OREGON MIST.

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—BY—

DAVID DAVIS.

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ST. HELENS, OREGON, AUG. 26.

America for Americans. "Long May It wave O'er the Home of the Free and the Land of the Brave."

An estimate has been made showing that the expenditures for carrying on the war thus far aggregate over $150,000,000. This is at the rate of about $1,350,000 a day. Perhaps $200,000,000 in round numbers will suffice for our share of the expenses of forcing Spain to relinquish her hold on Cuba.

Our meager fire apparatus would prove of little avail should a fire start in the right locality in St. Helens at a time when the frequent high winds prevail, and it is important that our citizens be constantly on the alert. Good fortune alone has saved us the fate of many towns in the Northwest.

Our representative in the legislature, Dr. Hall, should have his attention called to the fact early and often that the people of this county expect and demand that some action be taken by the next session of that body looking to improved methods of collecting and expending public money on public highways. This is certainly the most important subject now before the people of Columbia county, and if we will all join hands in a spirited attack on the antediluvian methods now employed we can accomplish our aim.

The next national enterprise should be the construction of the Nicaragua canal. The distance from New York to San Francisco around Cape Horn is over 17,000 miles. If the canal were opened for navigation the distance would be shortened over 10,000 miles. The trade of the Atlantic ports seeking the Orient would flow through this channel because it is a shorter and more direct route than through the Mediterranean sea and the Suez canal. The same would be true of the commerce of Europe. Reports of the treasury department show that the trade of the United States with the nations of the East amounts to $150,000,000 annually.

The people of Oregon ought to be happy and they are. The war is over and the boys will soon be home. The wheat crop, which is being saved in good condition, is one of the largest and best ever grown. The hay crop is large and is bringing a good price. There is no end to the fruit of all kinds. The surplus stock has been sold at big prices. Money is plenty, times are good and becoming better. The merchants have had the best trade this summer they have had for years. Every man, woman, and child who wanted to go has had an outing either in the mountains or on the seashore. Even the populists have quit grumbling. Why shouldn't everybody be happy?—Roseburg Plaindealer.

A very interesting statement of the receipts and expenditures of the government for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, was issued last week by Assistant Secretary Howell, of the treasury. Owing to war expenditures in the last quarter, there was a deficit of $38,047,247 for the year. That was, of course, to be expected. But the most interesting portion of the statement to those who contended that the Dingley tariff law would produce all the revenue needed to run the government, is that showing that for the past five months—February to June, inclusive—of the fiscal year, the Dingley tariff law produced revenue exceeding our ordinary expenditures, on a peace footing, by more than $9,000,000.

It's a little exasperating nowadays, when there is an abundance of work in the harvest field, to have a big, burly fellow step up and ask if "you will please help a poor man to get a meal." There is plenty of work where able-bodied men can earn a living if they will but get out and rustle, and there is no excuse for begging. It is not charity to feed these loafers when they can't get an opportunity to earn their living. —Eugene Guard (democrat). This does not agree with the experience of the editor of the Roseburg Review, who is continually telling us that times are becoming harder and money scarcer. That the price of wheat will not pay for threshing. That there is no work for the idle, and no money with which to pay them if they did work.—Plaindealer.

What a pity it is that Harvey Watermelon Scott cannot be made president, governor, commander-in-chief and general overseer of all our affairs at home and abroad. Harvey is a regular ring-tail-roarer, an all-around, go-as-you-please scorcher; and when he shuffles off this mortal coil St. Peter will be ordered down off the throne to make room for Harvey. During the war our president has not made a move that met the approval of the big duffer, and although posing, with the organ behind him, as a great republican leader, the party and administration have not had a worse enemy than this same old mess of egotism. But thank God "the Government at Washington still lives," and through the good judgment and foresight of those whose every act Harvey and his satellites have condemned, this glorious country of ours will be brought through this conflict unscathed; the old stars and stripes will float over free peoples that for centuries have been held in bondage, and every nation on the face of the globe will have been taught that great are the United States of America.

THE CALAMITY HOWLER.

