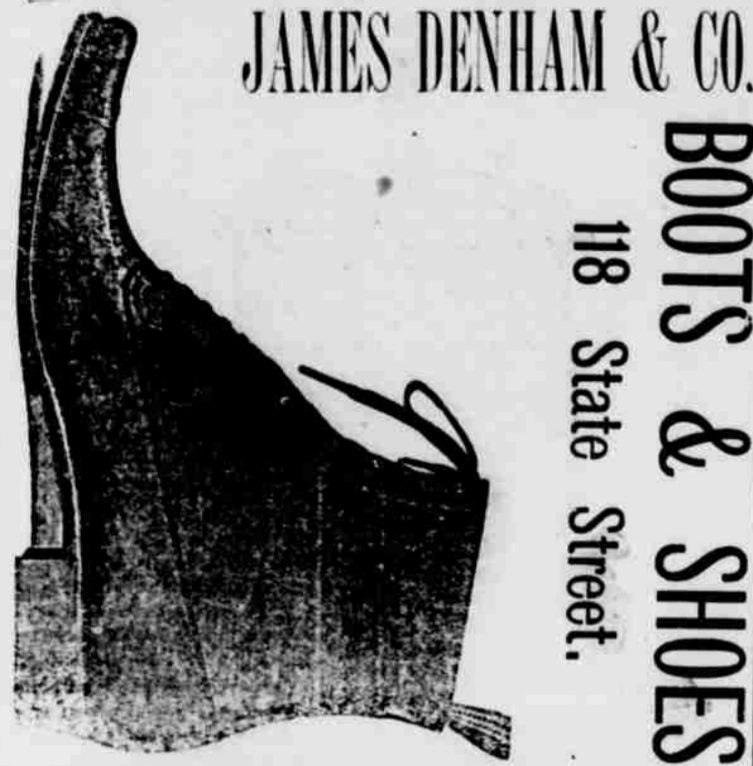


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HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.

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POSSIBILITIES IN HOPS.

Many Marion county farmers are still holding their hops for advances. Contracts are pending at 37 cts., with option of taking the rise for 30 days. Such prices cause farmers, possessed of capital and speculative tendencies to hold for 40 cts., while a daring few believe, they can force returns still greater by holding on. The possible luck of these agricultural capitalists who tempt fate by a policy of procrastination becomes an interesting subject of study. It costs only 6 to 8 cts a lb. to produce hops, but no one can blame them for holding for a dollar a pound. What are the factors that will tend to drive hops beyond the 40 cent point? Is it possible that they may go beyond that price in Oregon? Let us see: Hops reached \$1.25 a pound in New York in 1882, owing to total collapse of prices in 1880, which induced many to stop growing. The crop was then principally raised in New York. Since 1888, the industry has been transferred mainly to the Pacific slope. It is not impossible then that hops may go above 40 cts., if conditions will permit.

A slight study of the conditions must convince any one that chances are in favor of prices going beyond the forty mark. The crop just harvested is short the world over, and inferior in the East, England and Germany. The supply for market, when all in, will fall below the figures at which the annual average demand is placed. Prices are now higher than at any time since 1882. Statistics show immense increase in consumption of beer the world over, and no corresponding increase in the hop industry. The New York Times says a first-class article of hops will soon sell for 60 cents in that city. The German market has advanced 10 cents in two weeks.

In a hop-trade circular Albert Lihenthal, a New York dealer and authority, puts the supply of the various countries in this way: "England, with an average yearly consumption of 400,000 bales, of 180 pounds each, has grown less than 100,000 bales. Germany's crop it is impossible to estimate accurately, but according to the best authority it will hardly be more than one-half of last year's, and there will be no surplus for export. The United States, with an average yearly consumption of 225,000 bales, has grown 150,000 bales. The old stock on hand, making allowance for every nook and cranny in the country, consists of hardly more than 25,000 bales."

Mr. Lihenthal then sums up in this table, showing the deficit in bales of 180 pounds: England..... 190,000 European Continent (est'd)..... 20,000 America..... 50,000 Total..... 260,000 He places the annual consumption of hops in the world at about 1,000,000 bales.

Another feature that will drive hops upward is the McKinley tariff bill. It advances the duty from 8 cts to 15 cts, and it is impossible to bring German hops here to-day for less than 50 cts. The chances seem to be in favor of hop speculators meeting their expectations, whether they be Marion county farmers, or middlemen. The facts in the case, indicate that in hops we may see a repetition of 1882 and hops go near the dollar mark.

