

School Commissioner



Prof. S. H. Westcott, at present in his sixth year as Superintendent of the Orion High School and for ten years superintendent of the Orionville High School, in announcing his candidacy for the office of Commissioner of Schools for Oakland County, will receive a cordial welcome, not only by his many friends and admirers, but by all who desire to see an able, energetic and progressive administration of the duties of that important office.

The position to which he aspires offers exceptional opportunities to a splendidly equipped man to render our many schools and teachers really good service.

The career of Prof. Westcott speaks for him far more effectively than could any words of commendation. He has served so long and with such signal success that he has come into touch with and enthused with a life-long inspiration, literally thousands of students. In a wide section of Oakland and adjoining counties, his name has indeed become a household name, and elsewhere many are so familiar with his sterling qualities as a man and a citizen and his reputation as a teacher in our public schools as to render an introduction superfluous.

The conditions and experiences of his entire life have especially fitted him for the office of School Commissioner. He was born in the state of New York, of parents who were very poor. Being the second son of eight children, at an early age he was forced to rely entirely upon his own efforts for a livelihood. All the privations of doing chores for board that he must attend school and working by the month upon the farm were his in abundance. By great industry and economy, he managed to save sufficient money to take a course in Painesville, N. Y. Thereafter he came to Michigan and entered at once on what he knew to be his life work. For eight years he taught successfully in the district schools, gaining such an experience in country school life as pre-eminently fit him to deal intelligently and sympathetically with its many difficult problems. This busy period was only interrupted by a thorough course in science and mathematics at Valparaiso University. To this has been added advanced work at the Central State Normal at Marquette.

His last two appointments as Superintendent, during which the standard of the Orion High School won recognition from the Michigan University, as stated, cover a period of approximately 16 years, he having previously served as Superintendent one year at Goodrich and three years at Davison.

Thus a long and successful experience has equipped him to guide the destinies of both our graded and ungraded schools. He is the holder of a State Life Certificate and has served his constituents so well that he has continually been called to fields of wider usefulness and heavier responsibilities. He has also been a life-long Republican.

Mr. Westcott is a man of strictest probity, in the prime of life, and at the full tide of his power and zeal as a public educator. To a degree possessed by but few, he is animated by a moving passion for education and the power to inspire a desire for it in others. It has cost him a life-work, and he knows it has the value of a life-work to every boy and girl who can acquire it. If the people, in their wisdom, place him at the head of their educational affairs, the office of School Commissioner, it is safe to say, will have a new and welcome meaning to every teacher, pupil and school patron.

The desire for a new and improved regime in school affairs is well-nigh universal in Oakland County. The need of it has forced itself especially upon the attention of teachers and school officers. From a depressing situation in which teachers have met with formal routine rather than with hearty, active, virile co-operation and encouragement to which they were entitled, and where our country has a moving passion for education and the power to inspire a desire for it in others. It has cost him a life-work, and he knows it has the value of a life-work to every boy and girl who can acquire it. If the people, in their wisdom, place him at the head of their educational affairs, the office of School Commissioner, it is safe to say, will have a new and welcome meaning to every teacher, pupil and school patron.

Prof. Westcott stands for a sane, practical, yet distinct advance in our educational matters.

He emphasizes the importance of more personal work and assistance to inexperienced teachers as a means to strengthen the weak and systematize random effort.

He believes in the efficacy of frequent teachers' and patrons' meetings to inspire and direct.

He realizes that much is yet to be desired, and much responsibility rests with the Commissioner, when 50 per cent of the eighth grade applicants in Oakland County.

He believes in developing the school as a social center, as a means to a better school spirit and an enlarged community life.

He holds the child life of the county to be its most precious possession. He applauds the noble work of the high minded teachers who are developing it and would supplement their efforts by a Commissioner's equally efficient.

At no juncture of our school affairs has there been greater need of wisdom on the part of electors than in the selection of the next School Commissioner. The office can easily be made so useless that it ought to be abolished. His possibilities are so great as vitally to affect our educational interests for years to come.

In the hands of Prof. S. H. Westcott we are assured in advance of services of a high order of merit, and that his fidelity, zeal and ability will make of the office of School Commissioner, a genuine and lasting boon to the people of Oakland County.

(Signed) JAS. V. CLARK.

The Farmington Enterprise

J. A. Price, Editor

Published Friday of each Week and entered at the postoffice at Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second class mail matter.

\$1.00 per year, in advance

Devoted to the upbuilding of Farmington and Oakland County

It's just as easy to write it 1915 after you get used to it.

Haven't heard of anyone that wrote to Santa Claus for Local Option.

An exchange editor has it figured out that there wasn't any winter during the time of Adam and Eve, and so says "Wanted—a censor."

And now the Pontiac Press Gazette comes out with the assertion that "a man never has as good a time when his wife is away from home as she thinks he does". What we want to know, is where Bro. Gardner got his information?

We wish the Enterprise family in this county would get together. The Birmingham Enterprise is favoring local option and the Farmington Enterprise is opposing it. Bro. Mitchell says all the business men of Birmingham favor a dry county and Bro. Price says Farmington business men are opposed to it and cites as his authority the fact that no business man signed the recent local option petition—Oxford Leader.

Cook & Co. are showing a large line of both leather and rubber footwear.

Gift Edge News Items

The program given by the teacher, Miss Imogene Smith, and pupils of the Briggs school, drew quite a crowd Thursday afternoon and everyone enjoyed the Christmas tree and program. The arrival of Santa Claus was unexpected as word had been received that he and his team were stuck in the snow bank a few miles away, but his appearance added greatly to the enjoyment of the little folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Allen and baby Dorothy and Adeline Simmons of Pontiac are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Simmons.

Dora and Shirley King of Detroit spent Sunday with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Foster.

Miss Mac Miller of Detroit spent the Christmas holidays with her parents and friends in this vicinity.

The Christmas tree and entertainment given by the teacher and pupils of the Thayer school on Wednesday evening was well attended, and the program was enjoyed by all, showing that the pupils had been well trained. The appearance of Santa Claus created great excitement for the children.

Miss Anna Thayer, Preceptress of the Muskegon High School, is spending the holidays at the home of her father, H. W. Thayer.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Krieger and little daughter were Northville callers Thursday afternoon of last week.

Mrs. Alice Prindle, aged 76, passed quietly away on last Saturday morning, December 26, death occurring from natural causes. The funeral services were conducted from the family home at Bell Branch the following Tuesday. Besides a husband, she leaves three children, John of Detroit, Mrs. Hattie Burt of Bell Branch, and Perry Prindle of this place.

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For Sale—Three brood sows. Enquire of Albert Sulkowski.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wisdom of Northville spent Christmas day with the latter's sister, Mrs. R. Owen, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Peterson and daughter spent Christmas day in Detroit, as a guest at the home of their son Walter.

There may have been a lot of busy men in town last Wednesday afternoon, but without doubt, the busiest was A. B. Havrane of the local greenhouses, who had just received an order calling for the immediate delivery of 1,000 pounds of fresh lettuce to a firm in Detroit. That is some order, but Mr. Havrane was ready for it, with both quantity and quality.

The spelling match, which took place at the schoolhouse Wednesday afternoon of last week, and in which the pupils of the Grammar and High Schools participated, was enjoyed by all who took part therein, and literally "brought down the house", as all were "spelled down". Several visitors were present and joined the ranks of the spellers, but fared no better than the pupils of the school.

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