

SHERMAN COUNTY FARMERS PROSPER

Careful Attention Given to Fields Is Bound to Result in Success.

MOISTURE IS PRECIOUS

No Place Found for Hit-and-Miss Methods—Wasco Is Thriving Little Town in Center of Great Wheat Field.

BY ADDISON BENNETT. WASCO, Or., April 6.—(Special.)—I left The Dalles yesterday morning and drove to this place, the distance being about 21 miles. This being the first drive with the new outfit, I felt somewhat reticent to get here in as good shape as I did, for I have mapped out a route of many hundreds of miles through the interior, and I was mighty glad to find the team, Jim and Klity, and the entire outfit comfortable and commensurate.

The journey from The Dalles to Wasco is a trip of scenic beauty. Leaving the former place—at what I may term the brewery road—at which I failed to halt—the route lay to the eastward past Bennett's and thence around the point of the bluffs to the Deschutes River. One of the finest views on the road is from a point directly south and practically over the top of the new Hill bridge at Celilo. The wagon road is perhaps a thousand feet above the bridge piers above the river and one can thus get a good idea of the entire country along both in Oregon and Washington.

Sherman County Reached. Winding around the hilltops the road finally leads down to the Deschutes, where we crossed the toll bridge near the mouth of that stream, just above the O. W. R. & N. bridge, and across Sherman County, which county embraces the territory between the John Day and Deschutes rivers from the Columbia back to the first standard parallel south, a distance of from 23 to 44 miles. At its widest point, east and west, the county is about 25 miles wide, its whole area being 724 miles square, and containing smaller counties in Oregon—Columbia, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill.

Once across the Deschutes the road leads for a short distance up the Columbia, and then winds up a canyon to the southeast. But before we had ascended many miles we approached and entered cultivated fields, and as we neared the plateau we came to more and more of them. And soon we were in what might be called an immense wheat field, for every foot of the surrounding lands was either in fall wheat or summer fallow, or ready for seeding—perhaps being seeded, for I think we saw at least 20 seeders in operation.

I have been through many wheat belts, many districts where the chief industry was this great cereal, but I must say I never saw a country where the growers seemed to have their places in better condition than in the portion of Sherman we passed from the Deschutes to Wasco. And we also passed some of the finest farmhouses and barns, showing that the owners are intelligent and prosperous.

Systematic Work Everything. Shipload, hit-and-miss farmers have no place in Sherman County. The rainfall is light here. There is no denying that. They sometimes have short crops here. There is no denying that. And the only way the land owner can hope to succeed, as a great many of them have succeeded and are succeeding, is to take advantage of every modern method that comes across the country and hold fast to it—store it in the soil by cultivation. I wish I could take the reader with me and show him some of the places we drove through. I would like to demonstrate by an actual view the labor bestowed upon many of the fields. Often in the wheat country you will find small patches of thin, drifting soil, even in the best fields. On the farms mentioned such places are covered with a much—perhaps only straw, but preferably stable manure. Such fields remind one of a well-packed quilt or bedspread which shows the care and industry of the painstaking housewife. And as such a quilt would, of course, be scrupulously clean, so these fields are clean of weeds and stones and clods. Every fence, however, is as free from trash as is the middle of the road. The fields being seeded showed the careful attention of the husbandman. They showed that last season they had received not only the early plowing, but many times that they had been harrowed and rolled.

EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL LASSIES, WHO HAVE WON LAURELS ON EASTERN OREGON FIELDS.



PENDLETON GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM.

Frances Salling is at the top of the picture. Those in the first row (reading down) are Ella Laskins, Marie Salling, Ha Gurdivang, Zella Thompson. In the second row are Edna Coutts, Blanche Badley, Grace Finnerl and Juanita Piercol.

bring the crop down to the cost of the product—or anything like it. There were shipped from here last year about 450 cars of wheat. The price was around 75 cents a bushel. And much of the crop was ground here, for the Portland Flouring Mills Company has a mill here. As this product came from a rather small territory, say 50 square miles, it will be seen that a good deal of money came to a few people.

Wasco has good stores, two strong banks, three churches, a fine public school, with high school department, two good hotels, two flouring mills, and the usual allotment of other business places—and two licensed saloons. We shall roll the wheels out of here as soon as dinner is over, and the next stop will be at Moro, the county seat. From there we are "billed" to take the following route: Antelope, Ashwood, Mitchell, Dayville, Richmond, Spray, Monument, Hamilton, Long Creek, Fox, Courton, Vernon, John Day, Prairie City, Grouse City and thence over the hills to Burns and the great interior.

I am giving our route thus minutely for the reason that we want a dog. We advertised for one at The Dalles, the Chronicle giving a fine free local asking dog owners to come to the rescue of "colporteurs" of the wheels out by donating a canine; but there must be a shortage of dogs-to-give-away in that burg. And here we cannot find one even for sale. So through the columns of The Oregonian the news will be spread ahead of us that we need a dog—any old dog will do, for society is long and satisfied.

REFERENDUM NOT WISE

GOVERNOR THINKS SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS RIGHT.

