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FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1897.

AGENTS FOR THE ENTERPRISE.

Beaver Creek,	Dr. T. B. Thomas
Canby,	Geo. Knight
Clackamas,	A. Mather
Milwaukie,	Oscar Wissinger
Union Mills,	G. J. Trullinger
Meadow Brook,	Chas Holman
New Era,	W. S. Newberry
Wilsonville,	Henry Miley
Park Place,	F. L. Russell
Gladstone,	T. M. Cross
Stafford,	J. Q. Gage.
Mulino,	C. T. Howard
Carus,	R. M. Cooper
Molalla,	Annie Stubbs.
Marquam,	E. M. Hartman
Sutterville	B. Jennings
Aurora,	Henry A. Snyder
Orville,	L. J Perdue
Eagle Creek,	H. Wilbern
Damascus,	J. C. Elliott
Sandy,	F. Goetsch
Salmon,	Mrs. W. M. McIntyre
Currinsville,	Geo. J. Currin
Cherryville,	Mrs. M. J. Hammer
Marmot,	Adolph Aschoff

☞ The way to build up Oregon City is to give Oregon City people your patronage.

THE WHEAT PROSPECT.

Wheat harvest is practically completed in Clackamas county and threshing is now under way. The quality of the grain is of the very best and it will turn out a fine grade of flour, while the yield is fully up to the average. The area of wheat this year is slightly less than what it has been in former years, owing to the difficulty of seeding last fall by reason of the heavy rains early in the season. The area to spring grain was also cut short by extra heavy rains, so this county will have less bushels of wheat to market than is usually had. At the price now ruling, which is double what it was at this time last year, the wheat crop of 1897 will bring into Clackamas county more cash than any one crop for the past five years and it will be a big factor in bringing about a revival in our financial condition.

As to how high the price of wheat will yet go is problematical, but it scarcely seems possible for it to reach 90 cents here in Oregon and if it does it will hardly go much higher, for the crop in the United States and Canada promises to be unusually large, while Europe's crop will not be so unusually short and Russia's crop will be up to the average. Seeding is now completed in Argentine and Australia and by January they will be on the market with a new crop. The famine in India together with no big surplus supplies left over from last year will tend to hold wheat up to a fair price, but it cannot reach an exhorbitant figure for people will eat less wheat and more of other grain. Even with the big impetus that the present high price will give to seeding, it is scarcely possible for wheat to fall below 60 cents when the crop of next year is to be marketed, so it will be quite safe for our farmers to sow all the wheat they can handle. With the improved machinery at cheaper price and lower rates for other farm expenses, a farmer can now make as much money at 60 cent wheat, as he could a few years ago, when he realized 90 cents and $1.

PROSPEROUS DAYS AT HAND.

In the general business revival which is setting in, in all parts of the United States, it is noticeable that the Pacific coast section is not feeling the impulse so quickly as in the eastern and middle sections. To one not acquainted with the industrial and trade conditions of the Pacific states this would seem strange, especially when our wonderful resources are considered, but when the matter is looked into the question is soon solved.

The inexorable law of trade balances offers a complete explanation of the financial difficulties under which our people are laboring. For the last four years the people of Oregon have been paying out more money than they have taken in, with the result that we now have our resources exhausted and we must wait until we can get the trade balance turned in our favor. Thousands upon thousands of dollars go to the East each year to meet interest charges upon mortgages and bonds and insurance premiums, while hundreds of thousands of dollars more go to pay for agricultural implements, machinery, furniture, clothing, groceries and the hundred other necessaries on the farm and in the home and business house. For bicycles alone there has been nearly $1,000,000 sent out of Oregon in the last four years. By reason of the depreciation in values as well as the almost cessation of sales for some of our commodities we have been unable to meet these demands, as in former years when we had ready sales and big prices for all our products, enabling us each year to hold the balance of trade in our favor. In the last four years the wool crop of Oregon has been sold for nearly one-half less than in former years, while the hop and fruit crop has suffered fully as great a depreciation in value. Wheat has been one-third below the price of former years. Fish, which next to wheat brings us the largest returns, has been low in price and dull sale. Beef cattle, of which we formerly sold hundreds of thousands of head at profitable prices, have scarcely paid for feeding, while the horse market has been completely ruined. The lumber trade, which until these dull times, was one of our most profitable industries, has been almost completely prostrated and for the past four years has brought very little money into Oregon.