TAX LAWS AND TAX SCATTERING.

There is a great quantity of confusion about Oregon's tax laws, but there should be more inquiry into expenditure. The state of Oregon is not suffering so much from poorly constructed revenue laws as from a careless and often reckless expenditure of revenues. It is not that the tax-gathering is so faultily done, but that tax-eating is greedily and wastefully carried on. There is not much doubt that the expenses of county governments, including bridge, road and pauper bills, are far too high. These matters cut directly into the tax-payers pocket, compared to which theoretical assertions as to the mortgage tax law cut no figure.

There is not greater incentive to avoiding taxation possible than wasteful expenditure of taxes after they are gathered. The latter offense goes far to justify citizens in their own minds in employing every technicality to escape taxation. They consider it no crime to withhold their money from a wildly managed breakneck style of county financing. Tax payers are far more willing to be assessed for a well-constructed \$100,000 steel suspension bridge at Salem, that could stand for generations, than they will be to meet the bill of \$10,000 wasted for extras on ill-conceived changes in the plans.

They would with much better grace pay \$10,000 taxes expended for scientific supervision free from

jobbery, than they will pay a single dollar taxes on work loosely and wastefully conducted. Americans are as a rule free to encourage public enterprises on a liberal scale. They are also free and easy—too much so—in tolerating careless and wasteful expenditures of public money.

The science of good government lies in economy of expenditure rather than perfection of tax-gathering machinery. Let us hear less of how we are to get everything taxed, and more about reduction in expenditures. Our county and city governments cost too much for the service rendered. There is too much disposition to pinch the public treasury and not return value received. If public contractors cannot do business without the generous profits of old-time book-keeping methods, let them give place to others of a more modern type.

HORTICULTURE FOR PROFIT.

THE JOURNAL's criticism of the State Board of Horticulture was copied entire into the Oregonian and has drawn fire of approval and lightnings of disapproval. It seems we were in error in asserting that Prof. Lake of the Agricultural College is Secy. of the board. He is Secy. of the State Horticultural Society. Our article did him an injustice and we hasten to correct it, however. We are not aware, however, that the Professor is not in some other way a recipient of a part of the \$7,000 appropriation for this board. We will not say that he is. But he is so struck by the articles in the JOURNAL that we suspect he may be. That is not culpable. It only strengthens the tenacity with which friends of horticulture will adhere to the point made in the JOURNAL, to-wit: that all the work done or pretended to be done by the Board of Horticulture can be better done through the State Horticultural Society or the State Agricultural College and Government Experiment station.

One more point we wish to touch, based upon experience in other states. No appropriations have such drawing power for those who want to exist by public pay as those made for agriculture and horticulture. The persons who follow this line of work are as a rule professionals who do not propose to ever earn a dollar by honest labor on the farm or in the orchard. To such our remarks were intended to apply. Modest men who really love the sciences of farming and fruit growing will have nothing to do with them.

THE AUTHOR OF "BLACK BEAUTY."

A movement is on foot to erect a monument of some sort in honor of Miss Sewell, the author of "Black Beauty," in order that her work in behalf of the horse be not speedily forgotten. It teaches its lesson of kindness and humanity with wonderful skill, but the author did not enjoy the fame the book won for her, having died soon after it appeared. Its success has been rapid and surprising. Within two months after publication nearly sixty thousand copies were disposed of in England, and its circulation in the United States has been even greater.

Its boom began in Boston, where the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals used it as a missionary tract, distributing free copies among the cabmen, track drivers and others, in hope that the story would secure better treatment for the dumb animals. The Boston example has been followed in many other cities, and the book is now published at a nominal cost for free distribution. It has been adopted as a supplementary book of reading in the Boston grammar schools. A curious point in reference to it is that there seems to be no person living that has a moral right to the profits that might be derived from its sale. Miss Sewell's death was followed shortly by that of her mother, who left no heirs, hence it is proposed that some sort of a memorial be raised in honor of the author and her cause. It is a worthy object.

IS NOT THIS A MISTAKE?

"Index" advocates in the JOURNAL that the mortgage tax law be not repealed, because to repeal it, he argues, will not leave all the property of the rural districts to be taxed there. The mortgage would then be taxed wherever it is owned. The mortgage is now taxed wherever the land lies that is covered thereby.

This raises a question whether a mortgage which is classified in the Oregon code as purely personal property ought not to be taxed where it is owned. All of property, real and personal, is sought to be taxed where it is owned, except real-estate mortgages. A chattel mortgage is taxed where owned. It does not follow the band of cattle or the cayuse wherever they may be driven. No matter where the mortgaged property is, the valuation remains at the place of ownership or with the owner. Is not this a contradiction in legislation?

