

ON THE WEST SIDE

Notes en Route From Portland to Corvallis.

OREGON WINTER SCENERY

A Bit of Interesting Architectural History - Some Changes Which Mark the Material Advancement of the Country.

By a Staff Writer-First Letter.

CORVALLIS, Nov. 15.-The Willametta Valley does not wear its brightest face in November. The skies are lowering, the fields are water soaked, the roads are smoky, and the air is filled with flying leaves. But, withal, a sympathetic eye finds in it much that is very interesting and charming. The beauty which depends upon alternations of field, meadow and forest, upon vicissitudes of elevation and distance and upon the play of subdued winter lights is independent of weather; as I rode through the beautifully rolling North Yamhill country yesterday I thought, in spite of the raging storm, that I had never looked upon a fairer picture. Our Oregon landscapes have this merit over those of the Atlantic and Mississippi regions, namely that they do not in winter wholly lose their charm of forest. Eastward everything in the shape of a tree from November to May is a gaunt specter; with us, half or more of the forest is as green in January as in June, and as fresh, complete and beautiful in form. The fir tree which dominates every Western Oregon landscape gains rather than loses scenic value from stress of weather; it brightens with moisture; it aways with wonderful grace under its easy contorts with the winter winds and in all the sweet harmonies of nature there is nothing finer than its soothing cadences.

It had been long since I had passed by daylight through the beautiful West Side country, and, while I knew that Washington, Yamhill, Polk and Benton Counties were sharing in the general forward movement of the past few years, I was hardly prepared for the changes which present themselves even as one looks from a car window. "Old Oregon," verily, is not obliterated, but its distinguishing marks are passing away. The notable farmsteads of a time whose names are very long ago may be still distinguished by one who keeps an attentive eye, but they are no longer the landmarks of the country, for on every side there have sprung up within the past few years establishments of greater pretension and dignity, bearing impressive testimony to the fact that the later days of the West Side, in a material sense at least, are better than the earlier.

But here and there, as the train speeds along, one gets views of farmhouses of a simple and old-fashioned, yet dignified, construction, now mostly falling into ruin, which awaken reflections in which only those of us who belong to the older time may share. These old and relatively fine dwellings of the pioneer are almost without exception a common history, and one in which there is a splendor something more of romance. They were not genuinely a product of the pioneer life, for there was nothing in the pioneer life that could have produced them. They were in fact, a product of the California mines, and they serve to mark the extent to which pioneer Oregon shared in the bounty of the California gold era. Long before the story of Marshall's discovery at Sutter's mill reached the East, it came to Oregon, and it was from the Willamette Valley the first of the modern Argonauts set forth. Every able-bodied man who could muster up an able-bodied mule bled himself to the California diggings and for nearly a year before the "forty-niners" from the East began to pour into the country the "sooner" from Oregon had things their own way on the Yuba, Feather and American Rivers. "Oregon Bar," in Butte County, preserves the memory of this early Oregonian invasion; and there is scarce a canyon in the gold-bearing region upon which Oregonians did not leave their mark. In truth, the Oregonians who came early got the best of the California placers; and many a pioneer Oregon fortune dates from that early venture. Something was lost, too, for many who went south to seek their fortune became enamored of California and did not return, among them the famous Peter Burnett, the first Governor of California under her state constitution.

Some hundreds of the Oregonian Argonauts came home with long buckskin purses well lined with dust; and from these purses came the many fine houses, now old and in many instances falling into decay, which mark the length and breadth of the Valley. There is no mistaking them, for they all belong to the period of the early '50s, and bear characteristic marks of its architectural taste. They are of the Southern colonial type, like the houses of the Southern and Southwestern States of the same period, and as Oregonians who pass through Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina or Eastern Missouri finds the domestic architecture strangely and pleasantly familiar.

No fact in our earlier history better illustrates the essential domesticity of our pioneer population than the building "boom" which followed the return of the adventurers into California. Instead of unsettling the domestic habit of the country, as might have been feared, rather served the contrary purpose, for it gave to considerable numbers what they had previously lacked, namely, a comfortable home and a vastly increased and essentially immovable stake in the country. The incident is one worth remembering and which I, as one born in a house built with California gold dust, am pleased to recall.

But within the past few years there has grown up in the West Side a new species of architecture of vastly greater importance than the old as related to the material and social status of the country. I refer to the red barn, everywhere the mark of a thrifty and orderly agriculturist, and to the hophouse and the creamery, which speak of specialized industry. Of these buildings, which were not known to the earlier life of the country, the traveler, even as he rushes through by railroad, sees an amazing number, and the impression which they make is irresistible in its suggestion of a prosperous and advancing industry.

In earlier days, too-in fact, no longer than 10 years ago-the country, while bearing the marks of civilization, was generally silent and lifeless. Every visitor marked the curious and surprising lack of domestic animals. This is now changed; the cow-bird, the sheep and the hog are everywhere. Much land formerly under grain is now given over to pasture; and, better still, much is given to forage crops by which the capability of the country to sustain animal life is greatly increased. Animal husbandry is, apparently, gaining upon the earlier practice of the country, which depended almost wholly upon wheat, and which failed even to maintain the numbers or the character of the domestic stock introduced by the pioneer settlers.