Executive Says State Should Not Be Niggardly in Support of State Institutions.

SALEM, Or., April 6.—(Special.)—"I am not in favor of invoking the referendum on the appropriations for educational or other state institutions," said Governor West today. "And I believe the people of Oregon should give the institutions the benefit of the doubt in this matter. If there is any reasonable room for doubt.

GOVERNOR WEST REFERRED TODAY to criticism that has been attempted against the state penitentiary in connection with food given to the prisoners, this criticism being offered in the trial of the O'Rourke case. He said the Legislature had arbitrarily reduced the maintenance appropriation for the institution and now criticism was being offered because there was not sufficient good food, nor that the food furnished the prisoners is in itself not good.

SALEM, Or., April 6.—(Special.)—T. M. Leabo, of Portland, was yesterday reappointed by Governor West as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners. His term will extend four years ending March 2, 1915.

HARPER AGAIN IS MADE COLLECTOR

With Piles Out of Way, Taft Hopes Senate Will Now Confirm Him.

TOM PAGE MAY BE RIVAL

Pointexter Said to Have Picked for His Brother-in-Law Plum Which Matt Piles Missed, but He May Take Todd's Job.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 6.—Frederick W. Harper, Collector of Customs for Puget Sound, whose renomination was rejected at last session of Congress on demand of Senator Piles, was today again nominated by President Taft and will be confirmed unless Senator Pointexter represents that Harper's appointment is "personally obnoxious" to him. Harper has served four years, and made a record that is highly commended by the Treasury Department and it is solely on account of this record that he was renominated last session. He had no congressional endorsement. Piles, however, was anxious to have his brother Matt appointed collector and it was with this result in view that he pronounced Harper personally obnoxious, and had his renomination rejected. After Piles had done this, however, the President, having learned his motive, refused to appoint Matt Piles, and Harper continues to serve, as Malcolm is now serving at Portland, under his original commission, and is in office today.

Page Is Pointexter's Man.

Senator Jones said he would urge Harper's confirmation, but nothing can be done until the committee are organized. Before that time, Pointexter will be in Washington. It is not known that he will object to Harper's confirmation, but he is known to have favored the appointment of his brother-in-law, Tom Page, of Seattle, as Collector of Customs, and if he is insistent upon having Page, it will go to this position, he probably will follow the plan adopted by Piles.

Should Pointexter make this move, it is expected that President Taft will do with Harper as he is doing with Malcolm, allow him to continue in office under his original commission and ignore the action of the Senate.

Page May Take Todd's Job.

There is a possibility, however, that Pointexter will consent to Harper's confirmation. If he does, his brother for United States Attorney for Western Washington. In place of Elmer E. Todd, whose term is about to expire, some time ago solicited Representative Humphrey's endorsement for Todd's place and subsequent to that time became candidate for collector. It is not known what attitude Jones will assume, if Harper is confirmed and Page is recommended by Pointexter for District Attorney.

Democratic Rules Voted For.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 6.—Representatives Lafayette, La Follette, Warburton and French, insurgents, today voted for the Democratic House rules. They would have preferred some changes, but were not given opportunity to do so. Amendments and were forced to choose between the Democratic rules and the rules of the last House, which were offered by Mann as a substitute.

SPOKANE MAY WIN AGAIN

Attorney Before Commission Predicts Rate Victory.

SPOKANE, Wash., April 6.—(Special.)—A second victory for Spokane in the railroad rate battle is declared to be practically certain by Attorney H. M. Stephens, who represented Spokane shippers before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In a telegram to A. W. Doland, of the Spokane Merchants' Association, Mr. Stephens declares that the commission seems certain to uphold its decision of last July ordering sweeping reductions in Spokane's freight rates from Eastern and Middle Western points.

The commission's order of that date established a schedule of tentative rates subject to later order by the Commission upon a showing by the railroads and the communities affected that the rates established amounting in some cases to practically the same as "terminal rates," or the rates to move distant goods points, for which Spokane had long contended. In other cases the rates set were slightly in excess of the Coast rates.

The telegram from Mr. Stephens, reads: "Showing of losses by carriers is less than expected. I think we will have no difficulty in securing tentative rates as suggested in the opinion of the Spokane case. If the commission holds the fourth section valid, I think we will secure a commission will find a way to sustain the fourth section as amended."

Old Hoquiam Council Loses.

HOQUIAM, Wash., April 6.—(Special.)

Don't Persecute your Bowels

Advertisement for Carter's Little Liver Pills, featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman, and text describing the benefits of the pills for digestive health.

Large advertisement for Tull & Gibbs' Store, announcing a closing-out sale of \$500,000 worth of stock. The ad lists various items like furniture, carpets, and clothing, and states that the store will discontinue business in Portland by July 1st.

Advertisement for Laurelhurst homesites, featuring a large illustration of a woman and a child, and text promoting beautiful homesites available on easy terms.

Advertisement for Hand Sapolio hair and skin care products. It includes the headline 'Falling Hair' and 'The Tenderest Skin is Benefited', along with detailed descriptions of the products and their benefits.