Still one large room with above for office or living, in Postoffice block. Call at JOURNAL office.

THE King of bores is delightfully unconscious of wearing his crown. A DRIVING Salem woman says there is not a decently kept street for driving in the city.

It is never discovered of a great many persons that their character is so grandly beautiful until they are dead.

THERE are few things more ridiculous in effect than a self-styled big paper run to suit hedge-podge population in an embryo city and trying to talk for a whole state like Oregon.

EDWARD Bellamy's friends are trying to infuse political ambitions into him. He is talked of as the first Mayor of the new city of Chicopee, Massachusetts, of which city the author of "Looking Backward" is a resident.

In an article on "The Ruthless Sex" in the November number of the North American Review, Mr. Oscar Fay Adams assails certain feminine follies akin to those to which he called attention in his recent widely noticed paper on "The Mannerless Sex."

ONE of the commonest forms of failure with the writer of children's stories, arises from the author's want of distinction between a story for children and a story about children. A good story about children may be entirely unfitted for the child-reader. A good story for the child-reader may have little or nothing about children in it.

THERE are only two states producing quicksilver, viz: California and Oregon. There are six mines, three in California, and three in Douglas county, Oregon. There are seven furnaces, three of which are in Douglas county. The yield of quicksilver in 1889, 92,964 short tons or 25,464, flasks. The amount of wages paid \$624,294. The number of men employed was 720.

"ELECTION Methods in the South" are described in the November number of the North American Review by ex-Congressman Robert Smalls, now Collector of the Port of Beaufort, in South Carolina. In the same issue of the Review, Mr. A. W. Shaffer, one of the chief supervisors of Elections in North Carolina, sets forth in a trenchant article the objections of Southern republicans to the Lodge bill.

ALL admit that Mr. Stanley's recent passage through Darkest Africa was a grand feat; the way he wrote his account of that grand feat was not much less remarkable. The work contains, roughly speaking, a thousand pages of forty lines each.

On January 25 of this year, not a line of it had been written. Then it was that Mr. Stanley sat down at the Villa Victoria in Carlo with a firm determination that nothing earthly should stop him till he had finished it. In fifty days he completed his self-imposed task. This means that he not merely wrote out but he had to think out, twenty pages, say, 800 words, a day. If you wish to know what an amount of endurance and perseverance that means, try the experiment yourself.

About Dead Letters.

THE JOURNAL recently gave its readers a valuable synopsis of the law and facts about the operations of the Dead Letter office, and the precautions that should be taken in mailing and addressing letters. Postmaster Gilbert has received from the department the following letter: "Acknowledging receipt of your recent communication, together with clipping from the CAPITAL JOURNAL of your city, covering a circular issued from this office Sep. 1st, I beg to express appreciation of the generous response of the publishers to the request for its publication, and wish you to please express to them the acknowledgments of the department and to thank them for the service rendered by their co-operation in the purpose which this circular is designed to serve.

The occasion for some effort in this direction seemed greatly need, and none should appreciate it more than themselves, whose interests alone it is designed to serve." Signed, D. P. Liebardt, Supt. Dead Letter office.

A Disease Unaccountably Prevalent.

The prevalence of ailments attributable to miasmatic poison in the air that people breathe, and the water they drink, is well nigh unaccountable. Not alone in pestilential swamps, badly drained suburban districts, and marshes exposed to the sun's rays by the receding tide, is this source of humanly trouble. Even in our cities, healthfully located. Its presence is often unperceived, but its attacks are always preventable. The protector is Hoffer's Stomach Bitters. The remedial agent bears the same name. A name known to thousands throughout our broad land and elsewhere as a synonym of relief, prevention and cure of the innumerable disorders in its insidious grasp—colds and fevers, as well as others. Not in the Bitters lies active force for indigestion, kidney complaint, biliousness and rheumatism.

Cox & Boggs are shipping celery to Albany.

A Word to Ladies. Ladies who desire a beautiful clear skin, free from pimples, boils, blotches and other eruptions, should commence at once to use Dr. Sugg's Improved Liver Pills. They will also ensure that leaves look about your eyes and make them bright, and will cure headache from whatever cause it arises. Remember, you are only required to take one small pill at bedtime, which is coated with pure sugar, and will not grip or produce any unpleasant sensation. Sold at 25 cents, by Smith & Seligson.

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