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CORVALLIS, OREGON, SEP. 23, 1894.

UNFAIR AND MISLEADING.

The report of the Committee of One Hundred regarding the American Book Company, which appeared in last Sunday's Oregonian, shows unmistakable evidence of partiality and unfairness. To an unbiased person it would seem that rival book publishers had dictated the windy document, and that the defendant, the American Book Company, had been convicted without a hearing, for nowhere in the report has it been permitted to speak in its own behalf. This committee is a self constituted organization that for some months has posed before the public as a friend of economy and good government. Yet, at this time, following upon two years of panic and business depression, these misnamed friends of retrenchment and reform make a scathing denunciation of the American Book Company, which of its own volition caused a reduction of ten per cent in the price of school books during the past year, and now the committee clamors loudly for a change in books whereby the school patrons of Oregon will be put to an unnecessary outlay of at least a quarter of a million of dollars. There does not seem to be a semblance of an excuse for the trade of abuse that breaks out against the so-called trust, which, besides containing elements of hatred and dislike, is pregnant with misleading statements.

The report indicates that the company secures its business through corruption and fraud, and attempts to smirch the character of Mr. Edwards, the company's Portland manager, by means of a well calculated scheme to connect him with attempting to bribe L. H. Leach, a member of the Washington board of education. The report fails to state, however, that Mr. Leach appeared before the committee and absolutely denied the statement.

It handles Harrington's speller in a most vigorous manner, just because it is old. The book has been in use since 1880, and is only one of several spellers published by the American Book Company. This book is in use in Oregon only in the schools of Portland, and was selected by the instructors of that city; and it is altogether improbable that so capable a corps of teachers, as Portland is known to have, would select such a poor book as this Committee of One Hundred would have it appear to be. Outside of the metropolis, Watson's speller is used exclusively in the schools of the state, and gives general satisfaction. The company also has other spellers which can be furnished about as cheaply as the two already mentioned, if the people want them. In the selection of text books it is the public that say which book is best suited to the needs of the schools of Oregon, and not the American Book Company, as many are inclined to believe.

This lengthy statement also says that the private schools of Oregon are using only 20 or 25 per cent of the American Book Company's publications, which of itself is untrue. An investigation of the subject discloses the fact that not less than 60 per cent of the publications used at the Agricultural College are furnished by the American Book Company.

The report states, "The American Book Company has many excellent books, chiefly confined to the academic and higher grades. It is very weak in the lower grades and mathematics." Any one familiar with the circumstances at all, knows this statement to be incorrect. Ginn & Co.'s publications, especially those on mathematics, are used to a far greater extent in advanced grades of Colleges and academies, than in primary work. By reversing the above statement, it would come more nearly stating the truth.

Nowhere in this voluminous report is the attorney for Ginn & Co., or the other various rival publishing concerns referred to. The president of this sub-committee, Thomas N. Strong, is an attorney. Being such, is it not reasonable to suppose that he is the paid attorney of rival publishing houses, and that his report, to say the least, might be biased in their favor? If this is the case, and the GAZETTE believes it is, the Committee of One Hundred is in petty business. "For ways that are dark" they are certainly entitled to take first place.

If the books used in the schools of this state during the past six years "fairly bristle with mistakes and inaccuracies," why in the name of common sense has it taken until now to discover the fact? If the school superintendents and board of education have been bought like sheep, and the people hoodwinked, as the honorable Committee of One Hundred would insinuate, why has it taken so long to find the matter out? A more flagrant insult was never given the residents of a state, than the insinuation that our school system is a veritable school machine, run and operated in the interest of the American Book Company. It is very fair to presume that the school superintendents and others connected with the educational interests of Oregon are quite as enlightened, fully as capable, and just as free from corruption as such persons are in other states. If there is so little virtue left among the educators of Oregon, that they have become the pliant tools of the American Book Company, subservient at all times to the will of their master,

the intelligence must come from some other source than the Committee of One Hundred, before the good people of this state will give it credence.

