

THE FRUIT OF LABOR.

The great material improvement, noted by a correspondent, in the western portion of Benton county, is due directly to that successful conjurer, intelligently directed labor. The whole western section of the county, though in the mountains, is chiefly noted for its well cared for and productive farms and ranches and the kindly hospitality of its people.

A few years ago the prospects for the western portion of the county were not at all promising. It was commonly referred to in derision as "the burnt hills," and one must confess that at that time the thing that attracted the most attention, other than the miserable condition of the roads, was the waste of blackened timber stretching for miles and miles over the mountains.

Now the erstwhile wilderness is presented to us as a garden, where the results of toil and patience are shown in pleasing lights. Nor is the picture of material prosperity dimmed by the stories of the people's hospitality and culture, that are told by all who visit among them.

The bad roads still exist and unfortunately this section does not have a monopoly of wretched highways, but it is hoped that methods and means will be found to soon make the roads of the county something more than a libel on the name.

These farms and homes in the hills do not mean great fortunes, but they mean solid comfort and an easy conscience. They mean health and genuine happiness, besides which the garish pleasures of city dissipation are but tinsel and empty shades.

THE POLITICAL ARENA.

The many parties and factions in Oregon are stirring early. It will require skillful generalship to create an orderly, compact army out of the scattered, rebellious sections that today represent the old political parties. Just now the leaders and would-be leaders are feeling and bluffing. Each one wishes to be in a position to dictate when the time for dictating comes.

The opposition to the republican party is far from being united. At the present outlook there is nothing to justify the prediction that the Penoyer people and the Young-U'Ren crowd will ever come together. In the republican camp all is not harmonious, but there is little material division outside of Multnomah county. The only issue between republicans is the matter of the legislative hold-up last winter, and in the state the claiming republicans who aided in that disgraceful affair or who uphold it now are so few and unimportant that they will hardly be a disturbing factor in the state convention.

The gubernatorial candidates are keeping well under cover. Lord, of course, is very earnestly striking for renomination, but he will have scant support. Supreme judge, Frank Moore, would run well and make a splendid governor, but it is understood that he wishes only his present position. Virgil Conn, who is mentioned also as a likely candidate for secretary of state, is freely spoken of as a fine man for governor.

There will be but little opposition to Tongue in the republican convention. Nor will the combinations that nearly defeated him in the election of 1896, be operative next spring. Barclay wishes to run against Tongue and the republicans are quite willing.

"Claude Gatch, of Salem, is one of the 'sought.' He has warm friends all over the state who are urging him to make the race for secretary of state or for state treasurer. He has so far, however, refused to consider the matter. A. C. Woodcock, of Eugene, can probably secure the nomination for attorney general, if he wants it. But he is more likely to be a candidate for circuit judge of this district. Benton county will strongly urge a candidate for the judgeship.

McBride rushed his Klondike relief bill through the senate with extraordinary dispatch. He is evidently a very influential member. Indeed, the entire Oregon delegation is entitled to great credit in this matter, which even the Oregonian admits, though coldly and reluctantly. The attitude of some Portland business men since Alger's determination to make the expedition no advertising scheme, shows that their professed humanity was nothing but a sordid desire for self gain.

Karl's Clover Root Tea for Constipation, is the best, and if after using it you don't say so, return the package and get your money. Sold by Graham & Wells.

Culls and Comments.

Raphael's pictures of the Holy Mother have never been considered "loud," yet a contributor to Peterson's Magazine for December, thus begins his article, "The Madonnas of Raphael have charmed unnumbered audiences for nearly four hundred years."

