

UNION EXPERIMENT STATION.

The Union experiment station is to be the most beneficial institution in the entire state of Oregon. If the objects in view are fully carried out, at present its work is almost entirely experimental. It is engaged in the study of the adaptability of soils to crops and climate. It is seeking the species that will yield best returns under the conditions that surround Eastern Oregon crops.

But when it gets through the strictly experimental stage, and enters the productive age, or begins to grow an excellent variety of seeds for sale, then the farmers of the state and in particular those in the Eastern portion, will begin to reap some substantial rewards from its work.

The intention of the management of the Union experiment station, is to grow every variety of the highest grade, hardiest, purest seed grain, that it is possible to produce; to grow the best garden seeds obtainable, to produce the highest grade of nursery stock and to keep on hand a limited number of thoroughbred farm and dairy animals, for sale to Oregon farmers. This is the scope of the plans now outlined and as the work of the station becomes more thoroughly systematized, and the people grow into the habit of patronizing it and encouraging its extension by creating a demand for its products, it will become the most useful institution supported by the state, in the interest of the people.

The soil on the tract of state land in Eastern Oregon, a better selection could not have been made for this particular purpose. The climate is representative of the Inland Empire and the seeds grown and nursery stock matured there will be certain of the highest adaptability in any section of the state.

The tendency in all lines is to produce less in quantity and better quality. On ranges, farms and in orchards this under-current of improvement is constantly going on. Higher grade animals are replacing the "scrubs." More choice varieties of grain are supplanting the old. More uniformity of size, flavor and color in fruits is the unerring aim of orchardists.

In this task they can be assisted by the scientific and practical work of the station. They can be benefited by the researches made on the experiment farm, that cannot be undertaken by the individual farmer.

Every man interested in the betterment of Oregon crops, orchards, fields or flocks, should encourage the work of the station. Where it has been given preference should be seen for the station in purchasing over foreign seed homes, at least when in the west during the past two months. In consequence the time is close at hand when the people will demand a change to be brought about by the adoption of a constitutional amendment.

Last year the house of representatives voted unanimously for the submission to the states of an amendment for the popular election of senators, but the matter was killed almost before it had formed its nucleus. When it comes up again, as it is bound to do, a more forcible impetus should be brought to bear upon the subject, not only for the good of the people, but for the good of the country at large.

Such an amendment would require the concurrence of three-fourths of the states before the change could be made, but it is safe to assume that if thirty-four of the state legislatures should ratify the amendment it would be with the sanction of the majority of the citizens of the United States who have become sick and tired of well developed spick systems and prolonged wrangles.

THE INDEPENDENT WEST.

In the East the West is still looked upon as new and crude. The residents of the states along the Atlantic seaboard suppose we still have the primitive pioneer conditions which existed a few decades ago. Time was when the development of the natural resources of the West required a large expenditure of Eastern capital. We called on the East for money to put in and to move our crops. Year by year the demand has lessened. The Western mortgages have largely been paid off and the farmers have money in the bank. They have money to carry on their farms and money to loan. Nebraska, which 50 years ago was virgin prairie, recently loaned the old commonwealth of Massachusetts \$500,000. It invested

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"Fully 90 per cent of the children of this state obtain all their education in the common schools," said Senator Miller. "I think the appropriations here contemplated for the benefit of the 10 per cent who obtain higher educations are much too heavy. I believe in the education of the masses and I believe that a larger proportion of state moneys should be expended on their education than is now done. I therefore vote against this bill."

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They are dispersing to every civilized land, in hopes of finding a resting place, free from her domination. Their civilization is laid waste. The national spirit is forced to a submission that is worse than open rebellion. Their fields and flocks are destroyed. What was once a bee hive of industry and contentment, is a land of desolation and mourning.

The advances of England, in a reconciliatory direction, only aggravates the general disorder.