That our financial tide is now on the turn is apparent to anyone who will look up the facts and it is a certainty that before many months shall pass we shall have the balance of trade in our favor once more. In the first place we owe less in the East than we did four years ago, the records will bear this out, consequently we have less interest to pay. We have greatly increased our manufactures and in proportion to our population we come much nearer supplying home needs than we did four years ago. Butter, eggs, meat, and other farm products are not imported hardly at all. Our lumber trade is picking up with good prospects for ready sales in the near future. The wool crop is selling for one-third more than last year, while our wheat is double in price and one-half larger in yield than it was one year ago. Hops will be a better yield and considerably higher in price than was had last year. The great boom in the mines will make a good market at remunerative prices for all our dried fruit. Cattle and sheep are looking up in price and so greatly have the herds been depleted that a big jump in prices will soon be witnessed, especially on the latter now that the tariff on wool is restored. There has hardly been a horse raised in the past four years and a colt on the streets of Oregon City, or any other town in Oregon, is so rare as to be a novelty. With the revival in other lines the horse market will come up with a bound. The great revival in the mining industry all over this state, with the gold that will be almost sure to come from Alaska, will be another great factor in bringing a return of prosperity to our people.

Another point in summing up the factors contributing to a renewal of our prosperity is that our people have learned to live within their means and to keep out of debt, thus stopping that most serious of all leaks, the paying of interest. Altogether the signs of the times could not be better for the people of Oregon, and another year we may look for a prosperity such as has not been enjoyed for lo these many years by the people of the Pacific coast.

JAPAN'S AUDACITY.

It has come out that one of the principal reasons why Japan is making such strong opposition to the annexation of the Hawaiian islands to the United States, is that it will effectually preclude foreign vessels from engaging in the trade between the islands and the states. This regulation governing inter-state and coastwise transportation has been in effect ever since the formation of this government and its purpose is to protect and build up our merchant marine. Japan, too, is doing all she can to build up her merchant marine and has made most marvelous progress within the last five years. Her ships are now found in every port of the Pacific ocean and they have come to be more frequent visitors to European ports than are the ships bearing the American flag.

These islands, which bear such a striking resemblance to Great Britian, have an ambition to become the England of the Pacific and to be able to control the commerce of the countries bordering this great ocean. Japan already has a number of vessels engaged in the Hawaiian trade and expects soon to extend the route of their ships to San Francisco so as to share in the profitable trade between Honolulu and this coast. With Hawaii a part of the United States, Japanese, as well as other foreign vessels, would be shut out of the trade between the two countries and this is why the Japs are raising such strenuous objections to our annexation of the islands. The closing of the Hawaiian ports to foreign vessels is why England is also working against annexation for they, too, hope to extend their already profitable trade between Hawaii and this country.

The opposition of Japan, as well as England and other foreign nations, to our annexation of Hawaii will but hasten the day when the stars and stripes shall float over these islands, which by commercial and naval needs, as well as racial affinity, should be a part of the United States.

An important decision has been handed down by the supreme court in the recent session held at Pendleton. It was in the case of McKennon vs. the American Fire insurance company, garnishee. The main point in the case is that of sustaining the validity of the homestead exemption law passed at the session of the legislature for 1893. The appeal grew out of the Cotner insurance case. McKennon garnished the insurance company for a debt owed by Cotner, and the company refused to pay on the grounds that the amount of the policy, about $900, was exempt from execution. The homestead exemption act provides that a free holder may claim exemption to the amount of $1,500. Nearly all the circuit courts of the state have decided that the law is inoperative, but the supreme court has now affirmed the validity of the act. This decision will preclude the collection of all kinds of debts except mortgages where the debtor's property does not exceed $1,500 in value in farm land or town lots. The result of this ruling will be that hundreds of men now able to secure an accommodation loan at the bank or a bill of goods at the store will be refused further credit unless they go to the further trouble of giving a mortgage for security.

