

# SEEK TO LIGHTEN FARMERS' LIVES

## Roosevelt's Uplift Commission Hears Discussion of Rural Life in Oregon.

### TWO HEARINGS ARE HELD

#### Many Suggestions Are Made to the Eastern Visitors Who Attend Afternoon Session of Northwest Fruitgrowers' Association.

Better conditions for the farmer and farmer's wife, some method of doing away with the isolation and drudgery of the farm, better markets for farm products, proper sanitation for farm homes, education for farmers' children that will make home life attractive to them—all these objects and more, are proposed to be accomplished by President Roosevelt in sending out his Farmers' Uplift Commission. A part of this commission visited Portland yesterday and held two hearings, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. An all-day hearing will be held today at the Commercial Club auditorium.

Encouraging progress was made at yesterday's hearings. Both sessions were attended largely by practical farmers and by others well informed on farming conditions in this state. The members of the commission received valuable suggestions that will be embodied in their report to President Roosevelt, which will go on by December 31.

#### Members of the Commission.

Members of the commission to visit Portland are: L. H. Bailey, president, New York, and W. A. Beard, Sacramento, Cal. Attached to the Commissioners by order of the President are: E. W. Allen, of the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C.; and C. W. Stiles, physician of the Marine Service.

Mr. Beard has long been prominent in the development of the Sacramento Valley, and he is chairman of the executive committee of the National Irrigation Congress. He has been interested in the development of the arid lands of the West through irrigation for years.

"I am interested in the irrigation movement as a means of promoting the welfare of the people of this country," he said in an interview yesterday. "I expect that we will make the congress at Spokane a really great event. I am anxious to see grow up here in the West a race of people that will own their own land and the water with which it is irrigated. This independence offers the best development of our people. We are hopeful of making the Spokane congress a means to that end."

"In regard to the work of the Commission of Country Life, our hearings today have been successful in bringing out practical men who have good ideas on the subjects to be investigated. Our mission is not to establish a previously established theory, but to study the conditions, so we may report them as they actually are to President Roosevelt."

#### Farmers Should Hold Meetings.

"In a letter to Chairman Bailey, of the commission, President Roosevelt has asked that farmers throughout the country get together for meetings in their schoolhouses, or elsewhere, talk over the disadvantages under which they work, and frame suggestions that would help them, for forwarding to this commission, to be later forwarded to President Roosevelt. These meetings, President Roosevelt urges, should be held not later than December 15."

The most interesting session of the commission was that held yesterday afternoon at the session of the Northwest Fruitgrowers' Association in the Woodmen Hall, Eleventh and Alder streets. Chairman Bailey commented upon the size of the audience and the interest displayed, saying it was one of the best audiences to greet the commission since it had started to hold hearings.

A very high compliment was also paid to the fruit on display by the association. "I have seen the fruit produced by all sections of the country," said Chairman Bailey of the commission, "but I have never seen anywhere fruit of such size and beauty as you raise here."

#### Present Waste of Resources.

"The resources of the land constitute the fundamental wealth of the country," continued Mr. Bailey, in making his introductory speech to the convention. "These resources belong to the people and the Government is interested in their conservation. In 40 states and territories we have found the fertility of the soil is flagrantly wasted. This is true of the newer states of the Pacific Slope, as well as the older settled states. Real farming consists of conserving the soil; all other forms of agriculture are merely exploitation. Poverty and degradation follow the failure of the farmer to adapt himself to the new methods of agriculture."

Commissioner Beard followed in a short introductory speech and told of the promise the irrigation movement holds for the betterment of country life. Chairman

Bailey then took the chair and asked for expressions from those present on their views of rural life and suggestions for improvement.

Dr. James Withycombe, director of the experiment station at the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, was the first to speak, and gave it as his opinion that more extensive agricultural education in this state would accomplish much to brighten rural life and make it attractive. After expressing appreciation for the appointment of the commission and the interest of the President in improving farming conditions, Dr. Withycombe said in part:

#### Few People on Farms.

"It is a remarkable fact that this state, chiefly an agricultural one, should have so small a percentage of its population on the farms. Taking the whole country over, about 25 per cent of the population are farmers. In this state the figure is about 23 per cent, but this is very small for such a great agricultural state. It shows that the people manifest a desire to get away from the land and that they are not contented on the farm."

