

THE OBSERVER

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NEED OF RURAL CREDITS.

There is a sensible medium between that over-estimated opinion that places the farmer as the lord of creation and the equally absurd under-estimation that the farmer is the serf of all and that he leads a life of toil without recompense. In sifting it all out, however, it is shown that the tiller of the soil as a rule is the most poorly paid and receives a smaller return on his investment than those of nearly all other occupations. The subject is carefully reviewed in an editorial by Frank Irvine in the Oregon Journal, who says: The farmers of Oregon, except in especially favored districts, do not earn \$1 a day and two per cent on their investments.

This is a conclusion reached from data secured through a survey by the state agricultural college. Knowledge of the situation among them, is the cause of the movement among farmers of the state for a rural credits system. It will be difficult for any important opposition to develop to their plan. The farms are the basis of the state's prosperity. They are the wealth makers. The timber and mines and salmon are all of importance, but they are subordinate. Oregon is emphatically an agricultural state and must place its chief reliance for prosperity upon agriculture.

The farmers say their great handicap is lack of money on long time and low interest to improve their lands, lower their overhead expense and bring their fields into the highest state of productivity. They are the best judges of their needs, and there will be few to dispute their claims. They have prepared a constitutional amendment for a rural credits system, and petitions for placing it on the November ballot are already in circulation. The plan will be before the electorate for adoption or rejection, and people in all lines of industry will have a voice in the verdict.

The farmers' progress is the state's progress. The farmers' prosperity is the state's prosperity, and less than two per cent return on their investments is not prosperity for Oregon farmers. These are facts that should weigh heavily with all citizens when the time comes for them to cast their ballots on the farmers' rural credits amendment.

LEARN TO WALK.

Recently a Cincinnati theatrical man underwent a course of training in a military camp. Writing to a friend of his experiences, this gentleman said: "The instructor finds new and un-

used muscles in the rookies every day and thinks up more combinations of movements to drill us in, as he says, "To teach you co-ordination."

"The most remarkable development of our anatomy is our feet; they certainly do spread and even an extra large shoe becomes too small. Great emphasis is placed on the proper style and size of shoe and I can truly say the thing is not exaggerated."

That many of the students of militarism should find the task of marching about producing enlargement of feet indicates that like most Americans these gentlemen have been making too little use of their feet and have been placing entirely too much dependence in transportation systems when getting about.

Americans do not walk enough. Some of them seem to have a positive aversion to walking. There are countless instances observable where young men ride two or three blocks by street car rather than trudge to their feet for that trifling distance. The result is a virtual crippling of the feet and destruction of the power to travel far without assistance.

Probably one of the best aids to "preparedness" this summer would be wholesome, general organization of walking clubs in every city and town in the United States and the taking of frequent extended "hikes." The man trained to walk well and far is ready to become a soldier if need be and is made a harder, healthier, and better citizen. And even a pacifist can afford to join a walking club since in doing so he will only benefit himself without compromising his principles.

The president has issued specifications for standardizing the flag, which is a reminder that O'ld Glory is about the oldest standard of our today and that for attracting appearance, as well as symbolism, it is unsurpassed.

A New York court has decided that those dependent on a workman who loses his life trying to rescue a fellow laborer are entitled to compensation, which is an encouraging specimen of common sense and social justice.

An aged army horse is to be retired on a pension. There are men approaching the end of their industrial usefulness who might yearn to be horsed or to belong to the army.

Logged-Off Land Problem

The logged-off land conference held under the auspices of the University of Washington in Seattle, May 26, brought out a large number of people, including many lumbermen interested in this important subject.

Speakers brought out much of interest relative to the ever growing logged-off land problem.

Governor Lister was among the speakers. He spoke first of the importance of the problem in relation to Western Washington in particular. He told briefly of the work which the state once considered for helping the small land clearer, that of establishing a powder mill where the small owner could buy powder cheap enough to make land clearing economical. Governor Lister declared that it is absolutely necessary that means be found to reduce the price of powder. The governor said that logged-off lands unsuitable for agriculture should not be sold for that purpose, but should be re-forested.