The GAZETTE want the schools of the state to be supplied with the best and most practical text books, and at the least possible expense. The American Book Company has already made a voluntary reduction of ten per cent in the price of all books furnished the public schools in Oregon, and another similar reduction will be made by the action of the board of education who furnish schedules for the guidance of bidders who wish to compete in the coming contest for furnishing books during the next six years. With possibly one or two exceptions, the books now in use have given general satisfaction. A change will cost not less than \$250,000. Some of the state papers that seem to be illy informed, are advocating a change. The principal objection urged against the present system is, that the books are furnished by a "soulless corporation." How much better off will they be on that score if a change is voted? Books will still be furnished by a corporation.

RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Now that we have an appropriation of \$8,000 for improvements on the Willamette at this place, every citizen should interest himself in seeing that it is expended in the most judicious manner. While it is true that the matter is in the hands of government engineers, strong public sentiment will aid them materially in determining upon the most practical course to pursue in the expenditure of the money. As already urged by the GAZETTE, the only permanent way of remedying this constant and increasing danger, to navigation is to dredge out the old channel from the lower end of Alexander Island to Fischer's mill, build a wing dam at the mouth of East river and force the volume of water through the old river bed. The talk of reconstructing the old revetment is the silliest tittle. No structure built of piling can withstand the terrible force of the current in the big bend just east of town, where what is left of the old revetment now stands. It never did any good and the money so foolishly expended might just as well have been dumped into the river in the first place.

We see the thief approaching that will rob us of our commerce; let us bar the door before the horse is stolen. It is an actual, pressing and material danger and not merely a fancied possible calamity. The former work done under the supervision of the U. S. engineers is wholly inadexate to the purpose. Every high water increases the danger and also increases the work necessary to be done to change the channel. It is stated that the engineers intend reconstructing the old work. This will be as useless as it is foolish. Nothing but a solid stone wall will deter the water from rushing on in its fury if an attempt is made to restrain it at the point where the old revetment stands. We want a new channel and we want it now. There is no use to monkey with the old revetment. The people will rebel against such a lavish waste of their money. No adequate remedy for the pending danger can be had except by opening up the old channel across the bottom above Fischer's mill.

CAN there be any more "Cleveland worship"?—New York Tribune. Well, you would have supposed there couldn't be any more Baal worship after Elijah's business at Mount Carmel, but the blamed Israelites kept on worshipping Baal until they were completely cleaned out and done for.—Springfield Union.

THE St. Louis Republic says that to call a man "as good as old wheat" nowadays is to put him below par. Corn is king.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Mrs. Zephia Job returned home this week from the state fair, where she captured the first premium for fancy needle work.

Harry Samuels, now employed in Posen's seed store in Portland, whiled away a few hours with old friends in Corvallis last Sunday.

David B. Hill received the nomination for governor at the hands of the New York democratic state convention last Wednesday by acclamation. Although the result was a great victory for Tammany Hall, Spencer & Case waited on their customers without interruption.

Tonight the masonic fraternity of this city are to have a reception and banquet. In addition to the grand officers of the state, visitors are expected from Independence, Yaguina, Albany and Monroe. The collation will be served at the Occidental, where covers have been ordered for 100 guests.

Last week the GAZETTE mentioned the death of Myron Smith's father and in this issue we are called upon to chronicle the death of his aged mother, who, with her son, resided near this city. She has been an invalid for some years and since her husband's death, had prayed for relief from her sorrow, which came in death on Wednesday afternoon. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. M. Burlingame and the remains were interred in Crystal Lake cemetery on Thursday.

AN INTERESTING SIGHT.

A Visit to Hugh Finley's Prune Orchard and Dryer—How the Crop is Cared For.

