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VOL. III.

ALBANY, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1867.

NO. 11.

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ALBANY, Jan. 14, 1867—v2a231y

ANNUAL ADDRESS

Delivered before the Oregon State Agricultural Society, at Salem, October 11th, 1867.

By E. R. DUPUR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

In accepting the courteous invitation of your President to deliver the annual address of 1867, allow me to express my thanks for the honor thus conferred upon me. In compliance with that request, on this occasion, I shall offer no apology for incompetency in striving to fulfill the task which I have undertaken, begging leave to remark that my experience in public speaking is very limited. I am aware, as is frequently, and may I not add, too often the case, in nearly all of our public gatherings, where the people assemble to listen to discourses embracing various subjects, it is customary to select professional men to do the speaking, as those best able to handle and discuss the different topics of the day.

In some instances such selections may be wise and judicious, but where the assemblage like this is composed chiefly of those who look upon life as a plain reality, and depend mostly upon physical exertions as a means of support, we believe it would be unpolitic and impracticable, if not detrimental to the interests of the people of the whole. Lawyers may expound the laws of equity, physicians may explain the different methods of their practice, divines may reason the points of theology, and the laboring masses, farmers and tradesmen, should ever be ready to advocate the principles of their own avocations. When a farmer is invited to make a plea in a court of chancery, a carpenter to lecture upon the science of medicine, or a blacksmith is solicited to discourse upon the laws of divinity, then may the representatives of every branch of industry well repay the compliment by seeking information from professional advice, as applicable to the interest of their respective callings.

No doubt there are many in our State who follow the plow and shove the plane, lay brick in mortar, or strike at the anvil, capable of delivering addresses suitable at all times in any community; and this society, composed of and supported by the producing classes, having as its object mutual improvement in all the departments of enterprise and industry, should bear in mind that theory without practice is not available in accomplishing any beneficial results toward effecting that object. Merit alone is deserving of honor, and true merit belongs to men of worth instead of words. And should this maxim be adopted throughout the moving circles of our country, to govern every action, civil, political and religious, we would be a better, a wiser, and a more prosperous people. In offering these suggestions for your consideration, I have no other motive in view than to uphold the importance of the laborer in public estimation, for his works justly entitle him to the highest honors that man may receive or give. Why should we shriek from toil and look upon it as rendering menial service? Does not Nature, the great Author of perfection teach us every hour by His examples of continual toil written everywhere throughout His ordinance, the condition of our being, and the circumstances with which He has surrounded us, that to labor is obedience to a just decree? Then let us not reject the means we have now at command, of accepting and sharing the bounties nature so freely and abundantly places at our disposal, in supplying all our wants with the necessities of life, when our attention turns to a legitimate calling. We hope the time is fast approaching, when everyone shall be known by the fruits of his industry, and he who gains an honest livelihood by the sweat of the brow shall be regarded as the noblest representative of God's work.

Of all the pursuits which as yet have employed the mental and physical powers of mankind, for a complete development of every resource essential to human good and happiness, agriculture occupies the most prominent position, as forming the basis upon which all others rest and have their origin. The first important indication of a country's promise is, its adaptations for the cultivation of the soil, but other natural advantages and resources which tend to make up the great business circle of life, in creating a home market for agricultural products and forming a commercial relation by which the surplus may find a ready sale in other parts of the world, greatly facilitate in laying the foundation for permanence and success. Yet, with all these blessings bequeathed by a kind Creator for the use and benefit of a people, without persevering diligence and continual application of hand and mind united, happiness will falter, and prosperity fail to triumph. Idleness, wherever practiced, although it may be in aristocratic circles surrounded with ease and luxury, and fed by the glittering pageantry of wealth, degrades the man engendering a spirit of selfish vanity, bigotry and discordant, the fountain-head of war, misery and misrule, while peace is the legitimate offspring of industry, and plenty its reward.

In the creation man was endowed with higher qualities than those bestowed upon any other portion of earth's living things; yet something was necessary to call into action his better nature for in those days which constitute the primitive period of his existence, man was a creature step only above the animal level, governed by impulse rather than reason—the slave of passion and groveling propensity. The power of intellect, tempered with liberality, integrity and moral rectitude had not as yet been realized under the predominancy of physical force, which for many generations controlled the actions and dictated the affairs of men.—Open rapine, and licentious depravity without compunction, was of conquest, subjugating and exacting intolerance committed by lawless hordes of unsettled

barbarians seem to form the greater part of ancient history.