"Better roads would, no doubt, do a great deal to improve the environment of the farmer. The conserving of the fertility of the land is most important. Only fancy, the great inland Empire ships wheat to the value of \$10,000,000 a year, consuming \$2,000,000 worth of nitrogen to grow this crop without replacing it a bit by proper agricultural methods. This condition must be remedied in the end the land will be desolate and unproductive."

"Demonstration trains run by the railroads will do much to keep the boys on the farms and will lighten many of the dark features of rural life. I believe a great work could be accomplished along this line by the establishment of traveling agricultural schools that would go into the various communities and give instruction on improved agricultural methods as well as in domestic sciences."

#### Grange Is Great Benefactor.

William Schulmerich, of Hillsboro, advocated the Grange as a great benefactor for the farmer. He said the extension of agricultural education in the schools will do much to benefit the farmer.

M. S. Shrock, a farmer, echoed the suggestion that agriculture be taught in the public schools, expressing the belief that if this be done it would result in much benefit to the members of the rural communities.

Frank Lee charged the Government with being responsible for the isolation of the farmer's life in this state, at least. He said corporations are allowed to acquire large tracts of land and hold them for investment, thus making life undesirable for the farmer in localities near the large holdings.

E. H. Miller, Consul-General for the United States at Yokohama, who was an interested auditor, said he had observed frequently that where farmers' homes were bright and cheerful, with modern methods of farming or of housekeeping, he found invariably that one or more members of that household had been educated in the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis.

#### Educational Work Important.

President Kerr, of the Oregon Agricultural College, was called on and urged the importance of agricultural college extension work, that is, the wide introduction of education in agriculture to the public schools. He said the Oregon Agricultural College faculty had decided that the one best thing that can be done for the betterment of the condition of the farmer in this state is the adoption of traveling schools that shall make a specialty of agricultural and those subjects needed by the farmer. He said no appropriation by the Government would do so much good as money used in this way, President Kerr said he realized, however, the difficulty of providing for such a work with Federal funds.

J. W. Brown gave the opinion that compulsory education in agriculture in the schools of the state would do much to improve farming conditions.

W. F. Hitt, who said he is a Washington farmer, declared all that is needed in his locality is assistance in building roads.

#### Sanitation Is Big Problem.

The unsanitary condition of farm houses and surroundings was criticised by several speakers whose names were not given. Dr. Stiles, who accompanies the Commissioners, made a short talk on this subject, showing that greater care should be exercised in caring for hired help. He said the Hindu coolie, who is being brought to this Coast in numbers, is a terrible spreader of disease and farmers particularly should be careful in housing them for in most cases, by insufficient care given to these laborers, the farmer was endangering the lives of his own family. Dr. Stiles showed that typhoid, which is a farm disease, but little being contracted in the cities and that in most cases coming from the farm, causes 100 deaths a year in this state. He showed how proper farm sanitation would save many of these lives.

Yesterday morning a hearing was held in the Commercial Club auditorium, at which the subject of good roads was the principal topic discussed. J. W. Bailey, State Dairy and Food Commissioner, spoke on this topic and made many suggestions. Others talked along this same line.

An all-day hearing will be started this morning at the Commercial Club auditorium at 9:30 o'clock. All who can give the Commissioners suggestions and information on farming conditions in this state are urged to be present.

# GOV. MEAD TALKS FOR GOOD ROADS

## Meetings at Kalama Largely Attended by People of Cowlitz County.

### FARMERS ARE INTERESTED

#### Resolutions Passed Asking Legislature to Appropriate \$100,000 to Establish Rock-Crushing Plants to Utilize Convict Labor.

KALAMA, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—One of the largest and most enthusiastic gatherings ever held in Cowlitz County was that in the Good Roads Convention held here Tuesday. The convention was called to order at 2:30 this afternoon by I. N. Beigle, vice-president of the Good Roads Association. The address of welcome was delivered by Judge Kalahan of Kalama, after which the convention proceeded with the usual business.

