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Ben Franklin and Progress.
 About two hundred and five years ago (January 27th) in the city of Boston, Ben Franklin was born.

Throughout the country, wherever men honor their country's notable contributions to the cause of science, philosophy and literature since the brilliant and picturesque son of the humble Massachusetts soap maker coaxed the lightning from the sky, and demonstrated for an incredulous world the analogy between it and electricity; his memory strikes a responsive chord in millions of human hearts.

In recalling his wish that he might be preserved for one hundred years in a cask of Madeira wine and be brought back to life at the end of that time to see what his country had wrought in the meanwhile, his trite remark "Of what use is a new born babe?" made to the man who contemptuously quizzed him concerning the value of certain experiments then being made in ballooning by Montgolfier, comes home with new emphasis in the light of recent achievements.

Assuming that Franklin could come back, how he would marvel at the bewildering array of wonders that would confront him at every corner. His country, no longer limited in its scope to the original 13 states with their 27,844 square miles of territory now spreads its starry emblem of freedom over two continents, embracing 3,026,789 square miles. Its public debt has grown from less than \$75,000,000 to \$1,046,449,185, its receipts from \$20,700,000 to \$1,297,035,933, and its annual expenditures from \$17,000,000 to \$1,210,000,000. Where there were 5,000,000 inhabitants, there are now 92,000,000. The post office system which he founded with annual receipts of \$200,000 has grown to \$203,562,383. Powerful steamships have driven the old sailing vessel and packet ship almost completely from the face of the sea. The pony express has given way to the high powered railroad train, the electric trolley and the automobile.

The tallow candle has gone before the electric light, some 50,000,000 of which glow nightly in the United States. Beneath the waters the submarine cavorts about with the natives of the deep and across the horizon the fleet winged aeroplane soars with the skill of the eagle.

In the field of electricity, interest in which he did so much to stimulate, Franklin would find amazing vindication of his present judgment when he asked his interrogator "Of what use was a new born babe?" Since he thus spoke have come Professor Morse's telegraph, Professor Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Edison's phonograph, Delany's 2000 words a minute telepost automatic telegraph, Westinghouse's wonderful mechanical inventions, Elias Howe's sewing machine, McCormick's reaper, Marconi's wireless and a thousand and one other wonderful electrical and mechanical devices that multiply man's usefulness. The high powered cylinder press has displaced the foot press of "poor Richard's" time and the linotype the setting of type by hand. Since he passed away the negro and the Russian serf have been emancipated. Napoleonism crushed from the earth and the doctrine of republicanism widely disseminated.

We have had four wars, but are greater and more prosperous than ever, with a wealth twice that of Great Britain and three times that of either France or Germany. Truly might he now say—if he could come back—"Of what use is a new born babe?"

Pacific Coast Climate
 "If you have never seen Oregon, Washington or British Columbia in summer, or California in winter, you lack important qualifications for imagining what the climate of heaven may be like." So writes Dr. Woods Hutchinson in his latest volume on Travel, which has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Being one of the best known physician-literators of the country, this tribute to the Pacific coast in general and the Northwest in particular, is bound to attract a lot of attention. Speaking further, Dr. Hutchinson says: "It is the charmed land of the American continent, where a temperate sun, a mild climate and a fertile soil give man the stimulus of the green and rain-swept north; with the luxurious returns for moderate effort of the teeming tropics. The most restful and soothing climate in the world, the land where 'it is always afternoon,' the ideal home for the blonde races upon this American continent, and not half appreciated yet at its full value."

EASTENERS PLAN TO BEAT HOOD RIVER

A story in a Pennsylvania paper sent to the News says that preparations are being made in the Keystone state to outdo Hood River in fruit growing. The story which follows says: "That Pennsylvania-grown apples and peaches in quantity and quality can surpass similar products in any section of the country, especially the Hood River Valley, famous for its orchards, was the tidings borne to day to the Keystone State agriculturalists gathered here for Farmers' week by H. J. Wilder, of the Bureau of Soils, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Since 1903 Mr. Wilder has been carrying on soil investigations in this state. This year he was attached by the government to the experiment station of State College and has cooperated with its experts in sampling soils of different parts of the state, and compiling data as to what particular orchards they were best adapted. Mr. Wilder said there were many good orchardage locations in Southeastern Pennsylvania and continued:

This region, the hilly sections along the border of Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks and Lehigh, with the tier of counties including Southern Lancaster, Western Montgomery, Northern Chester and Bucks. Excellent fruit soils may be purchased near Philadelphia and New York markets at lower prices than they can be purchased in Pacific coast fruit regions.