Probably the most interesting sight to be seen in Oregon at this season of the year is a dryer in operation. At least this is the opinion of a GAZETTE representative, who, in company with Jesse Spencer, W. H. Hartless, M. Schmidt, Robert Johnson and F. L. Miller visited the Hugh Finley orchard and dryer last Sunday. The work is in charge of Henry M. Stone, who has seventeen assistants. Ten men are employed in picking the fruit and five in sorting the prunes into four grades. The first or smallest grade is used for drying. As this operation is performed, the fruit is dipped into a solution of hot lye, which gives the prunes a good cleansing and also cracks the skin. After the hot bath, the fruit is given a thorough rinsing in cold water and placed on the trays.

The dryers are the Kertz patent and Mr. Stone says they are giving perfect satisfaction. They are built in a cylinder shape and set on a foundation of brick. Each dryer contains 210 trays and each tray holds one-half bushel of green fruit. The trays set one above the other and are turned by means of an endless chain. As the dryer revolves and passes an opening or door in the cylinder, each tray of trays is raised sufficiently to admit a tray of green fruit which is placed at the bottom of the tier. This process takes place every hour and a half. 16 to 18 hours are required in curing the Petite prune, while it takes 24 hours to dry the Italians. By the time the fruit is cured, the dryer has made fifteen revolutions, thus bringing the trays of cured fruit to the top of the evaporator, where it is taken out and emptied into a large bin. The temperature in each dryer is kept at 180 degrees. The heat is generated by the use of ash wood from a furnace under the brick foundation of each dryer. The combined capacity of the two dryers is 200 bushels every 24 hours or 4,000 pounds of cured fruit.

The Petite prunes are averaging about three bushels to the tree, while the Italians will yield only about three pecks to the tree. The total crop from 1,000 trees will be between 3,000 and 3,500 bushels. This will make in the neighborhood of 70,000 pounds of dried fruit. The outlook for a market this fall is not at all flattering, although Mr. Stone has an offer of 4 1/2 cents for Petites and 6 1/2 cents for Italians.

Mr. Finley's orchard presented one of the grandest sights ever witnessed. The Petite and Hungarian trees were loaded with large luscious fruit and in many instances the weight has been so great that the trees are broken to the ground and not a few of them are entirely ruined. Last July Mr. Finley discovered that the trees were overloaded and pruned them back, but for all that he has suffered considerable loss by reason of the excessive yield. This trouble is largely due, however, to the fact that the first few years the trees were not pruned back sufficiently and the top has grown out of proportion to the trunk. The orchard was found in an excellent state of cultivation, free from weeds, which evidenced much hard and patient toil. Mr. Finley is of the opinion that prunes can be profitably grown for three cents per pound. If this be true he will have a handsome profit on his crop this year.

The choicest fruit property in Benton county is the 15 acre orchard owned by Messrs. J. H. and J. W. Herron, adjoining the farm of Mr. Finley. The trees are now five years old; they are in a perfect state of cultivation and evidence unmistakable signs of thrift and scientific care. Aside from 400 Early Crawford peach trees the fifteen acres are planted about equally to Italian and Petite prunes. Two or three years ago borers began working on the peach trees and were raising sad havoc among them when one of the boys read in the Examiner that a mixture of lime and salt placed about the roots of the trees would exterminate the pests. The recipe had the desired effect, so far as the borers were concerned, but several hundred trees were lost by the operation. The boys will have about 300 bushels of prunes this year which they have arranged with Henry Stone to dry for them. They also raised several bushels of choice peaches this season, which sold for \$2.50 per bushel. Immediately adjoining this orchard, the boys own 15 acres of ten year old prunes.

