

HISTORY
OF THE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OGN.

PREPARED FOR THE CENTENNIAL BUREAU.

During 1853 and 1854, the schools receive no notice at the hands of the public press. We find no advertisements, no leaders, no locals, no “nothing” to indicate that the sovereign people had a child. Whether “things” went right or wrong, fast or slow, may be written in some “book of Jasher,” but the time presents a simple hiatus, where imagination may picture what it pleases. In 1854 Multnomah county was constituted. The air of those days is full of the smoke of battle. Politics raged, and every man was a

either for their satisfaction or discomfiture. The names of such men as Col. King, W. S. Ladd, S. J. McCormick, T. J. Dryer, Thos. Frazar, E. D. Shattuck, A. L. Lovejoy, T. J. Holmes, H. W. Corbett, M. P. Deady, A. P. Dennison, and many others, appear in the great work, but Portland will do well to name the next great school edifice its citizens build, the *Failing* school.

REV. DR. ATKINSON, as a citizen, and chiefly as a school officer, has taken a prominent part in the cause of education ever since his settlement in Portland in 1863. During his administration, the schools of the county assumed definite character, and received a great impulse. The boundaries of the various districts were carefully determined and the schools were systematically visited. The school lands received his careful attention, and the schools of Portland were graded. He forwarded public sentiment by careful reports, and occasional articles upon school morals and discipline, primary instruction, the selection of teachers and other subjects. He encouraged young men of good education who were out of employment or disheartened, to teach, and in this way several successful teachers were made. To his patient attention and great wisdom, may be assigned much of what constitutes the present distinguishing excellence of the schools of the county. The

added the report for 1876, now in course of preparation, and the reports of the city superintendent of Portland. Through the kindness of Messrs. Buchtel & Stolte, photographs of the public school buildings will accompany this article, and form a part of the Centennial record. Plans of the same, including the various stories and rooms, will also be forwarded.

[THOMAS LAMB ELIOT'S CENTENNIAL HISTORY, 1876]