was neat and clean. The decorations are good and the school has a new stove. I was especially interested in the the third reader recitation. The teacher is a good questioner. The previous lesson was reviewed, the day's lesson disposed of and the next lesson explained. During recess I enjoyed a game of blackman with the pupils.

I visited Ankrom school No. 3 Tuesday morning. Fifty-four pupils are enrolled; thirty-four present. E. R. Huff the teacher is a splendid disciplinarian. He is doing good work and is receiving \$50 per month. The school gave a basket supper a few weeks

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ago, and as a result, they have a nice new dictionary. The school has new furniture, single seats. It seems worth mentioning that Mr. Ankrom has 110 Angora goats, snow white, they are beauties. The wool is very valuable, they are not hard to raise and are very profitable.

School No. 4, Walnut Grove, is nicely located and surrounded by beautiful walnut trees. The room was neat and clean and beautiful decorated with pupils' school work. Every child was quiet and busy. The teacher is doing especially good work in teaching writing. Each child seemed proud of his copy book. At recess the pupils began telling me about their Thanksgiving program. For closing exercises, their teacher, Miss Weller, consented to let them repeat a part of the program. During the singing the school stood in double

rows; a boy and a girl stood at the head, faced the school and lead the singing. One boy, I have forgotten his name, certainly has considerable musical talent—he is a splendid singer. It seemed so good to hear the boys take such an active part in the singing. The recitations and concert exercises were good, and showed careful training on the part of the teacher. It was clear that the teacher had the respect and confidence of all her pupils.

(Continued in next Issue)

REFRACTIONIST

R. L. Baumont, M.D.

Sixth & Felix, St. Joseph

Formerly eye and ear specialist now limited practice to

Eye Glasses