But the law of progression had been contemplated to change the currency of events, and the flood of light, of living truth ushered in with the advent of that era, bore the glad tidings of coming greatness in the future destiny of man. The laws of nature are fixed and immutable; subsistence is an indispensable attribute of life. The decree had gone forth: "By the sweat of the brow shalt thou obtain thy bread," and they who should first bear the command to do its bidding were to be the movers of reform, the builders of society; the pioneers of advancement and civilization, and felt the refining influence of manly virtue, moral worth and intellectual improvement, within the reach of all who sincerely desire their attainment.

The beginning of agriculture as a step from barbarism towards enlightenment, was the introduction of a series of progression, which, with the lapse of time, should be developed, each in its order, to aid in extending the work of amelioration already commenced. The voice that whispered "go forth and plow the fields," breathed into bosoms, deprived and hardened with the usages of war, incentives of purity, peace and good will.

The mental faculty, awakened with shouts of gladness of approaching day, sprang from its slumbering couch, inspired and animated with the duties of its sacred office, and the physical world, awed and submissive in the presence of a superior, heard and obeyed the mandates of its new-born master—mind.

The dark clouds of mystery and uncertainty that so long prevailed the kingdoms of earth with an impenetrable gloom, have disappeared through the untiring efforts of research and investigation. Rules have become fixed, principles have been established over the remains of erroneous fancy and false belief; habit and custom, once rude and turbulent, are now polished with system, and shaped with order. Science, gorgeously arrayed in natural causes and effects, has played upon the inventive powers of man; and art, vying in usefulness to economize strength and time, has reduced to practical application the tested truths of science, and made smooth the once uneven ways of life. Laws have been instituted as a guaranty against open violence and wanton outrage; christianity has been framed in conformity to the dictates of conscience, and in accordance with the command: "As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even unto them."

Barren wastes and trackless wilds converted in grain fields, grazing and meadow lands, have amply rewarded constant diligence with abundant fruitfulness. Nations have risen in the onward march with all the pomp and grandeur of earthly power and glory; governments have been created upon stable foundations, resting in the security of their own capacity, to satisfy the present and future want; the ring of the anvil and the echo of the woodman's ax, keeping stroke with advance of time; the hum of mills and manufactures, and the shriek of the iron horse, laden with the commodities of inland trade and traffic; the waves of ocean whitened with the commerce of international exchange, and a world teeming with prosperity—all of these are living witnesses in behalf of agriculture, as the first great leading cause of man's gradual ascendancy from the days of barbarism to his present eminence, in the scale of human excellence, wisdom and power.

We need not go out of our country to seek for proofs to substitute our assertions. The United States of America, as an individual power, owes its present standpoint in the catalogue of nations: first, to its agricultural resources; secondly, to its mechanical and manufacturing abilities; and thirdly, to the manner in which its people have diligently prosecuted the work of peaceful pursuit. Agriculture, through the persevering energies of its devotees aided by mechanical art in the economy of labor, has furnished the raw material for subsistence and apparel; manufacture has reduced its products to better suit the requirements for home use and commercial relations, and our landed system giving to each worthy son of toil a home, was the crowning act of American Liberty in framing the bulwarks to public security, and has been the secret of success in promoting general welfare and harmonizing popular sentiment with concord of action and mutual interest, followed by contentment and that degree of prosperity unequalled in the records of other countries where landed monopolies have been tolerated. Not a century has glided away into past since this birth of our Republic, but industry has its record and the low infant colonies that formed the constituent parts of the embryonic nation have expanded with gigantic proportions into noble States; others have been added to the list, till now the members of the great Union are scattered over its broad domains, from the Gulf to the Canadas, and from ocean to ocean. It is an established axiom, that like causes produce like effects, and if those we have mentioned have served so well to make opulent the people of other States, may not we, in our endeavors to build up the institutions of our own, profit by their examples?

Surrounded, as we have been throughout this occasion with so many manifestations of industry, skill and good taste, we can arrive at but one conclusion: that the citizens of Oregon are public spirited in all that pertains to public improvement—and as improvement in its every sense is embodied in the intent of this society, I sincerely hope it may remain one of the leading features of the State.