Superintendent Holm and Prof. George Denman made a trip over into the Aleca country last week for the purpose of organizing a school district. They left a petition for signatures and arranged other necessary preliminaries. At present there are 27 pupils in the district that are denied school privileges on account of being seven miles away from the school building, and it is for such persons that the new district is to be organized. Mr. Holm says the people of Aleca are still enjoying a good deal of fun about the shoes which President Bloss left in the river last spring, while over there on a fishing trip. It seems that the shoes have damaged up the stream to such an extent that it has caused a hindrance to navigation, and an appropriation of several thousand dollars will be required to remove the obstruction.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to know in what respect Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is better than any other. We will tell you. When this remedy is taken as soon as cold has been contracted, and before it has become settled in the system, it will counteract the effect of the cold and greatly lessen its severity, and is the only remedy that will do this. It acts in perfect harmony with nature and aids nature in relieving the lungs, opening the secretions, liquefying the mucus and causing its expulsion from the air cells of the lungs and restoring the system to a strong and healthy condition. No other remedy in the market possesses these properties. No other will cure a cold so quickly. For sale by Graham & Wells.

IMPRESSIONS OF A STRANGER.

MR. EDITOR:—If I do not intrude on your time, space and patience, allow me to give you an idea of my impression on coming to Corvallis. I might say, the longer I stay the better I like it, but that does not express my sentiment, therefore, I will say that I have had the honor of having been a nephew of Uncle Sam since 1848, and have seen, since I crossed the Atlantic, many states, cities and towns; seen much splendor, and heard tongues of many nationalities, and during the last two years, have traveled in the deserts in America and Mexico, and, coming now to the pleasant, quiet city of Corvallis, with its splendid forest-like nooks scattered here and there, all over the town; the beautiful and romantic situation of the town site; its many bicycles coming and going; the comfortable residences and homes; the fine business houses and certain very accommodating business men and women, all combine to give one a very favorable and pleasant impression.

I feel like one tossed about on the wild seas, finding, after many years of adventures and strains, at last a harbor of safety, where one will be free from all harm, the elements, and other possible destruction that may befall mankind. The people, as far as I have been able to observe, the society in which we live, shape, to a certain extent, the general character of the inhabitants, and there seems to be a pleasant and quiet disposition characterizing this people, and one feels like making this his home.

It is also noticeable to the observer, that Corvallis has had its share of the calamities arising from business depression, that have visited all countries, all lands and all localities. The street car of Corvallis shows evidence of hard times, standing as it does on the corner of Madison and Main streets, idle and alone. And here, I feel like offering a suggestion, and that is for the town to own and operate the street car for the public at cost, and if nothing more could be done, to run in the afternoon, and should this prove impracticable, to hold the institution for a better time to come. But, to tear up the track now built would be a pity, and prove a great drawback to the town. Why not, rather, continue the line west to, or past, the Agricultural College, and then north to connect with the old line?

CARL ZWICKER.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Jerry Nunan, of the Grants Pass Courier, was down here last week, and after returning home wrote the following for his paper, concerning our city:

Corvallis, the oldest town in Oregon, was the first state capital, and now, hidden in its dense maple foliage, is more like an old country town than any on the Pacific coast. The town citizens, by vote a few years ago, decided to keep its cows off the streets and ever since then grass has been allowed to grow at will in all its thoroughfares. Yard fences which the cows used to keep in good repair are now allowed to rot and fall away to ruin. Open gates, taking up half the sidewalk as they swing lazily out in their way, show that there is nothing now to fence against, and the people have no incentive to keep things in repair. The broad maples which the cows used to keep trimmed up as far as they could reach, now protrude from above and make you dodge their branches as you walk underneath. Altogether, the people here do not look upon the banishment of the town cow as an unmixed blessing. The departure of the gentle bovine has certainly not tended toward making Corvallis a city of spruce-looking homes.

Benton county, of which Corvallis is the county seat, is \$30,000 in debt, but her taxable property runs up into three or four millions and she has a \$100,000 court house, several good bridges and many graded country roads to show for it. Taxes last year in Corvallis were 26 mills for state, county, city and school, and the property was assessed at about one-half its cost value. There is no bonded indebtedness of the city, though it has a \$12,000 city hall which was paid for in warrants. A bonding agitation is now in progress. The town has no sewer system, though several of the hotels are connected with the river by sewers of their own and yet Corvallis is about as healthy a town as there is in the world.