The evening session was devoted to addresses, the first of which was delivered by Governor Mead, who emphasized the need of good roads and the benefit to result from it, and said that he wanted to use his influence with the next Legislature to build such roads as are now proposed by the Good Roads Association.

One of the most interesting addresses of the evening was the stereopticon lecture by Samuel C. Lancaster, Government good roads expert, who has recently returned from Europe. Among others who delivered interesting addresses were Samuel Hill, Alfred Battie, James M. Snow, A. L. Valentine, H. F. Bronell and J. T. Ronald.

Interest and enthusiasm marked the proceedings from beginning to end. Over 200 delegates from different parts of the state were present, besides a goodly number of farmers. At each session the Opera House was filled to standing room. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted today:

First, that the State Legislature appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be expended under the direction of the State Highway Board for the establishment of rock-crushing plants, to be operated by convict labor; second, that the geological department of the State University be established on a permanent basis; third, that a sufficient fund be appropriated by the State Legislature to establish a building on the University grounds to be occupied by the department of highway engineering and to house United States Government exhibits.

# BUTTER GOES SKYWARD

## HIGH PRICES SAID TO BE DUE TO COMBINE.

### Supply Larger Than Last Year, With Values Higher and Prospects of Further Advances.

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—The Tribune, in a news article, says: Manipulation of the leading butter markets of the country by a coterie of Chicago, British and Eastern produce men is said to be responsible to a large extent for the present extravagant prices for butter. While supplies of butter are larger than in the past, at this season, values are materially higher than a year ago, with prospects good for further advances before there is any relief.

Rumors of a corner in June storage butter, which is the best of the season's pack, have been circulated for some time, and while vigorously denied by the principals, the fact remains that the stock of choice storage butter is tightly held, with prices high and on the up grade.

About \$10,000,000 is said to have been invested in the operation. Stocks of storage butter in the principal warehouses of the country are approximately 10,000,000 pounds larger than a year ago, and about that much larger than two years ago, so there is apparently little reason for extravagantly high values.

Whether or not there is a corner on the storage butter supply in this East is not known to the large creamerymen here, but the fact remains that prices are unusually high just now in Chicago and New York, and the effect is felt in all markets of the country. The best fresh made creamery is held at 30 cents wholesale at Chicago and at 22 cents at New York, with storage butter quoted about 4 cents under these prices. At the present time the production of butter is at its lowest

# PRACTICAL CHRISTMAS GIVING

Whether to present personally, hang on a tree, put in a stocking or send to distant cities, nothing in the remembrance line is more genuinely appreciated than a piece of jewelry, no matter if it be a mere trinket or a diamond ornament. Search this list. It may give you a hint.

## INEXPENSIVE

Hat pins, belt pins, scarf pins, combs, bracelets, lockets, chains, fobs, brooches.

## MODERATELY PRICED

Sterling maniere and toilet sets, match boxes, cigarette cases, table silverware, cut glass, hand-painted china, clocks.

## MEDIUM PRICE

Ladies and gentlemen's watches, rings, umbrellas, sterling and gold card cases and purses; opera glasses.

## MORE COSTLY GIFTS

Diamond rings, studs, scarf pins, brooches, watches and pendants.

I will give you quality and low price consistent with good business.



point in all the Northern states. In the large Eastern cities there is not enough fresh butter available to supply the demand, and storage stocks are, therefore, being drawn upon. This makes advances in all grades easy.

The same thing applies to the market in this city. The output of the best Oregon butter at this time does not meet local requirements and the jobbers find it necessary to resort to Eastern butter. With values in the East fixed at an unusually high level, it is necessary to make local prices correspondingly steep. This condition will prevail until the Oregon farmers increase their herds sufficiently to make Oregon independent of the East for its butter supply at all times of the year.

Portland butter prices today are almost at the top notch. The wholesale price is 37 cents. In January and February of last year it was 37 1/2 cents. A year ago today the wholesale price was 35 cents, two years ago 30 cents, three years ago 29 cents, and on December 2, in 1904, it stood at the same figure. In none of those years, except 1907, was the present price reached.

