

**FRUIT BROKERS SAY FRUIT IS INFERIOR THIS YEAR**

W. Dennis & Sons, fruit brokers, of London, in their latest report on the apple market, say:

"We have now seen the first arrival of Oregon Newtowns on this market and have to report with much regret that the quality of the fruit is inferior to what it has been in previous years. It may be, however, that the earlier arrivals are the greener fruit and color may be expected with subsequent arrivals. We sincerely hope this may be so, as the fruit we have seen does not stand out sufficiently to command the attention of the best trade.

"There have been on the market this week 2000 or 3000 boxes of Oregon Newtowns which were considerably finer fruit than that from your district, notwithstanding which they were sold by our neighbors at the low price of from 9 to 12 shillings per box, a price which, in our opinion, was too low, but which has had the effect of attracting the buyers away from the lower quality Oregon fruit. We are strongly of opinion that there is nothing to be gained by forcing sales, and we therefore refrain from pushing out the stuff at a lower price than that which we think it ought to command.

"The trade for apples continues bad. Supplies up to now have been in excess of the demand, and the market has never been clear. We cannot think that this can last much longer. Barrel apple stock, both in Ontario and America, is in much smaller supply than has been anticipated, while prices in New York and other American towns are such that we do not think it probable that much of that stock will be seen on this side of the water. This will drive the trade to the boxed fruit, and we expect therefore after the turn of the new year to see box fruit in much better demand.

"Pears are in very fair demand, one particular variety of Comice meeting with an excellent sale. We have today had a big lot of these Oregon Comices through our hands, and have sold at prices ranging from 16 to 21 shillings per half box."

**"BUMBLE-PUPPY" IS TAFT'S VERBAL HIT**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President-elect Taft having committed himself to "my policies," salutes President Theodore Roosevelt, and, without desiring to detract from the fame of "molly-coddle," "licked to a frazzle" and other Rooseveltian coinages, offers "bumble-puppy."

It came out spontaneously—"bumble-puppy!" just like that—and Mr. Taft applied it to himself, so it's safe. He was speaking of his chat during the day with Walter J. Travis, the crack golfer. "It was just such a talk on golf as you would expect between an expert on the one hand and a man who plays like a bumble-puppy."

Following are the definitions of "bumble-puppy":

Standard Dictionary—Whist played unscientifically or regardless of rules.

Century Dictionary—One who imagines he can play whist and undertakes to do so.

Mr. Taft is the pioneer in introducing the word for more general application than dictionaries allow.

**PHONOGRAPH WITNESS IN POLICE COURT FIRST TIME**

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 22.—For the first time in legal history a phonograph was accepted as a witness in a court today. Largely because of the talking machine's clear and convincing testimony, Magistrate G. H. Sogland held C. A. Rumstay on the charge of assaulting Mrs. John E. Hinds. The phonograph's testimony, delivered in three voices, with a piano prelude, ran like this:

First, music on the piano—then a pause—where—r—r—r—No I will not give up the phonograph—You shall not have it—I bought it and paid for it—I will have it, she had no right to sell it—let it alone—Oh—my heavens—let go of me, oh—oh—coward, did you strike a woman? Are you hurt Mrs. Hinds—wherr—r—r—r—Oh, he's killed me, Run get a policeman."

Mrs. Hinds lives in Taggart street, North Side. A Mrs. Rhinehart used to live in the same house. Rumstay either sold a phonograph to Mrs. Rhinehart or left in her care; and she sold the instrument to Mrs. Hinds. A blank record was put in the phonograph to reproduce a solo which Mrs. Ella Rittenhouse, a friend of Mrs. Hinds, played on the piano.

While Mrs. Rittenhouse was playing Rumstay entered the apartment and demanded the phonograph. Mrs. Hinds testified and Mrs. Rittenhouse corroborated her, that she explained to Rumstay that she bought the phonograph from Mrs. Rhinehart. Mrs. Hinds and Mrs. Rittenhouse swore that Rumstay wanted to take the machine away. Mrs. Hinds refused to give it up and, they alleged, Rumstay struck her, and knocked her down. Mrs. Rittenhouse sprang from the seat at the piano to help Mrs. Hinds, and did not stop the phonograph which continued grinding away and recording the excited conversation and the women's screams.

F. M. Werel, of Jump Off Joe mining district, was a recent visitor in town. He says they are steadily at work on their mining properties in which W. L. Dow and McMillan are interested in Josephine county.

**THE BABY.**

Always a Matter of Doubt as to Whom He Resembles.

"ISN'T he a darling, Lucy?" said Mrs. Youngmother, who was showing her firstborn to a former college chum. "Do you think that he looks like me? I don't, but mamma thinks his eyes are a good deal like mine, and you can see that his mouth is precisely like his father's, and he has the real Burton nose, and he reminds me a good deal of his Uncle Jack, my brother, you know, in the shape of his ears, and his general expression always makes me think of his Grandpa Burton, while his Grandmother Younglove says that he looks precisely as his father looked at his age. His chin is just like his Grandfather Burton's, and when he laughs he reminds me of my sister Lou, and mamma says that when he cries he puckers up his mouth exactly the way I did at his age, but I think that the older he grows the more he looks like my brother Ned; then again I think he doesn't look like any one but myself. Of course it is always a matter of doubt who or what a baby six weeks old will look like."—Puck.

**A Word For the Kaiser.**  
"There's wan t'ing," remarked Mr. Rafferty thoughtfully, "to be said in favor of the kaiser."