Not only can apples and peaches of perfect exterior appearance be grown, but fruits so high in quality that there need be no fear of competition with any of the Pacific coast regions, notably the Hood River Valley, can be produced in this district. The possibility of growing high quality as well as good appearing fruit, when the proper locations are selected for orchard planting and modern methods are practiced in the care of such orchards, shows extraordinary prospects.

Few people realize that Pennsylvania is rapidly coming to the front as one of the most important fruit-producing states in the Union. Heretofore New York has had all the other Northeastern states; but the extensive plantings in Pennsylvania during the recent years will soon make New York look to her rivals. The increase in orchard planting in Pennsylvania is amazing. The fortunate part of it is that growers are using much more endeavor to select the best possible locations for their orchards.

Indiana Penetrated
 Charles Tom, of Oregon, the great wheat man, who formerly lived near Milford, and a brother of Fremont Tom, sent us two very fine apples last week as a sample of the fruit they grow in the west. They were fine and fully matured. There are great orchards in Oregon, located in the valleys. The apples referred to were grown in the Hood River valley and packed by the Apple Growers' Union. Each apple is wrapped and packed separately, the same as oranges, and sell in our retail markets for five cents apiece.—Indiana Exchange

HOBO SETS DUFUR JAIL ON FIRE TO WARM UP

On Monday afternoon Marshal Menelee arrested and lodged in jail a hobo who gave his name as John Reed. The fellow had come in on the Wapinitia stage and had evidently partaken of a liberal supply of "nose paint" or some other equally invigorating liquid refreshments for when he reached town he was in that condition where he thought the side walks, streets and in fact the whole town was here for his especial benefit. After being confined in the city bastille for a short time, he evidently thought the place was not warmed enough to suit his fastidious taste and finding a match which the marshal has overlooked in searching him, he proceeded to start a fire on the floor of the cell. The fire had got to burning at a good rate when Prof. Frazier, who was in the city hall, smelled the fire and smoke and upon making a search, discovered smoke issuing from the cell window and turned in a fire alarm. The fire department and marshal arrived about the same time, the drunken occupant was dragged from the cell and the chemical engine turned loose on the flames which soon extinguished them. Later when Reed regained consciousness he disclaimed any knowledge of the fire, but had it not have been for the timely discovery of the blaze he would have been past all knowledge of anything. As it was, about the only damage done was a city hall window which was broken and the bedding in the cell which was burned up.—Dufur Dispatch

FARMERS WEEK AT O. A. C., FEBRUARY 13-18

The annual Farmers' Week Course at the Oregon Agricultural College has been set for February 13 to 18, and the plans for the work are being rapidly brought to completion. In addition to the regular lecture and demonstration work in fruit growing, orchard work, marketing, soils, drainage, farm management, stock raising, home management, insect and disease pests, butter and cheese making and kindred subjects, two special features in the form of discussions and demonstrations on the subjects of good roads for the state and irrigation in the Willamette Valley will be added to the program.

A large corps of special lecturers many of whom are representative men of this state, have been secured to assist the college experts in carrying on the work. This has made it possible to fill every hour of the day from eight in the morning until ten at night with special features.

An Easterner's View

The following, clipped from an eastern exchange, is probably written through a spirit of jealousy and is intended to stop the tide of emigration which is steadily flowing westward. "Many of those who for the past few years have been emigrating to the 'promised land' of the west, are coming to their senses and are returning to the old home, the east. The westerners promise much but do little. They do not have more than one good crop in five years. The land is covered with sage brush and jack rabbits. Most of the inhabitants are people who have found the east too uncomfortable a place in which to live, and have taken refuge in this 'God forsaken' country and are seeking out a miserable existence on the arid plateaus and rough mountain sides."

Adopts New Plan For News

In a small town like this local items are always scarce, and when a storm ties us up as the late one has done items are scarcer than ever. Everyone is kept confined to the house and there is nothing doing in society life. The mail routes are blocked so our country correspondence fails to reach us, so that taking it altogether our local news is mighty scarce. We are going to adopt a new plan for the balance of the winter. Hereafter anyone dropping into our office to absorb some of the heat from our coal fire must be prepared to give us at least one local item.—Bingen Observer

Factory for Bingen

At the stockholders' meeting of the Bingen Manufacturing company held last Saturday, Philip, Theo. and Ed Suksdorf, O. F. Downs and John Thams were elected board of directors for the ensuing year. It was decided to increase the capital stock to \$15,000. The factory will probably start operations about the middle of February or not later than March 1, getting ready for the berry season.—Observer

Revival at Christian Church

The revival at the First Christian church began last Sunday with excellent interest. There was one conversion at the evening service. The large chorus directed by A. B. Cash is proving an inspiring feature of the meetings. Miss Lulu M. Tidd, who always pleases with her singing will sing a solo each evening.

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