Let the spirit of good feeling that has existed in this assemblage prevail on similar gatherings of after date; and while competition, if honorably executed, will add to general interest, we trust no unwarrantable rivalry will be allowed to abate our ardor, or bar our progress; but with a desire for mutual advancement,

let us maintain to the last this, the Workmen's order; and when perfection shall follow on our line of march, then may the purpose justly demand its object—and not till then shall our work be finished.

I would that I were better acquainted with the former history of Oregon, that I might be able to draw more correct conclusions in approximating the chain of circumstances connected with its growth. But assured that I am that seems at least, if not many, of you were among its earliest settlers, with your recollection of past experiences, brightened by every day's occurrences, fully able to realize the rapid change which, within a very limited period has come over a part of that tract of country lying along the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. As the time that I shall continue to address you must necessarily be brief, I shall now address my remarks more particularly to the present appearance and future prospects of this Pacific State. Blessed with a mild, salubrious climate, its winters, although some may deem them disagreeable, are admirably suited to the interests of the stock-raising and the farming classes, while its summers would rival those of the beautiful Italy. With a large scope of country, embracing sixty millions of acres, much of which is susceptible of cultivation, and only awaits the indomitable energy and practical skill of the agriculturist to make fruitful a naturally fertile soil, with its western borders resting upon the great Pacific, and two navigable rivers flowing through and draining a large portion of arable land, associating with it the ocean trade, and affording a means by which its productions are accessible to markets of the outer world—with fisheries of almost unlimited extent, and lumbering facilities of no little value in connection with building purposes—with many good and lasting water privileges, ready to lend the motive power in driving the machinery of mills, and of vast importance to any agricultural country—with iron of a superior quality and in abundance to more than supply the home demand in all of the practical uses to which it is adapted; gold, silver and copper added to the list of precious metals abounding in nearly every part of mountains within its jurisdiction. With all these evidences of the most attractive and choicest of nature's handiworks are we not justified in expressing the opinion that the natural resources of Oregon would bear a favorable comparison with many if not all of the Old Eastern States.

Comparatively speaking Oregon is still in its infancy, yet as we glance over the pages of improvement already written in her youthful career, the mind is directed into one channel of thought—that our State assumes a character of permanence and importance commensurate of admiration in the opinion of her sisters, and inhabited by the civilized portions of mankind. All traces of former barbarism are fast becoming extinct under the auspicious influences of better society, and the spell of quietude but a few years ago reared upon her landscape from border to border, has been broken by the bustle and commotion of an industrious people, whose aim is to walk in the higher roads of life. Beautiful farms with good substantial buildings cover the valleys, tablelands and hill-sides, yielding rich harvests, through the skillful management and well-regulated husbandry of their occupants and owners. Thriving towns and cities have taken the places of temporary trading posts; tanneries, foundries, machine shops and mills of different descriptions have been established in many portions of the State, and are now actively engaged assisting other vocations in bringing forth useful results for private and public good. There is no lack of interest in view to education, and schools of learning are scattered everywhere throughout the land, affording an opportunity tantamount to the wants of the present youths in the all-important acquisitions of knowledge.

Having but briefly alluded to some of the leading characteristics of our State, let us now look to matters for future consideration and action. And as our farming interests are invaluable, not only with our present social position, but with the progress we may hereafter make, I now ask your attention for a few moments to that particular. As we have before observed, agriculture is the first step to independence and greatness; mechanism, manufacture, and all other pursuits follow in the wake of its productions.

Fellow-farmers, in what I may say pertaining to our vocation, I do it, not with a view to dictate or command, but as an appeal to your own good sense and judgment. Experience has shown us that without system there is seldom success, and this rule is applicable alike to all cases where man is dependant upon his own energies for subsistence. The results of farming are governed more by the process of filling than by the amount of land cultivated. As we look to the soil as the great source of remuneration, to guard well its properties should receive our first attention, and to strengthen its capacity the first object of our thoughts. A successful farmer will learn and appreciate the value of manure; overtaxation, without replenishing the soil, of continued length will exhaust the most fertile land, while sterile wastes through artificial means are made productive, and to apply fertilizing substances to our fields is to expend their powers and prolong their fruitfulness. Then let us give to the soil that which it freely gives to us, and our reward shall be a hundred fold. Order should be the basis of our domestic affairs, and nothing left for the morrow that should be done to-day. With all the apparatus of the farm neatly finished and kept in good repair, with a care to comfort, convenience and good cheer, the farmer will be independent, home will be a pleasure rather than a burden.