The Eugene Guard, which is the leading democratic paper in Western Oregon, complains that immigration is being driven away from Lane county by reason of the calamity stories of certain individuals in and about Eugene. The Guard advocates the calling of an indignation meeting for the purpose of publicly denouncing and, holding up to public scorn these people who drive away immigration by this reprehensible practice. We of Douglas county are in a position to sympathize with Lane county, not so much on account of the insane calamity howling of individuals, although we have enough of that to contend with, but from the further and more important fact that we have in this county a newspaper which is continuously publishing to the world a pack of infamous lies in regard to the conditions in Douglas county and the state of Oregon. No one can estimate the amount of damage which has been done to Douglas county by the fact that this so-called newspaper has continually, for months past, in almost every issue, bewailed the poverty and distress which it claims exists among the farmers and business men of Douglas county. Immigration will not stop in a community where the farmers are unable to make a living, and where the business men are on the verge of bankruptcy. If there is any ground for such infamous slanders against a country and its people it would be different, although it is an ill bird that will foul its own nest, but there is absolutely no reason for this slander.

No other locality in the United States can produce so great a variety of the necessaries of life which are produced from the soil, the forests, the mines, and the seas and rivers, as can Western Oregon, and today the farmers of Douglas county are harvesting such a variety of crops of such magnificent abundance, as would make an Eastern agriculturist open his eyes in wonder. One of the leading merchants of Roseburg, who has been in business here almost so long that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, informs us that he has had, during the present summer, the best trade that he has had for ten years, and that the farmers have had more money this summer than for years; that they are getting out of debt and making new purchases, as they had not done for years. We concur with the Guard in saying that the individual or newspaper that, under these conditions, will persist in spreading evil reports in regard to the country and its conditions, is a public enemy and should be suppressed.—Roseburg Plaindealer.

The truth of the matter is, the Eugene Guard has been one of the rankest calamity-howling, ranting, anarchistic-sympathizing, poverty-bewailing, ruination-proclaiming, socialistic sheets printed in this fair state, and its utterances for more than two years, to our certain knowledge, have been continuously of the character on which it now turns its back, and scorns. We need not go so far away from home as Eugene to find a spirit of exactly the same nature as that frowned down and condemned by the Guard, but if that paper now sees the error of its way, and is honest in its condemnation, let it cease its howling, and by its future acts and words turn an honest face, and thus prove the truth of its pretentions.

It is reported that a number of farmers in the country have become tired of waiting for county roads and are building their own roads. This shows the enterprise that will win in the long run.—Astorian. Enterprise is at all times and places to be commended, and in instances where private individuals are forging ahead in this very important and absorbing matter, their acts are worthy of extraordinary praise. We pay tax each year for the purpose of having our roads improved, but the amounts thus paid are inadequate to the demands, and if we hope ever to get relief from the bad condition of our thoroughfares we must display, to a certain extent, the same helping-ourselves spirit as mentioned in the extract from the Astorian. It is nevertheless uphill business to undertake such a thing, because some will assist and others will not, and the whole burden falls upon a few shoulders. The spirit is commendable, but will not suffice as a general crusade against impassable roads. We must first amend our road laws, compelling road and property road tax to be paid in cash to the tax collector, and exempt no property or nothing from this tax, and then we will have but started on the right course to improve the highways. The haphazzard, slip-shod, go-as-you-please method of working roads now in vogue will never be a success or a credit, and the sooner it is relegated to the past and a more progressive and business-like method adopted the sooner we will have better roads and the sooner will the rural districts be benefitted.

Current conditions remind us that the hop-picking season is at hand—a season of outing for women and girls as much as it is a season of profitable employment; for many times the hop-pickers return home after the fields have been gleaned with more than their experience—but the latter is not always fruitful of pleasant remembrance. Cupid seldom goes to the hop-fields; but his counterfeit is generally there with a quiver full of poisoned arrows. Occurrences reported last year as results of love-making under the burrs of the hopvine ought to have taught parents a salutary lesson. Young girls, old enough to look askance at the shapely swain, but to immature to be permitted to pursue their feverish fancies unattended, easily got into trouble—trouble in some cases which sorrowed the parents and disgraced the subjects of such adventures. One of the lasses who thought that Cupid had touched her tender heart with the shaft of love was soon deserted by her wicked deceiver. Other cases, similar in their inception, might be cited—one in which a 17-year-old girl of a Portland east side suburb is now the mother of a papaless babe; but this intimation of the awful consequences of the recklessness of unattended girls in the hop-fields ought to be sufficient to remind parents that it is almost criminal folly to turn their daughters loose in the fields with a lot of precocious lads and vicious young men. Don't do it.