The Puritan for December has a sensible editorial comment upon the anti-football agitation. It says: "The football rolls merrily on, but the clamor against it grows daily more insistent. For every broken leg or sprained back or mutilated face there is a fresh burst of wrath from parents and guardians and others in authority, and when, now and then, a game closes with a tragedy, and a player is carried off never to come back, the protest comes for the moment almost national. If it is the waste of life they deplore, why, in the name of logic, doesn't the whole country rise up against bicycling, yackting, hunting, coaching, baseball, lacrosse, polo, and all the other popular means of mutilation? New York can show fifty bicycle casualties to a month, and the record of any hunt or polo club contains broken necks as well as broken limbs. If football is to be condemned for its squandering of youth and strength various other amusements should share its doom. This is not an attack on sport. It is merely an appeal for public logic. We thoroughly believe in athletic exercise, looking on its casualties as an inevitable tax, infinitely sad in each individual case, yet worth enduring. Measured by percentages, the penalty is exceedingly small—almost infinitesimal, in most forms of sport. There is just risk enough to show that there is bodily valor among us yet; that we still 'know fire of the blood,' and can fight with muscles as well as tongues. Football is rough, no doubt—brutal, perhaps, but the pluck and power and endurance of these holiday warriors stands for something too good to be suppressed. A nation is likely to need a hero any minute and one is not made in a day."

Some recent magazine articles by Englishmen rather sneeringly refer to the people of the United States as a people without a distinctive name. Other nationalities are known as Britishers, Englishmen, Irishmen, Russians, Canadians, Chinnamen, Mexicans, etc., but the only named claimed by or given to the people of our country is "Americans," which belongs to the Canadians, Mexicans and Central and South Americans, as well as to us.

A local writer contributes a poem on this subject, that will appear next week.

The verdict of the Corvallis council in the recent trial of our chief of police, does not necessarily imply that the city fathers endorse fist fighting by the head of the police department. They evidently considered that in this instance the chief only accepted what was practically a challenge, to ignore which, would reflect upon the bravery of our police force. It should be understood that the chief is not addicted to the habit of fighting. Finally—the matter is settled; quarrels are unprofitable and unpleasant; and there is virtue and happiness in harmony. This Christmas season is a good time to quit our petty bickerings and become better neighbors, better citizens and better men.

"Stabbed by an Old Friend," is the title of a pamphlet lately received. It is an attempt to show, by means of New York Sun editorials, that the New York Tribune has joined an attempt to split the republican party. It will take more than the efforts of a free lance like the Sun to prove the Tribune disloyal to the republican party.

The Alaska Miner has interviewed a truthful gentleman who has just escaped from the Klondike, and who is authority for the following: "A man who had wintered up there seven years told me that it was so cold in January that they froze the flames of their candles and sold them for strawberries. He knew of one case where the smoke from a chimney froze after it got a hundred feet up, and fell back on the house, driving a hole in the roof big enough to drive a yoke of steers through."

HOFFMAN ITEMS.

Every one is looking forward to Christmas and a good time seems to be expected.

Emmett Williamson has removed his engine from where it stood and has been saving wood for the neighbors.

H. J. Moore spent Sunday with his family.

Elmer Williamson's health is much improved.

August Kroschel contemplates a trip to eastern Oregon soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Williamson will leave for Portland Thursday to spend Christmas with her folks.

The Klondike fever is still raging in our community and some, we believe are severely afflicted.

Our Sunday school is reviving under the direction of our new superintendent, Miss Woods.

Earnest Coffey has purchased a set of shoemaker's tools and expects to open up a shop in the rear of the "Klondike Store."

TOWARD THE SUNSET.

Rambles of a Roamer in the Western Mountains of Benton County.

During two days of raging storm I enjoyed the genial companionship of comrade George Wamsley and his family, at Blodgett. His wife, although an invalid for many years, still infuses sunshine into her home. The unselfish devotion of this happy couple to one another, gives the lie to the oft repeated cant, "marriage is a failure."

Here we met Scott King, who lives nearby and who enjoys the distinction of being justice of the peace, and also being recommended by the Oregon delegation in congress for the position of postmaster at Blodgett. Mr. Wood, the present incumbent, still holds the fort, however.

Blodgett valley is an ideal locality. It is surrounded on all sides by lofty hills covered with fir timber, whose dark green foliage makes a striking contrast to the delicate green of the growing grass and grain. Laughing brooks take their rise in these hills, and come surging down into the valley, furnishing the purest of water for man and beast. The sea and mountain breezes are tempered by the warm air of the valley, so rarifying the atmosphere that but little fog exists in this section.

