

# Oregon City Courier-Herald.

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OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1901

18th YEAR, NO. 46

## CONSOLIDATED IMPLEMENT COMPY

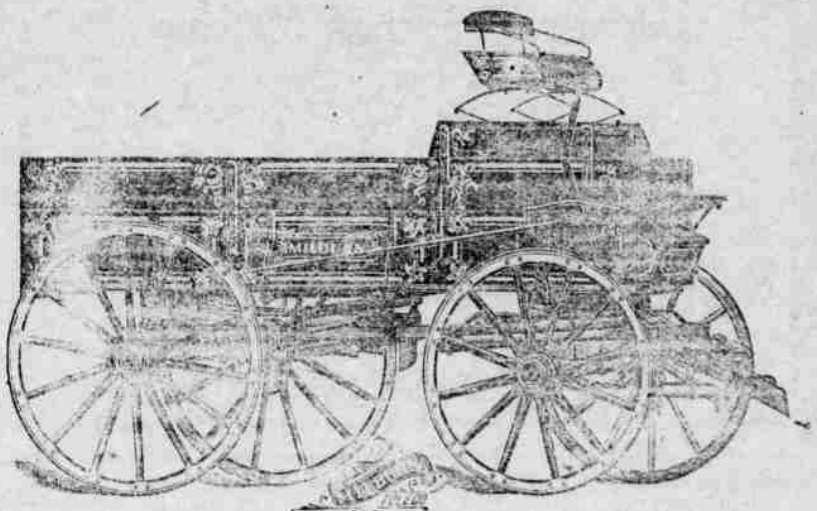
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### TEACHERS' MEETING.

Animals, Trees and New School District Methods Discussed at Mount Pleasant.

A very interesting session of the Clackamas County Teachers' Association was held at Mount Pleasant Saturday, special features being discussed. "Animals of Clackamas County," by Millard Hyatt; "Trees of Clackamas County," by Rev. A. J. Montgomery; a discussion on the changes in the system of school districts, led by Professor T. J. Gary, and an elaborate dinner prepared and served by the ladies of that school district.

Millard Hyatt has evidently made a study of Clackamas county animals from early childhood, and his work as forest ranger in the Cascade mountains, has given him additional opportunities for acquiring more complete information concerning their characteristics. Following is the substance of his lecture in part:

Most of the animals common to this zone are found in Clackamas county, at least, modified forms of them. The cat tribe is well represented in this county, the most formidable being the cougar, which is called the mountain lion in California, panther or painter in the Eastern states. Scientists give only one species of the cougar, but some people claim that there are two kinds. The habits of the animal are such one may be very near him, and not be aware of the monster's presence. Some claim that cougars kill deer for food, while others positively assert that they do not. In habit the cougar is cowardly, and is not dangerous unless thoroughly cornered. Young cougars are very attractive animals, but become cross as they become older under domestication. The lynx and wild or box cat differ in that the former has a long tuft of hair on the back of the head, and a fringe of hair around the jaws. They live on birds and small animals. The black bear is the most common animal of that family found in Clackamas county. It eats that part of the deer left after the cougar is through with it. The brown bear also, is found in Clackamas county, but is known that it never takes on much flesh. These two varieties of the bear have feet shaped something after the form of the human foot. The cinnamon has occasionally been found here, but it has entirely different shaped feet—a flat round foot not classified, resembling that of the cougar. Grizzly bear are said to have been seen on the head waters of the Santiam and Breitenbush in Clackamas county.

The dog family too, is pretty well represented. The gray wolf is the largest, and is found in the foothills, but usually keep out of sight. It has a very large foot of a long-pointed shape. There are two kinds of gray wolves found in this county. A few red foxes are found here. The coyote is well known, and is a keen