PLAYING IN ENGLAND.

Mrs. W. T. Hoffman is in receipt of a letter from her daughter, Maude, now playing in England with the talented actor, Mr. Wilson Barrett, in which she intimates that neither the country nor climate, nor the customs and manners of English people are according to her liking. She has traveled considerably and visited many points of historical interest, but prefers American soil, American people and American customs to anything she has found during her stay in Great Britain. She, however, expresses herself as being delighted with London, where she made many pleasant acquaintances through letters of introduction furnished by friends in this country. This week the company are playing in Nottingham; next week they play at Birmingham, and the week following in Bristol. During the first three weeks of November, the company are billed at Liverpool, after which they sail for New York, when they open an eight weeks engagement at the Madison Square theatre.

In the play, "Hamlet," Miss Hoffman takes the role of the Queen. Of her work in this difficult part, the Halifax Courier has the following:
 "Miss Maude Hoffman showed convincingly that she knows how to carry herself like a queen, while the personality lost none of its suavity and richness in her hands. When visibly writhing under the ineffectives of Hamlet, and no longer able to submit to his insults, the actress, like Ophelia when her wits were down, rose to heights of passion that to many of her hearers, must have seemed of unexpected strength."

"During my service in the army I contracted chronic diarrhoea," says A. E. Bending, of Halsey, Oregon. "Since then I have used a great amount of medicine, but when I found any that would give me relief they would injure my stomach, until Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was brought to my notice. I used it and will say it is the only remedy that gave me permanent relief and no bad results follow." For sale by Graham & Wells.

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED

Already Enrolled at the Agricultural College for the Coming Year's Work.

The opening of the college for '94-'95, has proved a very agreeable surprise to those interested in its work. It was expected that due to hard times there would not be as many students this year as in the past, but these gloomy predictions have proved fallacious, the enrollment now showing an increase of 15 over last year, at this time. Another interesting fact is, that the increase is all in the higher classes, showing that the intellectual grade of the students is higher this year than ever before. The representatives from the various counties of the state are as follows:

- BENTON.
 Sadie Friendly, Emma Warrior, Lulu Lindsey, Minnie Wilson, Mary Smith, Mac Hemphill, Herbert Friendly, Frank Wilson, Mabel Johnson, Mabel Davison, Clara Groves, Alice Buchanan, Kate Buchanan, Edith Lilley, Percy Lee, Addie Bristol, Dennis Stovall, Gertrude Cuthorn, Arthur Henkle, Clara Newhouse, Mary Henderson, Rosalie Greffoz, Minnie Cooper, Chas. Small, Edna M. Groves, Richard Graham, Elmer Shipley, Alva Newton, Eugene Weber, E. J. Newton, Milton Wyatt, A. J. Tharp, E. J. Hufford, Mattie Right, Winnie Avery, Bessie Datesman, Georgia Hartless, Edith Gibson, Colista Murray, Eva Kyle, Layton Plummer, Lola Wilkins, Manie Rowland, Arthur Buchanan, Lewis E. Cooper, Georgia Applewhite, Estel Maddux, George Clark, Marion Johnson, Clyde Phillips, Etta Campbell, Lant Mulkey, Lulu Thornton, Bertha Linnville, Mildred Linnville, D. W. Munn, F. M. Wood, F. C. Waller, Chas. Porter, Gertie Mackay, Bessie Barker, Minnie Hodes, J. C. Smith, Emma Campbell, Earl Branderberry, Claude Carlile, Willie Schmidt, Elsie Long, Edna Finley, Mary Haddock, Mamie Miller, Helen Holgate, Bruce Burnett, Clara Duncan, Lulu Brown, W. F. Holman, John F. Allen, Mart Spangler, Ollie Armstrong, Ray Rogers, Rose Nicholas, Roscoe Bryson.
- LINN.
 Kate McCane, Amelia McCane, Otis Taylor, Joseph T. Belluna, Horace McBride, A. D. Morrison, Fred Schmeer, Victor Mosen, Clyde C. Snyder, D. H. Bodine, Emma Beach, D. P. Adams, Arthur Ward, Minnie E. Hale, Lulu Brandon, Frank Ward, Dorothea Nash, Ida Ward, Dora P. Porter, Guy Porter, W. D. Porter, Charles Jenks, Olive Jenks, Josie Moses, S. R. Archibald, J. E. Adams.
- CLATSOP.
 A. C. Lewis, L. O. Stearns.
- MULTNOMAH.
 Terna Keedy, J. G. McCune, W. F. Keedy, Mary Stout.
- BAKER.
 R. A. Cartwright, Chas. Chandler, Anna Hannah, J. B. Masters.
- YAMHILL.
 A. B. Kiddler, W. H. Becker, W. C. Williams, Frank Feudale, S. P. Smith.
- MARION.
 Inez Cooley, C. R. Porter, Jennie Thorp, bury, Don Ray, Frank Crawford, Ralph W. Terrell, Chas. Meyers.
- USJON.
 Katie L. Wright, H. M. Cooper, Charles Owsley, H. W. Smith, P. E. Alger.
- WASHINGTON.
 E. D. Goodwin, O. B. Gates, J. H. Gault, A. F. Baxton.
- JACKSON.
 Theo. Beall, Lee Beall.
- LANE.
 Charles Whitsett, Delphine Hannel, W. J. Ginstrop, H. W. Welch, Geo. Lea, Ollie Hamilton, J. R. Cooley.
- MALHEUR.
 J. D. G. Denman, L. A. Johnson.
- LINCOLN.
 W. W. Riggs, R. H. Howell, Louise Louenberger, Ed. W. Shippson.
- JOSEPHINE.
 L. W. Oren.
- POLK.
 Will Collins, Herbert J. Elliot, Clyde Henry.
- COLUMBIA.
 W. B. Daggett, Fred C. Caples.
- CLACKAMAS.
 Ida. M. Sawtell, Lake Casto, Augusta Casto, L. B. Andrews, Levy Rusk, Louis Barnett.
- TILLAMOOK.
 E. R. Doughty, Lester M. Leland.
- DOUGLAS.
 Kittie Emmett, Lena Willis, Effie Willis, Esther Simmons.
- WASCO.
 Aubert Leavens, Sidney Trask, H. W. Kelly.
- GILLIAM.
 F. E. Edwards.
- CLATSOP.
 Edward C. Young.
- COOS.
 G. Stemler, W. Abernethy, E. Abernethy, R. F. Golden, Geo. Weaver, Wm. McKnight, Lowry Owen, H. Dimmick, Fanny Getty, Geo. Getty, John Wilder, Thomas Dimmick, M. O. Stemler.
- WALLOWA.
 L. W. Powers.
- UMATILLA.
 J. A. Stansberry.
- CALIFORNIA, STATE.
 Mary A. Simpson.
- WASHINGTON, STATE.
 George Korthauer, Clement Wilkins.

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W. GIFFORD NASH, For one year a student of the Leipzig Conservatory, and for two and one half years a student of Prof. Martin Krause, also in Leipzig, is now prepared to take piano students. Studio Cor. of Jefferson and Eighth, Corvallis. For terms apply by letter or personal application.

NOTICE.

The undersigned, having purchased the entire interest of Frank Conover in the CORVALLIS GAZETTE, will hereafter continue its publication, assuming all liabilities of same from and after the 28th day of September, 1894, and to whom all subscriptions should hereafter be paid. We shall furnish the GAZETTE to all subscribers for the time their subscriptions have been paid in advance. GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY, B. W. JOHNSON, Manager. Corvallis, Or., Sep. 8, 1894.

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