The O. C. & E. R. R. runs through the southern portion of the valley, giving good facilities for shipping the large tonnage of grain grown here as well as transportation for stock to the seaboard, or directly into the Willamette Valley. At Blodgett station would be a good opening for a blacksmith. The valley is settled with intelligent and thrifty farmers, whose comfortable homes shelter the wayfarer, and beguile him into hours of ease, which he would gladly let run into days and weeks, were it not that stern duty, that inexorable master, demands continuous and unceasing devotion.

Among the prosperous farmers and ranchers in this fertile spot are, Scott King, Abner Wood, W. B. Kiger, Mr. Shray, Doc Blodgett, F. H. Francis, A. A. Laskey, W. A. Gellatly, whose ranch consists of about 1300 hundred acres of land, much of which is good grain land and the balance excellent grazing. Will, as he is familiarly called, keeps everything about the big ranch moving, being ably seconded by his wife. On this place are now being stable-fed three car loads of cattle that will be ready for the Alaska market about the first of March. Sheep, goats and swine are also grown for the market here.

A. Cadwalder has a ranch one mile and a half west from Gellatly's, on top of the mountains, that is surprisingly rich. Mr. C. takes just pride in his farm of 80 acres, which produces good well matured corn, wheat, oats, hay, fruit of various kinds and vegetables in abundance. The writer's pockets were filled with fine apples grown on this place. They were perfect in flavor and color. Coddling moths cannot live here—the mountain air is too healthy for them.

On all the foothills surrounding Blodgett valley the grass grows luxuriantly and stock of all kinds thrive and are free from disease. Feed consisting of roots and hay is raised to provide food for the stormy days of winter. Mr. Van Melts and Jeff Wood have ranches on the same mountain as Cadwalder.

These people are all prosperous to a greater or less degree, are making substantial improvements, drive good teams, read the current literature of the day, are contented, happy, sociable and take great pride in their country school, over which Miss Anna Denman presides, dealing out ethics, grammar and mathematics justly and successfully to the devoted pupils.

"Roamer" was cordially greeted and made welcome in the homes of the people he met in the valley and was asked to repeat his visit which he hopes to do when milder weather prevails. All seem pleased with the increasing business activity of the country and hopeful for the future. A universal expression of confidence was given in the McKinley administration, fervent wishes for Cuban liberty and a generally prevailing opinion that the treaty with Hawaiian Islands will be ratified by the senate very soon.

ROAMER.

MITCHELL AS AN ISSUE.

There is a disposition to make Mitchell or Mitchellism an issue between republicans. There will not be lacking a determined effort before the convention meets to create discord in the party over the ex-senator, and these efforts will be made for selfish purposes, and not for the good of the party. Republicans cannot afford to quarrel over Mr. Mitchell, and those persons who are bent upon "working this lead" may understand now that the republicans are not going to quarrel over him. They have more important duties to perform.

When a man or a paper, claiming to be a republican, insists on bringing the name of Mitchell into political discussions, that man or that paper, whether for Mitchell or against him, stamps himself an enemy to the republican party.

MONROE ITEMS.

The saloon in our burg was opened Saturday.

George Schneider goes to Klondike in the spring.

The Monroe Palace drug store now sports a new sign.

An old fashioned Christmas tree will be seen at the Methodist church on Christmas eve. The ladies' aid society is running the affair.

A dance will be given in Wilhelm's hall New Year's eve. Barnett and Irwin are at the helm and good order will be one of the mottoes for the evening.

Moses Starr, wife and two boys are down from the Big Bend country on a visit to their old home. Mrs. Starr is a sister of Mrs. S. Richardson and T. H. Wellsher, of this place.

A kitescope and other entertainment, will greet those who are in attendance at the performance in Wilhelm's hall on Christmas eve. Six people are billed as taking part in the program and since it is the first regular troupe of showmen to visit our town, it will no doubt draw quite a crowd, although it is on Christmas eve.

A drama and basket social was given by the patrons and members of Bellfountain grange last Friday evening. A splendid time is reported and something over \$40 was netted by the grangers. This sum will be applied toward the erection of their new hall at Dusty. A similar event took place in Monroe Wednesday night, but particulars are not yet obtainable. The Monroe band was behind this latter scheme.