At Forest Grove as the train paused my attention was called to the foundations of a very large structure upon which a body of men were working, and it was explained that here was soon to be set up a milk-condensing plant, calculated to take care of the product of 10,000 cows. The company by which the plant is being put in has been operating near Seattle, but has determined to move into the Willamette Valley on account of the greater available supply of milk and of advantages afforded by Portland as a marketing center. At and near Forest Grove were found four local creamery associations regularly and liberally supplied, and arrangements were made by which these creamery plants are to be shut down and the milk product which supplies them diverted to the condenser. A very considerable sacrifice was involved in the change, for the creameries were new and in successful operation, and the people were loth to give them up, but the price offered for milk by the condenser was more than enough to compensate for the abandonment of the creamery plants, and upon this basis permanent contracts were made and the plant is in a case where the organization of the milk industry under the creamery system has brought into the country an industry still more profitable and desirable. The money spent in the creation of the creameries has, to be sure, been thrown away, but, so far as the interests of the farming community are concerned, it was well spent, for through the creamery venture has come this larger industry, which the creameries brought about, the attention of the condensed milk people would never have been attracted to Forest Grove.

The increase in dairying in the Willamette Valley during the past three or four years has been something surprising. From a single creamery plant or two in 1898 there has sprung up close upon a hundred active establishments-and all doing a profitable business. Even with the increased number of butter-making plants it is found impossible to supply the consumptive demand; and it is declared by those who have made a careful study of the business that if existing facilities were four times multiplied there would still be found a ready and profitable market. This matter has been made the subject of special investigation during the past year by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis, and the results will be set forth in a later writing in this series. A. H.

SEATTLE, Nov. 18.-J. J. Smith, of Enumclaw, State Senator-elect from the 20th District, King County, will be chosen president of the next Senate. This was agreed upon at a meeting held in Tacoma yesterday. The nominees are George H. Baker, of Goldendale, and Ed S. Hamilton, of Tacoma, announced their withdrawal in favor of Dr. Smith. Though Dr. Smith is opposed to the railway commission bill favored by Governor McBride, it is declared the administration is satisfied that he will rule impartially, and will not oppose his election to the presidency of the Senate. The election to this office is important this year, since it means the selection of a man who will name the committees. The office of Lieutenant-Governor is vacant.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.-The Treasury Department has recovered from the North American Commercial Company about \$75,000 due to the Government under its contract as bonus, tax and interest on about 400 sealskins taken by the natives on St. Paul Island about 12 years ago. The seals were taken by the natives from seals used as food, and the question of ownership as between the Alaska Commercial Company and its successor, the North American Commercial Company, has been pending since that time. It finally having been settled that the skins belong to the latter company, application was made for the payment of the sum due, with the result that the money was deposited in the Subtreasury in New York yesterday.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.-A corps of examiners began work today in the State Superintendent's office on the papers of 120 applicants for teachers' certificates. The number of applicants is much larger than was anticipated, and the appropriation for the examining board's expenses and per diem has only \$35,000 left in it. This sum is not sufficient to cover the cost of examination of the papers of about 700 applicants, and the balance will have to await the convenience of the official force of the State Superintendent, Superintendent of the State Normal School, next February, as the law requires, owing to this exhaustion of funds, unless the coming Legislature provides an emergency appropriation.

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ALBANY, Nov. 18.-The Albany Normal Institute for the teachers of the Lincoln County will convene in this city tomorrow. The session will last for three days. During the session there will be addresses by the leading educators of the state, including Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman, President Bessler, of the Mornmouth Normal School, President Carnegie, and Dr. H. D. Sheldon, of the University of Oregon, and S. Y. Gillan, editor of the Northwestern Teacher, of Milwaukee, Wis.

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SMITH FOR PRESIDENT

OTHER ASPIRANTS LEAVE FIELD TO KING COUNTY SENATOR.

Announcement of Selection of the Enumclaw Man Made After Meeting in Tacoma.

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DR. J. J. SMITH



Probable President of Washington State Senate.

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UP TO PENROSE NOW.

Unprepared Before, but Well Qualified Now to Take Care of Twins.

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CHINESE CORNER POTATOES.

Growers in San Joaquin Valley Form a Corporation.

SAN JOAQUIN, Nov. 18.-The Chronicle says: At Stockton a unique association has been formed-a Chinese trust, controlled and managed by Lee Yuen, a Chinese. The corporation is known as the San Joaquin Valley Association, and the promoters of the enterprise include nearly all the large owners among the Chinese of the island and river districts, so that they combine two-thirds of the potato crop of the San Joaquin Valley will be under its control.

CABLE STATION AT SUAVA.

Repairs for the Line Will Be Made From a Fiji Island.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.-James Pinkerton, who was principal electrician on the cable ship Anglia, which laid the British cable from Vancouver to Fanning Island, and who has lately been directing the work of establishing the cable station at the latter point, has arrived here.

PLACING STORE BUILDING UNDER CHURCH.

METHODIST CHURCH AT OREGON CITY.