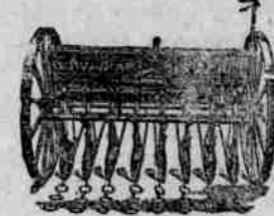
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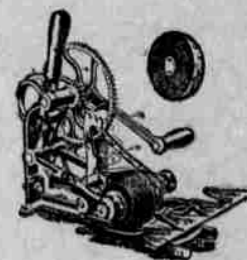
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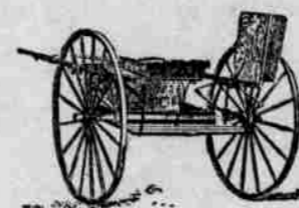
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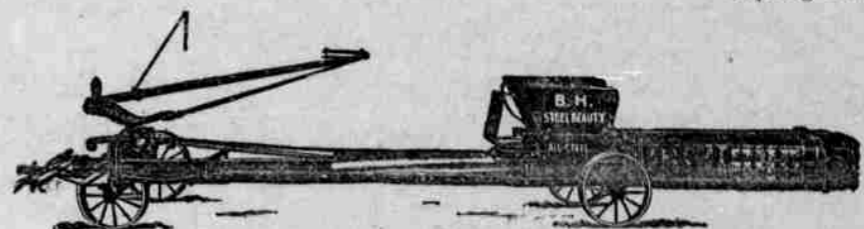
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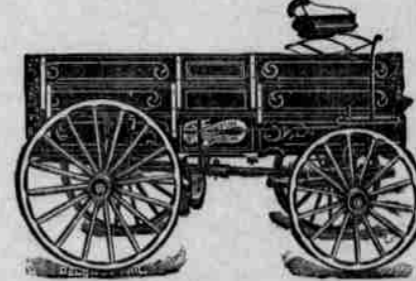
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and intelligent animal. Some times two of them will chase deer, one taking a respite while the other does active duty.

The members of the weasel family found here are the otter, pine martin, mink, weasels and skunks. The otter has a beautiful fur; lives near the water, and sometimes takes toboggan slides, several at a time into the water. The pine martin is found in the woods and heavy timber. The mink is not so much of an amphibian animal as the otter. It is interesting to observe the weasel chase a rabbit. While the rabbit apparently gains in the race, the weasel follows the track by smell, keeping his nose close to the ground, finally running the former down. The weasels are very bloodthirsty animals. The skunk is a very beautiful animal, but a true weasel. There are three varieties here, large spotted, small black and large striped.

The rodents are very numerous with long curved, chisel-pointed teeth, which continue to grow during life. There are still a great many beaver in the mountain streams, and willows can be found with the bark peeled off, the handwork of the beaver. It is not believed that the beavers ever engaged very extensively in dam building, although evidences of the past work exist. It is likely that most of their house building is done in cold climates. Rodents are double-mouthed, with of set of grinding teeth separated by a valve-like formation from the front or cutting teeth. The porcupines evidently immigrated here from Eastern Oregon, and their barbed-shape quills hid underneath long, brownish hair are dangerous in effect unless soon extracted from the parts where they were thrown. Another member of the rodent family is the woodrat, whose peculiarities are well known. A species of mouse is common to the mountains, differing from the ordinary house variety. The large gray squirrel frequents the Mollala country, where oak timber is plentiful, and are protected by legislative enactment. Other varieties are the pine squirrel, chipmunk, gray digger, and a variety larger than the pine squirrel found in the foothills or mountains. The latter travels after night, and partakes of the nature of the flying squirrel. There is only one species of bat; the mole lives on earth worms, and its fine fur is noted for not turning the wrong way. Marmots, also are found in this county.

Deer exist in Clackamas county, and bands of elk are occasionally seen in its boundaries. The deer annually sheds its horns at this season of the year, and the antlers or horns again attain their full growth in September. When the horns are growing on the deer hide in the deep wooded canyons, but as they become fully developed come out to the elevated locations.

County Superintendent Zinser stated that the savagery of many animals depended on food and climatic conditions. Thus in the rocky mountains where food was a scarcity the grizzly bear and the cougar were naturally very bloodthirsty animals; also that it was necessary for the beaver in cold climates to build habitations. L. H. Andrews told of an old resident in the Nehalem

country, who said that he had seen beaver sharpening each others teeth. One was lying on his back and the beaver above was rubbing his upper teeth against the lower set of the other, thus grinding them down to a sharp point.