An exceedingly interesting ten minutes was spent by Milt Barnett last Friday. Mr. Barnett was ploughing in a field south of town on that day, when along came W. C. Belknap's hounds in tow of a coyote. The animal was very nearly tired out, so Barnett stopped his team and lit out after the varmint. The distance to the creek was only a matter of a few hundred yards, and the recent rains had caused the water to raise so that the lower lands were covered. At the point where the wolf reached the water a log lay, and on this he took refuge. This same log lay near a tree which forked just above the water, and as the hounds came on the log the wolf swung himself up into the forks of the tree, and when Barnett came up the dogs sat on the log, one on each side of tree, while the coyote sat up in the tree and rested his carcass. Wading waist deep in the water, the sheepkiller by the tail and tried to knock out his brains with a lead pencil. In fact, the excitement of the moment caused Milt to forget that he ever owned a pocket knife, and the efforts he made in his endeavor to drown the animal were very, very funny, indeed. You should see Milt to tell it if you want to laugh and grow fat. The coyote was killed. What wouldn't die with so much trouble on its mind.

DUSTY.

Mrs. Ed. Williams is on the sick list this week.

Geo. Kendall made a trip to Corvallis Monday.

Dr. Bennett will not go to Halsey as intended.

A. P. Starr and family were in Corvallis this week.

J. B. Goodman is improving, but his arm is quite lame.

Minton Bradley has been in Alsea for the past two days.

Manley Buckingham expects to start for Lafayette next Saturday.

Leroy Humphrey, of Eugene, is visiting his brother at this place.

Bellfountain grange met in their new hall Saturday and elected their officers for the ensuing year.

Miss Ruby Bradley is visiting at home for a few days before entering college at Philomath for the winter.

The grange entertainment given at the hall last Friday evening was a success. Receipts of the evening were \$42.20.

Arthur Perin expects to start for Iowa next Monday. He expects to remain a year. His many friends regret his absence.

SAMANTHA.

Mother Rice is no better. She is not expected to live.

Charles McTimmonds has come home from Eastern Oregon, but expects to return in February.

Christmas tree at the new church this year. Everybody is invited to come and put their "pretties" on for the children, and have a good time.

Protracted meetings will commence at the old church on the new year provided the pastor's family is able for him to leave home.

Our old friend, John Bodker, is with us at Hoskins again this winter, following his old profession, waiting on the girls.

There was a four horse load of provisions left the valley this week in charge of D. R. Kibby, for Monmouth as a Christmas present to Bro. T. P. Vincent, who has labored faithfully among the people of Kings valley.

F. M. Johnson, of Corvallis, was in our neighborhood last week,

looking after the interests of the GAZETTE. We wish him success wherever he may go in building up a good, substantial paper; one that will give all the county news of general interest.

PHILOMATH NEWS LETTER.

Miss Anna Mulkey, of Corvallis, is visiting at O. M. Friak's.

Prof. Holm has received the appointment of notary public.

The Salvation Army will give a supper at Whitney's hall Thursday evening.

Lieut. Pearson held a Salvation Army meeting in Philomath Thursday night.

Dora Boies visited her sister, Mrs. A. M. Gray, on south Mary's river, last week.

Ed. Hawkins, driving a four horse team, took a big load of firewood to Corvallis, Friday.

Philomath Sabbath school will give an entertainment in the college chapel Friday evening.

Mr. H. Crabtree hauled his dried prunes to Corvallis Thursday, to grade and pack them ready for shipping.

Mrs. Susie Henkle has moved into the city for the purpose of sending her daughter, Zelma, to Philomath college.

COLLEGE OF PHILOMATH.

A public rhetorical was given at Kezeel chapel Thursday evening.

There will be a Christmas tree and literary program at Kezeel chapel Friday evening.

The college is doing good work. We expect quite an increase in attendance next term, which opens January 4, 1898.

President Davis will preach in the new college chapel Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Christian endeavor in the evening at 6, followed by preaching by Rev. N. W. Allen.

PHILOMATH COLLEGE.

Scott Prindel fell and sprained his ankle last week.

George McClusky has an eye single to everything since the football game. He has court plaster on the other one.