"An' what's that?" asked Mr. Dolan suspiciously.  
"He took the trouble to put his remarks into German, so that no one would understand 'em unless they went to the pains of havin' 'em translated, in which case it's largely their own fault."—Washington Star.

**So Cheering.**  
"I hear your brother William has been unfortunate, Mrs. Meenwell. I suppose you have been over to cheer him up?"

"Yes, I had a nice long visit with him and made him see that he has nobody to blame for his troubles but himself."—Kansas City Times.

**Couldn't Get Away From Him.**  
Howell—I understand that the boat you returned from Europe on broke the record.

Powell—So I heard, but it was the longest trip I ever took—to me. You see, one of my creditors came back by the same boat.—New York Press.

**A Little Learning.**  
Earnest Female—Professor, I hear you are a great ornithologist.

Professor—I am an ornithologist, madam.  
Earnest Female—Then could you kindly tell me the botanical name for a whale?—Boston Transcript.

**Off Guard.**  
"How did it happen that your friends got the best of you?" queried the inquisitive person.

"They got busy while I was watching my enemies," explained the man who had got the short end of it.—Bohemian Magazine.

**Looking For His Pen.**



**Porcupine Bookkeeper—**How annoying! Just a moment ago I stuck my quill pen back of my ear, and now I can't find it!—New York Herald.

**Cordial and Confidential.**  
"How did you get along with Mamma's father?"

"Fine. He said it was all right before I asked him. And then he asked me if I didn't know a few more likely young fellows who would take the rest of his girls."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Old Story.**  
"Wigglesworth has gone broke, has he? I thought he succeeded in raising something on those valuable building lots his father left him."  
"He did. He raised a crop of wild oats on them."—Chicago Tribune.

**Easily Guessed.**  
"So this is your favorite child?"  
"Why do you think he is my favorite child?"  
"He is such a worthless fellow and gives you so much trouble."—Houston Post.

**Measurements.**  
"Father," said little Rodio, "what is meant by a Sabbath day's journey?"  
"I am afraid, my son, that in too many cases it means twice around the golf links."—Washington Star.

**The Awakening.**  
He said she was an angel.  
Direct from heaven above,  
And so indeed she seemed to him,  
For he was much in love.

He said she was an angel.  
Too chaste for mortal ken,  
Too fair, too good, too pure for earth,  
And really thought so—then?

He said she was an angel.  
A perfect seraphim,  
But she blushed now to go,  
You see, she married him!—  
—New York Press.

**WEST vs SCHOLTES WRESTLING CONTEST**

At The Medford Opera House Xmas Afternoon at 3:30

Style, Catch as Catch can, 3 Out of 5 Falls. Admission 50, 75, \$100

Tickets on Sale at Haskins Drug Store

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Nothing more appropriate for him than

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A Cast of Brilliant Excellence.  
"Seldom has such a typically western comedy been created."—Milwaukee Sentinel.  
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ANOTHER "ARIZONA" Absolutely Void of Gun Play Intensely Exciting!

Prices 25, 50, 75, \$1.00

**AGAIN.**

Grand holiday excursion. Round trip tickets \$16, good for 15 days, baggage checked, return allowed any time within limit. Ashland to San Francisco, leaving Saturday, December 26, 1908, on regular overland train at 11:35 a. m. Sixty or more excursionists will make the fare \$15.

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**City Business Directory**

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MEDFORD TEA AND COFFEE HOUSE—Specialists in Tea, Coffees, Extracts, Baking Powder and Spices. We carry all kinds of dinner ware and fancy dishes. 216 W. Seventh St. Medford, Or.	DR. FRANK ROBERTS Dentist Office hours: 8 to 12, 1 to 4. Miles Building, Seventh Street, Medford, Oregon.	C. F. COOK Sells trees that grow. Office: R. R. V. Depot. P. O. Box 841. Phone 593. Medford, Or.
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When others fail, call on DR. E. J. BONNER Eye Specialist Office in Eagle Pharmacy Main 233. Seventh and Main	For good bargains in Watches and Jewelry, Pistols, Musical Instruments, go to THE MEDFORD LOAN OFFICE C Street.	S. B. SEELY, M. D. Physician and Surgeon Modern equipped operating rooms X-Ray. Office hours: 10-12, 2-4 p. m. Office in Jackson Co. Bk. bldg
THE HOTEL EMBERICK Rooms from 50 cents to \$1.50 per day. All modern conveniences. We solicit your patronage.	MEDFORD FURNITURE CO. Undertakers Day Phone 353 Night Phones—C. W. Conklin 36 J. H. Butler 148	JACK FREDENBURG Scavenger. Garbage hauled. Medford.
VALLEY AUTO CO. have opened their new garage and repair shop back of the Moore hotel. Motor cars stored and taken care of. All work guaranteed. Phone No. 3163	DR. R. J. CONROY Successor to Dr. Jones. Office in the Stewart Building.	J. M. KEENE, D. D. S. Dentist Specialist in operative dentistry Painless extraction of teeth.

**BUTTE FALLS ITEMS.**

H. E. Bayden and family of Medford have gone on their homestead to spend the holidays.  
Emmanuel Poole has gone to Jacksonville to visit his family.  
F. V. Medynski passed through the

Falls on his way to his homestead, where he will spend the holidays.  
Hon. H. D. von der Hellen of Wellin was transacting business in Medford on Saturday.

Charles Terrill of Lake Creek was in Brownshoro lately purchasing supplies for his homestead and visiting

his wife's brother, R. H. Bradshaw. The bridge near the old Daley mill is in very bad condition and a serious accident came near being recorded by a narrow escape of one driving over it.  
We have experienced cold snap weather the last week.