As the storage supply in the East is being steadily reduced and the make of fresh butter will not become heavy for many weeks yet, it is probable the people who have the making of the price in the Eastern markets will force their quotations still higher. If they do, the Coast markets are likely to respond.

## Policy About to Expire.

BUTTE, Mont., Dec. 2.—The Coroner's jury in the case of W. H. True, the New York life insurance agent who committed suicide here Monday, yesterday returned a verdict of suicide, due to dependency. It developed that True shot himself a few hours before a policy on his life for \$6000 expired.

Tom Marshall, of Missoula, is here to take charge of the remains, which will be sent to Norman T. Davis, of Louisville, Ky., a brother-in-law.

# THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

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# CHRISTMAS NUMBER

FIFTY-SIX PAGES of Christmas stories, poems, and special articles, of which some are named below

## The Last Christmas Tree

By James Lane Allen  
The author of "The Kentucky Cardinal" and "The Choir Invisible" has written, in this Christmas idyl, a story that will entrance every reader by its rich imagery and poetic conception. It is the first magazine story published by Mr. Allen in eleven years—the first published work of his that has appeared in the last five years.

## The Pedigree Hunters

By E. L. Bacon  
To meet Catharine the Great in the Subway, or to see Henry the Eighth, with a wooden leg, begging alms on lower Broadway, is not so amazing when you reflect that in America there must be tens of thousands of descendants of kings of that period and earlier. Some astonishing stories connected with their search for ancestors are revealed in this article.

## The Thin Santa Claus

By Ellis Parlier Butler  
Why Mrs. Gratz was awakened on Christmas morning by a great silence; why she didn't like a "taking-away" Santa Claus; why the toberchosis bugs freeze up in the winter and get brittle and bust into a thousand pieces—all is told in the drollest Christmas story published in years: a story in which the author of PIGS IS PIGS proves that sometimes chickens is chickens.

## The Sleeping Column

By Brand Whitlock  
In the Sleeping Column the Mayor of Toledo tells a remarkable story of a Southern boy, who was not a spy, yet served in both the Union and Confederate armies, and was personally mentioned by the two leading generals of the opposing forces.

## The Triple Cross

By George Randolph Chester  
One of the best stories that Mr. Chester ever wrote. It tells how Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford made his first visit to New York, and how peevish he became over the coarse and unimaginative methods of New York's confidence men and green-goods brokers.

## A Tug and a Daughter-in-Law

By Ernest Poole  
A story "of ropes and things, and ships upon the seas." Also of a young waterman ashamed of his job and his dad; a nice girl ashamed of the boy, and a wise old tug-boat captain wholly shameless in his efforts to make a man of his son and a daughter-in-law of the nice girl. A Christmas story of a spot in Greater New York where the hive-dwellers have neighbors.

## "Pardon, You Are Mademoiselle Girard!"

By Leonard Merrick  
All Paris was hunting for Mademoiselle Girard. On the boulevards, in the cafes and shops, was heard on all sides, "Pardon, you are Mademoiselle Girard?" Young men resigned promising occupations to engage in the search. No lady, comely or uncomely, providing she was young, was free from the accusing, "Pardon, you are Mademoiselle Girard!" Who found Mademoiselle Girard is disclosed in one of the most interesting stories of the year.

## What Happens at Rehearsals

By Channing Pollock  
The astonishing trivial incidents that make or break a play are more numerous than the holder of a parquet seat dreams of. In this article you are taken behind the scenes and shown all the intimate and interesting secrets that never get over the footlights.

# Christmas Number

\$1.50 the year by mail 56 PAGES 5c. the copy of all newsdealers

## Our Boys are Everywhere

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# COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION NAMED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, THAT REACHED PORTLAND YESTERDAY.



READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT—E. W. ALLEN, L. H. BAILEY, W. A. BEARD, C. W. STILES.



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In a recently-built Italian man-of-war, are special arrangements for a dentist.