And here we would urge the necessity of paying strict regard to the education

of farmers' sons and daughters. It is a duty that parents owe their children, and while they should be schooled in useful and taught that labor is not dishonorable, they may, and should have, the advantages of highly polished manners and well cultivated minds.

As a grain-growing district, Oregon presents very flattering prospects, and promises in the future with remunerative returns. It should be a matter of congratulation to the grain-growers to know, that Eastern consumers are paying tribute to this locality for a part of their bread-stuffs. From reliable sources we have information to the effect that for sometime past Oregon flour has commanded the highest price over all other brands in the Eastern market. Thus, have we not only reason to be proud that so soon our efforts have resulted in a surplus over and above what was needed for home consumption, but that a State so young as ours has not only won the championship from her seniors, many of whom are much her neighbor and whose chief pursuit has been cotton and the grain growing interest.

There is no danger of this part of farming being over done, and we trust it will continue to be one of the leading avenues of internal wealth. It is also commendable of the proprietors and managers of flouring mills that they have spared no pains in producing a superior article.

Stock raising may be pursued with great advantage here, as we have many facilities necessary to its encouragement and prosperity. Many inducements are held forth to attract our attention in this direction—horses are brought into requisition hourly, and beef, mutton and pork constitute a part of the elements of subsistence. Yet the ultimate success of this pursuit pertains no less to quality than to amount. Taking into consideration the expense of keeping and the purposes assigned to each, with the results of sale, the balance greatly weighs in favor of the superior grades. A lively interest has been manifested toward the improvement of stock in each department, and those who have engaged in importing the best class of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, are deserving of great commendation from the rest, and it is also creditable of the people that they have appreciated the favor by replacing the inferior with the better bloods.

While each class taken separately, if placed on exhibition in any part of the world, would be no discredit to their owners, it is a noteworthy instance that Oregon has already furnished as fine breeds as ever the eyes of man beheld in any country. Perhaps no other enterprise in the State has received a more liberal patronage, or has been of greater value to the inhabitants, than that of stock-raising. So far we have been able to answer the home call, as our markets, filled with a variety of the choicest of meats will attest, and the recollection of the cornucopia droves taken from our luxuriant hills and prairies to feed the gold hunters of California, the British possessions, and those mining regions lying to the eastward, should serve as a stimulus for the continuation of this one of the most essential branches of agricultural pursuits. Dairying is a permanent occupation the world over, and should be attended to here as well as in other States and countries.—Perhaps we have been rather negligent in this respect, as the past would seem to indicate; for in many of our markets are to be found the proceeds of Eastern dairy farms. Now if the people of some of the Middle and New England States, with their rocky hills and frozen winters of six months' duration, after deducting freightage, commission and other expenses, can make it profitable to furnish our tables with butter and cheese, cannot we, with superior advantages in soil and climate, well afford not only to stop this outward flow of money by replacing articles of dairy production, but to create an overplus sufficient to throw the balance of trade upon us? The question is easily answered, and awaits only the future for a reply.

Wool-growing is keeping pace with other undertakings, and as a lucrative business has few if any equals. The woolen manufactures now established near at hand, with a capacity to work 1,000,000 pounds of wool annually, will not remain idle for want of material, as many have already invested in sheep.—Our mineral resources are liable to become exhausted, mining stocks may depreciate and go down, but the wool-growing interest shall be as lasting as our State, and will enhance in value from day to day.

While I have not time to comment further upon the channels of industry included in farming operations, I suggest the propriety that each department should be well represented. Let our labor be divided, and each work so proportioned that wherever or whenever a demand may occur, we may be ready to answer the call.

The Oswego Iron Works, now engaged in manufacturing iron from the ore, is deserving of our notice, and will render material aid in carrying out some of the measures of home economy.

The energetic spirit manifested by transportation companies, and other private and public enterprises before mentioned, speak highly in favor of the wealthy class; that the capitalists are not idle while the masses work.

Oregon still holds out inducements to call immigration hither, for although a majority of the best lands, in point of fertility and location, are now owned and occupied, yet thousands of acres with greater facilities for farming purposes than had blessed New Englanders in early times, are lying idle without an owner.—And should the floating population of the East, attracted to our shores, choose to cast their lot among us, share our toils, and mingle their fortunes with ours in one common cause of advancement, let the hand of welcome extend them a kindly greeting, and assist them in acquiring that which is the most valuable of earthly treasures, a home. True, competition will follow immigration, but we have

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greater reason to court competition than fear it.

