## The Madras Pioneer

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The farmer who is accustomed to toil from morning till night to plant his crops in the spring, to
ent sufficient grass in the sum mer, and harvest his crops in the full, in order that he and his may have food when the snow changes the green fields from brown to white, would andonbt edly be surprised to see how all this is changed under the eternal
snmmer skies of Cnba. If the Cuban farmer should neglect to plant to-day, he would have atmp:e time to plant on the mor
row, while nature kind to him that if he should rieglect to plant at all, he would reglect to plantat are he would
suffer no very great inconsuffer no very great incon
venience for his indolence. Not only is the elimate of Cuba favorable to the planting of crops whenever the farmer of crops whenever the farmer
chooses to plant them, and the lands so rich that little or no fertilization is required, but nature seems to have with a beneficent hand reared many strange trees and plants to sup.
ply the wants of man without ply the wants of man without
the necessity of his p'anting them himself. First among these are the palms, some twenty five or thirty varieties of which adorn the fields of Cuba, giving shade, food and life. At the head stands the royal palm. This majestic tree consists of a tall, straight trunk of fibrous wood, supporting a cluster of immense pennated leaves, like a bunch of plumes on a stick. It is a marvel of beauty and
atility, yet is the most common of all trees in Cuba
This palm has been called the "blessed tree," for every part ot it has its usefalness to mankind Certain medicinal qualities are Certain medicinal qualities are
claimed for its roots, and its rank igeasly split into strips, making excellent boards for the siding of houses, benches and even tables. As the trank is
without any bark, and its center without any bark, and its center
is very porous, increasing in is very porous, increasing in
density toward the outer surface density toward the outer surface
which is nearly as hard as glass. which is nearly as hard as the outside hard shell
it of the trunk which furnishes these boards. From this hard fibrous wood some very pretty canes are made, which take a most beautiful polish.
The leaves of the palm grow from the center of the trunk first in the form of a delicate spire shooting up, which, gradually unfolding itself, forms a new leaf. These leaves contin to a great length, forming the cluster which, in the case of the royal palm, resembles so much a bunch of enormons plumes. The bud or heart of the center spire, from which the leaves grow, consists of a tender substance buried deep within the cluster of green leaves, and forms a very palatable food, either raw orcooked as a vegetable, or made into a preserve with sugar. One of the peculiarities of the royal palm is the stem of its long leaves. It is a semicircular atem which embraces the trunk of tne tree and holds the leaf in its place until it withers and drops to the ground. This stem is called the yagua. It re sembles a thin board, often as long as a man is tall, and the Cuban insurgent made it serve example, it frequently served as plates by cutting of sections; by soaking in wateritis rendered
pliable, so that it may be folded almost as readily as a piece of stif paper. Thus softened it is
oided at the ends, something after the fashion of a baker's paper hat, and fastened with a ooden pin. In this shape it is Cubled a farmer as a a water bucke Cuban farmer as a water bucket for milk, lard, or a receptacle or milk, lard, cheese, eggs, or whenever a receptacle of any kind may be needed. It is even olded as a kettle, in which the reakfast of beef and yam is
ooked. The water keeps the cooked. The water keeps the
fibrons wood from burning. Horeover it is said that food hus cooked requires no salt other than that which is extracted from the yagua in the process of cooking.
In times of peace the yagua is universally used for covering bales of goods, and it has a truction of houses. Set upon frame it may serve as a bed and a very good one, too; and on a rainy day a conple of them may often be seen forming a shelter, or used as a tarpanlin to cover up the load on a pack mule, or as a waterproof to keep the rain off the rider. From yagua a good substitute for paper is also oblained.
Tha long leaves of the royal alm find their usefulness in the atching of houses, as also in ailding temporary shelter mply of and sua. With pply of leaves a native ca onstruct a very secare shelter ithin a few minutes, and in the ften serve instead of canvas ents for the army.
THE HADRAS SUNDAT SOHOOL
As I often see reports from th位bodist hill and Ageney Plain he Madras Sunday echtol is not also mentioned. Therefore I will volunThe beginning of th.
The beginning of the new yesir find $r$ school in a prosperous condition, reasury. We had meetiogs fify timer hast year, with an average attendance ${ }_{\text {Next }}^{28} \mathrm{Bu}$
Next Bunday, January 8, we will have our annual election of office
Al are iuvited to be present Beginning January sth we will give prizes to those who attend each Sunay during the month. At the elose the year those who have receiver
twelve monthly prizes will be rewarded with a niee Bible. Those, however, who come nearest to the twelve prizes will be duly rewarded
No oue will be considered in thisen No oue will be considered in thls contest who comes in after the Lesson
Study has begua. This is done to encourage prompt attendance.
We cordially invite
We cordially invite you to attend. "Come with us and we will do the good." $\xrightarrow[\rightarrow]{\text { One Who Attends. }}$ W MLLL AT FOBKS OF DES OHUTES AND METOLIUS.
Rumor has it that a well known cockman near Madras is planuing
eatablish a saw mill near the forks of the Metollua and Des Cbutes rivers. The logs are to be floated down the etollus to the mill.
This la a most commendable enter prise as the Metolius runs through a
rich belt of timber which could in this way be utilised for the general benetit of the public. Timber bas been
previously floated down the Metollue previously flosted down the
with sourcoely any diminulty.
With seareoly any difficulty.
Those who are familiar with the country between Madras and the proposed mill say that the aite la easily acessible from bere and is siluate sithia ten miles of this town.

A DALLES FEED YARD.
The old Brooke o Beers feed yard of The Dalles has alwaya been recog elty, but especially bas this boen so oince il fell into the hands of Andy Allem. We presume Ands te the besi
nne known hostler of Eastern Oregon,
henee you will soe hie postera bein henee you will soe his postera being
carrted on wagona all over the country, However, it ta hardly neceasary to may mueh of Andy for "hia good works" whl follow him. He loves a boree,
henee when one to entruated to ht hesee when oue to entruated to hit
iare yon may rest asecred that it it
well eased for and at reasouable prioes.

## \$ <br> pioneer <br> Cash Store

Watch this space for BARGAINS to be offered next week.

## T. J. Malloy \& Co.

Main Street,<br>Madras, Oregon

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