### CHANGE IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

On the program for discussion was the following: "Resolved, That the Present District System Should be Abolished." Affirmative, T. J. Gary and Ara McLaughlin; and Alex Thomson and W. H. Karr on the negative. None of the negative contestants were present, but the affirmative arguments were presented by Professor Gary and Ara McLaughlin. The former stated that our present district system was not perfect; that good teachers have been turned out of positions on account of jealousy on the part of members of the board. He suggested that these conditions might be remedied if five or more districts were placed under the direction of one board of directors. There might be three or five. If the directors had a larger territory, better men might be induced to accept the places, realizing that it is a position of honor. He would not destroy the present system of school districts, but would only have the primary grades taught in each separate district, and all above the seventh grade could attend a central or high school conveniently situated for all the districts. The principal of the high school could superintend the primary schools, and a more uniform system could thus be secured. His plan was to have the board of five directors levy the annual tax, which would do away with considerable wrangling over the annual tax levy. Mr. McLaughlin called attention to the fact that this system was already in vogue in different states, and the results were gratifying. George Strickland thought the present arrangement of districts was good enough for Oregon. Professor H. D. Wilcox favored the township idea; that the present district system originated in New England. For effect, Robert Ginther championed the negative side of the question.

### TREES OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY.

Rev. A. Montgomery's lecture on the trees of Clackamas county should be printed in book form for the instruction of the youth of the country. The lecture was delivered from notes, and it is regretted that more of it could not be secured for this issue. There are 60 deciduous trees in Clackamas county, but the speaker left those out of the short lecture given. Out of the 34 conifer varieties on the coast, 20 grow in Clackamas county. From an economic point of view the cone-bearing evergreen trees are the most valuable of all. Figures were given showing their special value, and the advantages of studying economic botany. The yew is the peer of any finishing tree in Oregon, and also is durable—valuable for posts. The Western hemlock is of considerable economic value. The so-called cedar in this county is not cedar. The genuine fir is the most beautiful of any tree of the family, with its symmetrical limbs, fully developed leaves and cones always growing upward. The proper name for the so-called larch is the noble fir, and the most commonly called fir tree is the Douglas spruce.

The speaker, also showed that vegetation affected our climatic conditions; that while cutting off the timber might not lessen the rainfall, scientists claimed that the storms would be more severe, when the country should become denuded of its timber to a great extent. The forest reserves should be preserved. Children should be taught the proper names of trees, and trees should be planted on school grounds in order to induce them to become interested in their study.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES.

An excellent program of recitations and musical number was given by the pupils of Mount Pleasant school, under the direction of the teachers, Professor G. T. McArthur and Miss Maud Kidder. In addition to the several musical numbers were recitations by Percy Kidder, Lucille Evans, Ruby McCord, Melba Kidder, Wilma Myers, Frank Clark, Ethyle Titus, and an organ solo by Ino Myers.

Fred Meindl, chairman of the appointed committee on resolutions, reported a vote of thanks to the people of Mount Pleasant and the teachers of the school for their excellent entertainment of the teachers, and to Rev. A. J. Montgomery for his interesting address on trees.

Among the teachers in attendance were the following: Ara McLaughlin, Kathryn Gasto, Milwaukie; Robert Ginther, Phillip Messenger, Shubel; L. T. Anderson, Garas; Eva Todd, Elliott Prairie; T. H. McCann, Parkplace; T. J. Gary, West Oregon City; H. D. Wilcox, W. P. Mathews, Marjorie Canfield, Eva Meldrum, Mrs. D. H. Glass, Fred Meindl, Margaret Williams, Cora Wingfield, Mrs. J. C. Zinser, Florence Patty, Erna Lawrence, Huldah Holden, Cora Wingfield, Harriet Case, the Misses Mochnke, Elsie Gibbs, Superintendent J. C. Zinser and Secretary Fannie G. Porter, Oregon City; Millard Hyatt, Williamette Falls; George Strickland, Mackaburg.

A stranger coming to Oregon City would hardly realize that just outside the city limits was a flourishing school, situated in the richest agricultural section of Oregon on a level plateau.

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