It was exceedingly fortunate for Mr. Bryan that he swung around the circle when he did, for with wheat rapidly approaching the dollar mark and silver going the other way with equal speed, it would be very difficult for him to get the farmers of the Willamette valley to give him their presence and their quarters at his meetings. In fact his meetings would now be about as slim as would be his arguments.

In that part of an editorial pertaining to the manner in which the county treasurer conducted the affairs of his office, published in the Enterprise of last week, an error was made in the time he had had the tax money of $10,000 from the Portland General Electric Company, it should have read two instead of ten weeks. It was written two but the compositor mistook the word and in reading the proof the mistake was overlooked. The Enterprise does not wish to willfully do any person an injustice so makes this correction, though so far as a strict fulfillment of the law is concerned Mr. Shade violated it as much in a delay of two weeks as in ten weeks.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

D. C. Ireland who founded the Enterprise and was a resident of Oregon City for several years, is now publishing the Moro Observer and in the last issue of his paper has the following comment to make on the "smoke" theory of the Oregonian:

As old as is the Oregonian it still calls the hazy atmosphere lingering over the mountains of the Pacific Northwest "smoke." This "smoke" is as natural to this latitude as fog is to London. It has been utilized for three years to suck $200,000 annually from the United States treasury as salaries for forestry cranks and the Oregonian uses it as an evidence that the bloody sheepmen of the Waiting Empire are destroying the forests. Bless your ignorant old "ramus;" if it were smoke there had been enough of it to show fires sufficient to have consumed every stick of timber along the coast years ago.

Regarding the inquest which our populist coroner held at Oswego, mention of which was made in the Enterprise of last week, the Iron Worker has the following comment to make:

The law empowers a coroner to use his discretion as to holding an inquest in case of sudden death. The two cases of drowning in Oswego last week were clearly accidental, as Coroner Godfrey could easily have determined without such an elaborate inquest as was held. This officer of the populist persuasion might have saved the county quite a a bill of expense, but, like the crowd of hungry friends who accompanied him from Oregon City to help him out, he was hungry himself.

As to whether it is good policy for a county to pay a bounty on squirrel, gopher, etc., scalps or not is argued as follows by the Statesman:

There is a serious leak of Marion county funds through the bounty rathole that, we believe, ought to be stopped up entirely by the county court.

We called repeated attention to this last year. But, at one of the meetings of the court in the early spring, some of the bounties offered were doubled, and so the drain has been larger during the past several months, we believe, than ever before. It has seemed to us, and it occurs to us now, that the buisness of a county carrying a debt of some eighty thousand of dollars as Marion county does, and in some of the school districts of which a man having $1000 worth of property must pay $34 a year taxes,—that the business of such a county ought to be economically managed, that every item of expenditure ought to be carefully considered and the bill for it examined closely. That is the manner in which individuals must conduct their private affairs. And then the method of paying bounties is subject to objection. It is open to suspicion even though no grounds for it exist. So we believe it would be better at this time for the Marion county court to abolish all bounties. We are sure that even the farming communities, which feel the burden of high taxes severely, would approve this action.

YAQUINA BAY.

Its New Attractions—Deep Sea Fishing Delightful Summer Resort.

Greatly reduced rates are now in effect from Albany, Corvallis and all Southern Pacific points to Yaquina bay and Newport. It may be added that, in addition to its many natural advantages as a summer seaside resort, the Seaside Educational Association will open on August 2 at Newport, in the new auditorium built especially for this purpose, and continue in session for five weeks, thus affording to students, teachers and others a rare opportunity for combining study with pleasure. For full information as to its courses, etc., apply to Mr. S. G. Irvin, president of the association, Newport, Oregon.

The large and commodious tug "Resolute" is again in service on Yaquina bay and will take fishing and other parties to sea and return. The fare for the round trip is only 50 cents.

The Second Regiment band and orchestra has been engaged for the season, and will give daily concerts on the beach and furnish music for the evening hops. Every possible convenience has been arranged for the comfort of guests and the rates at the hotels are very reasonable.

For further information apply to any agent of the Southern Pacific Co., or Oregon Central & Eastern R. R. Co., or address Edwin Stone,
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7-23m2 Corvallis, Or.