One of the most important papers read at the conference was that by Prof. Bart P. Kirkland of the University of Washington on the economic status or re-forestation. Mr. Kirkland presented what in his opinion were practical sides of the logged-off land problem. He said in part:

Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon the importance of the continued utilization of our poorer lands for for-

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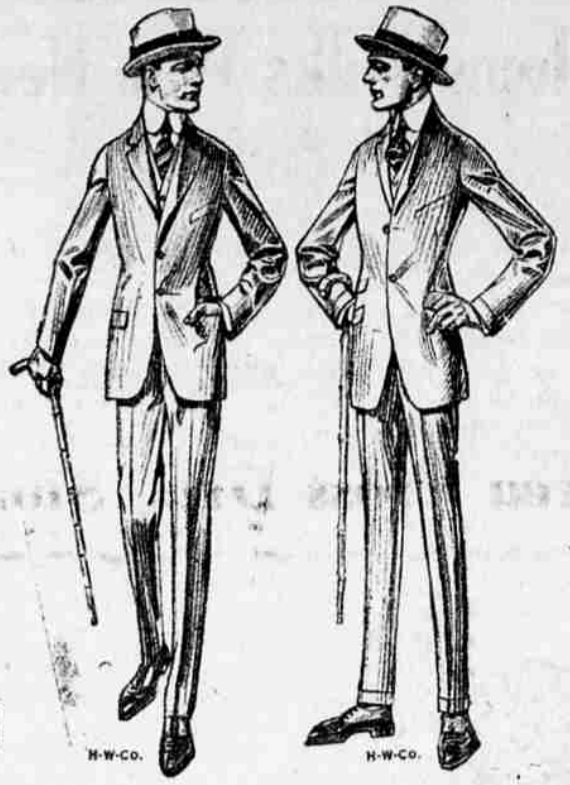
Hirsch Wickwire Suits \$20 to \$30 West's Special Suits . . . \$15.00

different from other suits in their up-to-dateness, fine fitting qualities, and special values. Our store is full of these good suits for men—Come in and try some on.

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est production, if for no other reason than for the effect on the adjacent agricultural lands. Outside of these agricultural lands lay hilly, or other non-productive lands so far as agriculture is concerned, except for the poor grazing that can be obtained from them. It is a fact that under grazing use these lands can produce only a few cents per acre per annum in net value of product. Forest use will give much greater returns, but whether the net results from forestry are great or not, the utilization of these lands for forestry purposes is all important to the agricultural lands lying along side. This is true for the following reasons:

The forest use of land requires a great deal of labor. The average acre of forest soil in Western Washington will produce 1,000 board feet of timber per annum if all products are counted. It is a well known fact that the logging and manufacture of 1,000 feet of timber requires the paying out of an average of \$8 for wages. If such care is taken of the forest as is required under forest production, additional sums are paid out in wages, and if manufacture is carried to much higher manufactured products than lumber, still more must be paid out. Altogether \$10 a thousand would be a modest estimate of the labor costs of growing, logging and manufacturing a thousand feet of timber which the average acre will yield annually. Although the timber is not an annual crop, the proper organization of forest lands gets the same result by making it possible to cut on one part of an area under management an amount equivalent to what grows on the whole area. Every acre kept in permanent forest production will yield annually the equivalent of \$10 in wages, not to say anything of the possible profits to the land owner. Grazing will yield about 50 cents in wages on large areas. Consider the effect of this in a valley such as that of North Fork of the Stillaguamish River in Snohomish county. The agricultural land in this valley does not average more than one mile in width for a distance of twenty miles in the upper part of the valley; but the forest land in the foot hills of the mountains average perhaps two miles along each side. For perhaps 10,000 acres of agricultural land in this valley there is then over 40,000 acres of land which could be used only for forestry and properly organized so that on certain parts of the area there can be cut each year an equivalent amount to what grows on the whole area, the timber production of this non-agricultural land would amount to close to forty million feet annually, which involves a wage payment of \$10 per thousand, or \$40,000. It is hardly necessary to show in detail the effect on the so of the agricultural land in that valley of paying out \$40,000 in wages alongside it. In the first place, the demand for labor in the valley will make it possible for every farmer to get all the work he wants in the seasons when his farming does not require his attention, because the forest labor can be carried on just as well in the winter as in the summer season. This will in itself finance in time the clearing of all the agricultural land. In the second place, the care and utilization of the forest land would require a large amount of additional labor. The logging and manufacture of this forty million feet, if carried on annually as suggested would require the continuous labor of something like four hundred men. It might therefore call to the valley four hundred additional families or taking the usual estimate of five persons to the family, two thousand additional people. The effect of the use of this adjacent forest land on the agricultural lands will be to create an enormous local market, which in turn demands more labor to supply, so these demands react and interact with each other until a balance is reached. Without the forest the safest products which such a valley can produce are dairy and meat products. The vegetable products such as produced under intensive farming, cannot be grown and shipped to our centers of population in competition with those grown in immediate proximity to those cen-

ters and California vegetables. The same is more or less true of the product of small fruits, for the present at least, this production in many lines has been greatly overdone. It is clear that the continuance of forest production on the poorer lands is of very first direct importance to the agriculture of the better lands, and, in fact, almost absolutely essential to intensive use, which is necessary to pay interest on the heavy cost of land clearing. It will support the land owner by outside labor while his lands are being cleared, thus financing the clearing, and it will supplement his income and make him an impregnable local market after the clearing is completed.