While much has been done to establish upon a firm foundation the superstructure of this young but very promising State of the Pacific, what has been thus far witnessed is but the opening chapter of a greater result, nobler victories and more brilliant achievements of peaceful conquest and acquisition await us, and a brighter era than has ever blessed upon this part of our common country is yet to dawn. The project for a Pacific railroad which has been the theme of much remark, speculation and discussion among all classes of Americans seems to be no longer a creature of fancy and delusion, but a matter of fact, a reality, that is to be. Two distinct lines are now marked out by which the Atlantic is to be bound to the Pacific with iron rails, and soon will the eyes of a world behold the untold and inexhaustible wealth of our Pacific Possessions. Ere many years hence the central and northern routes, the former pointing out San Francisco as its place of destination, and the latter terminating at Puget Sound, will be completed and open for travel, and then shall another pass through the heart of our State connecting the two main trunks and known as the Oregon Central Railroad.

The far seeing of Europe have proclaimed America to be the connecting link between their own country and that of Asia, and the best business and commercial authorities have determined that at some future period not far distant, the Asiatic trade will cross the American continent. The Northern Pacific as the shortest and most feasible route will be the main thoroughfare for the commerce of our own as well as that of some of the European nations; and at its western terminus as the center of trade, the great business emporiums for reshipment and communication, another New York shall adorn our shores not a hundred miles distant from our borders.

Then shall the laborer be worthy of his hire; our markets increased a hundred fold shall be ready for the reception of all our products, and with our agricultural, manufacturing, mechanical and mineral resources and advantages, we may sing a song of ease and plenty and bid defiance to a world of competition.—With new interests awakened and immigration coming from every direction, our vacant lands shall then teem in bounteous fruitfulness, and Oregon soon will be second to none, but a peer with any of the States of the Union.

There is still another law of progression which years ago sages and seers foretold and prophets foresaw in holy vision, but is now only prospective with the immigration. The time when the sword shall be beaten into the ploughshare, and the spear into the pruning hook, and all the nations fraternized in one united brotherhood shall learn war no more. That time when universal peace, love and goodwill shall reign on earth supreme, every one shall sit under his own vine and fig tree with none to molest or make him afraid.

The Phatt Man. BY JOSH BILLINGS. There is only three things that belong to other folks that I ever envy, and them is virtue, flesh and understanding. I suppose it is possible for a man to manufacture his own virtue, and improve his stock or understanding; but he can't improve his long lean body or bones with a soft and pulpy cushion of flesh, that is fun to set down on.

I never own a phatt man neatly dressed, with his silk and shuing face out generously out or warm meat, and gashed with a pair of waiking lips, as smooth and as gently red as the doorway tea sea shell, and garnished with a grate pair of juicy eyes, that air forever slopping over with gud nature; but what I want to—call him unkle, and—kiss him for an aut.

And then thar (endpoint, I believe you call it) so outspoken, so full of good things, is equal to a dinner, for a lean devil, like me, to tuk at over.

I can't tell what makes one man so phatt, and the next one so like an empty stocking, or a manakin in a narrow bolster, unless it is that the phatt souls are like a mountain spring, fed from within, until they can't hold no more, and then run over the brim, to make others happy.

Did ye ever kuo a phatt man tew commit suicide? I guess ye never did; they luv gravy tu well for that. Shaikspear loved old Jack Falstaff more than enny piktur he ever drew, and tho he filled him up tew the edge with devility, and stale heroism, and mutch sack, and but little bread, he made 'im phatt, and everybody would be very sorry now tew lay his good-natured hillock or flesh graded down out or thare memory.

Why? Shaikspear wanted sum plun, he sought out, you remember, a lean apothekary, who kept a grocery or beggary boxes. Did you ever heer of a phatt man being hung? I guess not. They sumtimes destroy plun pudding, and biled ox, but they never murder enny thing that ain't gud to eat.

That must have been a phatt Frenchman who exclaimed upon his fast visit tew this kuntry, "By gar! what a people! Ten thousand different religions, and only one gravy!" In konclusion, I never kuo but one phatt skoolmaster, and he wnt gud for enny thing, only tew slide down hill with the boys. This satisfies me that phatt is in only another name for virtue.

CHIGNON.—The original meaning of chignon is cabbage. Heads of cabbage oh, ladies! FAME.—Fame is like a river—narrowest at its birth-place, and broadest afar off.