Well may Joseph Chamberlain say that all hope of reconciling the Boers is vanished. Well may he surrender the vain ambition that would nurse the triumphant spirit of this obliterated people into a race of king-lovers. Before they will live in the shadow of royalty, they will forsake the land of their fathers, surrender every cherished ideal of free government, and become wanderers upon the earth.

They have lived to cultivate freedom. They have stood apart from the European monarchies in South Africa for the very fundamental purpose of founding and nurturing a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

If they cannot be free, they choose exile. If they cannot give as a heritage to their children the untarnished code of constitutional government and personal liberty they become wanderers.

It remains for the future to say whether England will repeople the Transvaal with as sturdy a race as she has obliterated. It remains for the future to say whether royalty and its attendant train of slaves and vassals, landlords and tenants, will ever be equal to the task of raising as high a standard of personal valor and national purity as that Boer civilization it has overthrown.

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To do away with lines would probably decrease the receipts of municipal governments, and throw heavier burdens upon taxpayers, but at the same time it would be a reformatory measure resulting in a marked decrease in the commission of misdemeanors. The certainty that offenses against the law would be punished by a term in jail would do more to prevent than the possibility of having to pay a fine.

The Japanese outlaws who have started a reign of terror in the Japanese quarters of Seattle, bring to mind the need of closer scrutiny into the characters of foreigners who seek admission to this country. The bad elements of every race should be taken care of at home. The criminals, scoundrels and outlaws should be reformed by the country that gave them their devilish inclinations.

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Suppose your plans for profit all succeeded. And you are worth. According to the reckonings of greed, say half the earth. But of the worth or service have none. What then?

Suppose you gave a little of the wealth. You cannot use. And steal it double by some artful stealth. Or legal ruse. And men are fooled to give you chance again. What then?

Suppose that by and by the people wake. And take their own. Nor ask for just a nibble at the cake. Nor for a bone. And will no longer bide in hole and den. What then?

Suppose the fellows you have sneered at. As fools and cranks. And their world tomorrow with their counsels guide. And win world thanks. And truth flows freely from tomorrow's pen. What then?

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EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

In Wyoming equal suffrage has caused the passage of a law that men and women in the employ of the state (including teachers) shall receive the same pay for equal work.

Patches, buttonholes, meals, washing, scrubbing, working, and the like, are to be paid for on a par with the men.

To be paid at 10, 11 or 12, just as the tasks of the day permit. After herself helps 20 waiting plates, she has her own with what is left. Passes out the best to those she loves, and takes the remnant, if any.

Day in and day out, the same constant routine, only relieved by her wonderful cheerfulness and depth of love. Finally the intricate machinery of life lays a snare. Slower and slower the daily round is made. One by one the tasks are dropped as the grey hairs steal upon the temples.

More worn, more weary, more feeble, more stooped and frail—finally from above, she sits down before the fire, folds her hands and leans her head back in the cushioned chair and falls asleep.

Asleep, in the best part of the day. She awakes with a start and looks wonderingly about the room.

There is a stiffness in her arm that startles her. She tries to spring up lightly as of yore.

Oh, dear, lovable creature, you are tied down, by the throngs of age and toil.

Rest a moment, and forget the work. Plenty of work after you are dead and gone.

You have served your time. You have held the world together for a generation.

Only rest and let the war go on. Let a nation call you its "mother."

Others are, there to take your place in the battle of the kitchen.

—Goethe.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEGRO.

The question is, shall the military power of the United States be used to force a colored official upon a community against the unanimous protest of its white inhabitants? If this question is answered in the affirmative, we may have to face a renewal of the civil war. We doubt the expediency of raising such an issue. We regret to add that there is a trace of vindictiveness and provocation in the course pursued by the postoffice department which has compelled the citizens of Indiana to obtain their mail at a postoffice 30 miles away instead of at another only four miles distant.

Conceding, for the sake of argument, that the inhabitants of Indiana had defied federal authority—

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