Some fifteen or twenty additions were made to the ranks of our students at the beginning of the winter term.

Some of the college boys played football with the town boys last week. The college boys had never played the game before, and, it is said, came out exactly like the Washington university did on Thanksgiving.

The public rhetorical was a thoroughly enjoyable affair. The essays, orations and lectures were well worded and indicative of original thought. A lecture entitled "The New Woman," by Miss Nora Ingle, was delivered in an easy style of language and contained an amount of common sense not usually considered allowable in the college entertainment. The orations of W. J. Hooker and G. E. McDonald would do honor to the graduating class of any college in the state. Prof. Don Woodward and his guitar were present and responded to some ever-recurring encores.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE OF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a license and order of sale duly issued out of county court for Benton county, Oregon, on the 7th day of December, 1897, in the matter of the estate of W. H. H. Rick, deceased, the undersigned executor of said estate, will on

Saturday, the 5th day of January, 1898, at the hour of 1 o'clock, p. m. of said day, at the front door of the court house, in the city of Corvallis, Benton county, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder the real property belonging to said estate, described as follows: Lots 1 and 2 of half block 26 in the County addition to Corvallis, Oregon. Also lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Nicholas' 1st addition to Corvallis, Oregon, all in Benton county, Oregon. Terms of Sale—cash in hand.

Corvallis, Oregon, December 7, 1897.

H. C. NUTE, Executor.

P. O. Address, Medford, Oregon.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF

Charles H. Fletcher IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF

CASTORIA

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

It is because its readers are of the well-to-do class that the

Corvallis Gazette

is the most profitable medium for advertisers in Benton county.

The Gazette is the greatest country weekly in Oregon.

We have the best equipped Job Office in the city.

Gazette Publishing Co.

LOUIS G. ALTMAN, M. D.,

Homeopathist.

Office: Over Allen & Woodward's drugstore.

Residence: Corner Third and Harrison Sts.

Hours: 9-12, 2-5, 7-9. Corvallis, Or.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE OF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a license and order of sale duly issued out of county court for Benton county, Oregon, on the 7th day of December, 1897, in the matter of the estate of W. H. H. Rick, deceased, the undersigned executor of said estate, will on

Saturday, the 5th day of January, 1898, at the hour of 1 o'clock, p. m. of said day, at the front door of the court house, in the city of Corvallis, Benton county, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder the real property belonging to said estate, described as follows: Lots 1 and 2 of half block 26 in the County addition to Corvallis, Oregon. Also lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Nicholas' 1st addition to Corvallis, Oregon, all in Benton county, Oregon. Terms of Sale—cash in hand.

Corvallis, Oregon, December 7, 1897.

H. C. NUTE, Executor.

P. O. Address, Medford, Oregon.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF

Charles H. Fletcher IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF

CASTORIA

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Fac-Simile Signature of Charles H. Fletcher NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses = 35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

Christmas Christmas Christmas

1897

The most Elegant Line of Christmas Goods ever displayed at Kline's.

Consisting of—

Dolls

5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and up to \$5.00.

Manicure Sets, Work Boxes, Toilet Cases from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

Mirrors, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes in Celluloid and Silk.

Silk Umbrellas, Silk Handkerchiefs, Mufflers.

Dress Goods and Fine Clothing, also an Elegant Line of Ladies', Misses' and Gent's Fine Shoes

All suitable for Holiday presents, at

KLINE'S,

The Renator of Low Prices.

O.R.&N. GO EAST

TO THE EAST

GIVES THE CHOICE OF TWO TRANSCONTINENTAL ROUTES

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY. OREGON SHORT LINE

SPokane MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL AND CHICAGO

SALT LAKE DENVER OMAHA KANSAS CITY

LOW RATES IN ALL EASTERN CITIES.

OCEAN STEAMERS LEAVE PORTLAND EVERY 5 DAYS

FOR SAN FRANCISCO

Steamers Monthly from Portland to Yokohama and Hong Kong, via the Northern Pacific Steamship Co. in connection with O. R. & N.

For full information call on O. R. & N. agent, Geo. F. Eglin, Corvallis, Or.

W. H. HURLBURT, GENERAL AGENT, PORTLAND, OR.