Photo by J. H. Turner, Oregon City.

OREGON CITY, Nov. 18.-Something strange in the building line is witnessed at the present time in this city. The Methodist Church, which occupies the southeast corner of Main and Seventh streets, has been raised from its original foundation to a height of nearly 20 feet, and as soon as the basement excavation is completed a store building 64 feet square will be constructed, which will be occupied by W. L. Block, who will pay a monthly rental of \$100. This corner is one of the choicest for business locations in the city, and for many years the Methodists have contemplated erecting a building on the lot. The church will be over the store. Some of the members preferred to have the church removed to another location and erect a two-story building on the property, or else sell the lot outright, but the majority favored raising the church to a sufficient height to permit the construction of a store building underneath. This is now being done, and the cost will be about \$10,000. The building will be ready for occupancy about April 1, and in the meantime the church services are being held in Woodmen's Hall. This church was built in 1880, and replaced the building which is shown to the left of the picture, and which was first constructed in 1843 on the corner of Main and Third streets, and in 1850 removed to Seventh and Main.

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A FIRE LOSS OF \$20,000

DESTRUCTIVE BLAZE LAST NIGHT AT NORTH YAMHILL.

Started in General Merchandise Store of Messner & Vaulhelm, Who Lose \$15,000.

NORTH YAMHILL, Or., Nov. 18.-Special.-North Yamhill suffered a \$20,000 fire loss tonight. About 9:30 o'clock flames were discovered issuing from the general merchandise store of Messner & Vaulhelm, and in a few minutes the fire spread that all efforts at saving the building or contents were utterly futile, and the attention of the citizens was directed toward saving adjoining property. The lack of adequate fire-fighting apparatus made difficult the work of subduing the flames, and before the fire had burned itself out four additional buildings were in ruins.

The list of property destroyed and losses sustained is as follows: Messner & Vaulhelm, general merchandise, loss \$15,000, partially covered by insurance. Daniel Busby, grocery store, loss between \$50 and \$700, partially insured. Exchange Hotel, Mrs. Bowers, proprietor, loss \$1500, no insurance. J. S. Lamar, saloon, loss \$500, no insurance. R. L. Noma, barber shop, loss between \$50 and \$100.

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WORK ON TEACHERS' PAPERS.

Washington State Examining Board Finds Itself Short on Funds.

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MONEY FOR CHINESE.

Government Agrees to Pay Them \$800,000 for Burned Property.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.-Acting Consul-General Chow Yu Kwan, representing the Chinese residents of Honolulu, has returned from Hawaii, where he went to adjust, with a representative of the Federal Government, the losses incurred by the Chinese residents of Honolulu through the destruction of property in the city in which they lived, to stamp out bubonic plague. The amount of indemnity agreed on was \$800,000, one-tenth to be paid at once, and the balance within a year. This, the acting Consul-General said, was quite satisfactory, and he left his countrymen feeling well disposed toward the Government of this country.

FOR CALIFORNIA PARKS.

Superintendent Recommends Restocking of Fish Streams.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.-The annual report of the superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California, recommends that all the available streams in the park be stocked with trout; the employment of a force of men to work exclusively in repairing and constructing dams, and the construction of permanent barracks and quarters for the troops, and extension of the giant forest road in the park limits. There were no serious forest fires during last summer in the park. It is urged that two forest rangers should be constantly on duty in the Sequoia, and one in the General Grant Park.

POINTS SHE WAS INFLUENCED.

Point Loma Secretary Acknowledges Young Baron Has Deserted.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Nov. 18.-Secretary Pierce, of the Universal Brotherhood at Point Loma, has admitted that Henry Barons, a young man who has been educated by Mrs. Tingley, has abandoned the brotherhood. Mr. Pierce declares that Barons was induced to leave by a secret agent sent here from New York.

ELMA NOTES.

ELMA, Wash., Nov. 18.-Special.-Dr. H. Blair, one of the oldest practitioners of this place, has the site located and the materials on the ground for a new hospital. It will be built at the corner of Fourth and Anderson streets and will be equipped with all the modern fixtures necessary for first-class accommodations. J. E. Murray, manager of Murray's apartment house, has a young man who has been educated by Mrs. Tingley, has abandoned the brotherhood. Mr. Pierce declares that Barons was induced to leave by a secret agent sent here from New York.

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SAN DIEGO, Cal., Nov. 18.-Secretary Pierce, of the Universal Brotherhood at Point Loma, has admitted that Henry Barons, a young man who has been educated by Mrs. Tingley, has abandoned the brotherhood. Mr. Pierce declares that Barons was induced to leave by a secret agent sent here from New York.

ELMA NOTES.

ELMA, Wash., Nov. 18.-Special.-Dr. H. Blair, one of the oldest practitioners of this place, has the site located and the materials on the ground for a new hospital. It will be built at the corner of Fourth and Anderson streets and will be equipped with all the modern fixtures necessary for first-class accommodations. J. E. Murray, manager of Murray's apartment house, has a young man who has been educated by Mrs. Tingley, has abandoned the brotherhood. Mr. Pierce declares that Barons was induced to leave by a secret agent sent here from New York.

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