Forest Notes

It is estimated that there is enough waste from the sawmills of the South alone to produce twenty thousand tons of paper a day.

Oiled paper has been found to be an excellent material for packing tree seedlings, when shipped in crates. When crates are not used, paper-lined burlap makes a particularly satisfactory wrapper.

The value of livestock dying from disease on the National Forest ranges in 1915 was less than \$200,000. A majority of the cattlemen are now vaccinating their stock for blackleg, one of the chief loss-causing cattle diseases of the West, and thus preventing the serious losses of the past.

Because of the heavy snowfall last winter, Forest rangers found it necessary this spring to remove two feet of snow from the Beaver Creek Nursery in Utah, so that the young trees might be uncovered by the time they were needed for spring planting on the National Forests of that region. Part of the snow was taken off by use of shovel and pick. By spreading a thin layer of fine soil over another part, the natural melting of the snow was hastened sufficiently to make shoveling unnecessary.

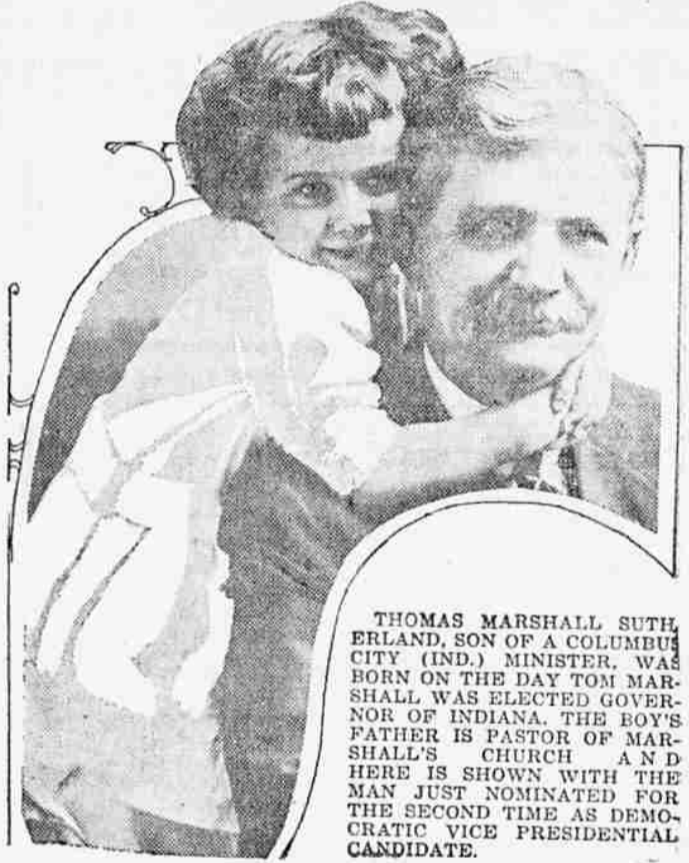
Beauchamp Has Traveled Thirty-three Years Delivering Lectures.

Lon J. Beauchamp is the humorist who makes you think, the thinker who makes you laugh. He is the sunshine man of the Coast. Like a rare vintage, his wealth of wholesome good



dear grows richer with the passing of the years. This veteran humorist has traveled over a million miles in Europe and America, preaching the gospel of sunshine. Right now he is in the midst of this popularity. This is his thirty-third year on the American platform, and it bids fair to prove the recent year of his career.

"I HOPE YOU'RE RE-ELECTED," SAYS TOM MARSHALL'S NAMESAKE!



THOMAS MARSHALL SUTHERLAND, SON OF A COLUMBUS CITY (IND.) MINISTER, WAS BORN ON THE DAY TOM MARSHALL WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR OF INDIANA. THE BOY'S FATHER IS PASTOR OF MARSHALL'S CHURCH AND HERE IS SHOWN WITH THE MAN JUST NOMINATED FOR THE SECOND TIME AS DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE---By Condo



The Careful man does not fear adversity

ARE YOU A BRICK-LAYER? IF YOU ARE YOU KNOW THAT ONE BRICK ON TOP OF ANOTHER FINALLY BUILDS A HOUSE TO PROTECT AND SHELTER. THAT IF YOU ARE NOT A BRICK-LAYER YOU KNOW YOU A FORTUNE THAT WILL SOME DAY PROTECT AND SHELTER YOU FROM ADVERSITY. PILE UP YOUR MONEY IN THE BANK AND BUILD A FORTUNE.

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