We believe it is reasonable to say the recent war had a demoralizing effect upon the lumber and logging industry, and since hostilities have ceased and peace reigns again it may be properly and confidently expected that an immediate further revival in that line of trade will take place. At the time of our relations with Spain becoming strained there was a moderately fair demand for available timber lands, but the war had its bad effects on that commodity, and buying ceased almost entirely. Notwithstanding the fact, however, there has continued a fairly good price for sawlogs, and as nearly as can be ascertained the present prevailing price is from $4 to $5.50 per thousand. Dozens of camps are in operation now, where only a couple of years ago few logs were being put in, and in consequence of this activity hundreds of men now find employment at fair, if not good wages. The logging and lumber outlook at present is not discouraging; instead, it bears out very forcibly the fact that renewed activity, with better demand and better wages, is at hand.

The republicans of California have nominated Hon. H. T. Gage for governor, and Wisconsin republicans have renominated Governor Scholfield.

AGRICULTURAL COURTSHIP.

A potato went out on a mash,
And sought an onion bed;
"That's not for me," observed the squash,
And all the beets turned red;
"Go 'way!" the onion, weeping, cried,
"Your love I cannot be;
The pumpkin be your lawful bride;
You cantaloupe with me."

But onward still the tuber came,
And laid down at her feet;
"You cauliflower by any name,
And it will smell as sweet;
And I, too, am an early rose,
And you I've come to see;
So don't turn up your lovely nose,
But spinachal with me!"

"I do not carrot all to wed,
So go, sir, if you please!"
The modest onion meekly said,
"And lettuce, pray, have peas!
Go, think that you have never seen
Myself, or smelled by sigh;
Too long a maiden I have been
For favors in your eye!"

"Ah, spare a cuss!" the tuber prayed;
"My cherryshed bride you'll be!
You are the only weeping maid
That's currant now with me!"
And as the wily tuber spoke,
He caught her by surprise,
And giving her an artichoke,
Devoured her with his eyes.—Selected.

Poultry as Insect Destroyers.

There is one valuable advantage in the keeping of poultry on the farm which is usually overlooked, and that is the vast number of insects destroyed by poultry. If every insect caught by a hen in one day could be counted, and an estimate made for a number of insects eaten by a flock of twenty-five hens, it would be shown that hens are more useful in that respect than may be supposed. When busily engaged scratching she secures many grubs and worms, while the larvae of insects also assist in providing them with food. A flock of turkeys will search every nook and corner of a field for insects, and as the turkey can consume a large amount of food it will find it if it can be had. They will clear a tobacco field of the green worms more thoroughly than can any number of persons that may attempt such a disagreeable job. The active guinea is ever on the alert searching the fields for insects. It does not scratch, but every blade of grass is looked over, and it rarely comes to the barn to seek food. Its industry prompts it to secure its own food, and in so doing hundreds of insects are destroyed. The ravenous duck, whose appetite never seems satisfied, will attempt to seek enough in the field, and it captures not the insects, but field mice and small reptiles, also small lizards, toads and the little garter snakes will be eaten by ducks and geese if other food is not plentiful; but if insects abound they will be content with eating them in preference to anything else. The goose also is an excellent forager and does good service.

If we will but consider that the work of poultry is from early morn until sunset, and consider that this work continues throughout the whole season, the number of insects destroyed will appear too great for estimation, and this valuable service on the part of poultry should be counted in with the profits in its favor, for while killing off the insects they are not only saving the crops but also reducing the cost of their own subsistence as well as keeping in better health and condition than under any other method that can be devised for them. So give the hen and other fowls all the liberty possible, for if they do occasionally damage a plant or two it will be but a small matter in comparison with the benefits conferred.—Lewiston Journal.

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