

The Madras Pioneer

Published every Thursday by
—THE PIONEER PUBLISHING CO.—
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One year.....\$1.00
Six months......85
Three months......50
ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION
Entered as second class matter August
29, 1904, at the Postoffice at Madras, Ore.,
under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
THURSDAY September 13, 1906

THE AWAKENING.

If there has ever been any lingering doubt in the mind of the public of the existence of a well-organized gang of land thieves in the state of Oregon, that doubt is forever dispelled by the startling disclosures in the Blue Mountain Reserve case, which has been on trial in the federal court at Portland during the past two weeks. Even those sycophant news papers which have been crying "persecution" and trying to mould public opinion into the belief that innocent men were being sacrificed to the displeasure of an irate Secretary of the Interior, must now be silent in the face of as complete a story of deliberate and organized crime as the records of our western courts hold.

Puter's story of the operations of this "Inner Circle" of Oregon's land thieves—a plain unvarnished tale of graft, of public office used to further private ends, of public officials corrupt and corrupting others in their lust for wealth—has the ring of truth to it, and it will be believed. Taken alone there might be some hope that it was not true, but it fits and dovetails into the political history of the state for a generation past in such a manner as to command belief, illumining as it does those dark by-ways into which the land frauds and other forms of graft led that faction which has dominated Oregon politics for so long a period. Mitchell, Hermann, Williamson, Mays, Brownell, Hall—all were necessary parts of a well-constructed machine, working smoothly in the common cause of robbing the government and the people of vast areas of their priceless timber lands.

Small wonder that the government went out of Oregon for a Heney to investigate and prosecute the land frauds of this state, where public office was used but for the furtherance of these schemes of wholesale robbery. And still less wonder at the opposition his appointment aroused. Better far to have some one of their own naming, whom if they could not corrupt they could destroy—for both processes were a part of their stock in trade.

Their undoing was the result of that selfishness which is the dominant characteristic of men whose money-lust leads them into the devious ways of crime. Puter, in the toils, relied upon that "honor among thieves" which has ever been a stumbling-block in the path of Justice, and appealed to his erstwhile companions in crime for help. A paltry thousand dollars would have kept him loyal—and quiet. But they, relying upon his fear of self-incrimination, forgot that the spirit of "get even" sometimes overcomes even the spirit of caution, and as a result all their corrupt practices, their betrayal of the public trust, the corrupting and debauching of the people's servants, is laid bare. What a revenge for Puter! What a fall for those whom the state has honored in the past! What a shame for Oregon!

THE DALLES HOSPITAL

An Institution of Which Eastern Oregon is Justly Proud.

Few medical institutions in Oregon have had the success of The Dalles Hospital ever since its establishment by Doctors Ferguson and Reuter. Few have so rapidly gained and so firmly held the confidence of the afflicted and suffering public, and for none are the prospects of a bright and useful future so evident, or so well merited. This institution, beautifully and healthfully situated on a commanding bluff, besides being an ornament to the city, is most inspiring to the naturally depressed patients, and strongly conducive to their recovery.

The building is heated in cold weather by the most improved system of "hot air," the ventilation—a most important feature of hospital life—is simply perfect, and, by a skillful mechanical device, the oppressive heat of summer and the stuffy atmosphere can be most refreshingly cooled and reduced to the proper hygienic temperature. A corps of well-trained nurses, under a skilled superintendent minister to the patients and leave nothing undone to relieve their suffering and advance their recovery. The maternity-obstetrical department is unsurpassed by any institution in the country and its success is best attested by the fact that there has been no fatality in this class of cases in The Dalles Hospital.

The "surgery" is equal to anything on the coast. At a cost of about \$3000 this has been equipped with all the modern appliances, and the latest devices for successful surgical treatment; the floors, glass tables for instruments, anasthetics and surgical dressings; marble and porcelain sinks are its furnishings. The operating table is a porcelain slab resting on a steel frame. No wood or other substance that could possibly be the seat of germ or septic infection has place there, even the receptacles for the sponges and hand solutions are nickel and porcelain plated.

The sterilizing room, an annex of the surgery and a vital feature of prudent and successful hospital treatment is one of which The Dalles Hospital may well be proud. In this room, by a system of boiling and steaming, instruments, towels, sponges, aprons and even the blankets are thoroughly cleansed, and infection from these but too often dangerous sources, rendered absolutely impossible. The precautions taken by the doctors when about to perform an operation are remarkable.

Under a liberal flow of pure water from a faucet operated by a foot lever, the hands are thoroughly cleansed with soap, then antiseptic solutions are used and rubber gloves immediately put on and the operator is ready for work. A good hospital, well equipped and skillfully and conscientiously managed is an incalculable boon to any community, and the general opinion is that The Dalles Hospital comes up to the high standard.

Incited by the unexampled success of The Dalles Hospital and the incalculable benefit it has been to the people of Wasco, Sherman, Crook, Wheeler and in fact all of the Eastern Oregon counties, the people of Condon, Marshfield and Roseburg are looking toward the establishment of similar institutions in their respective localities. But in The Dalles Hospital such a high standard has been set that successful imitation or rivalry will be very difficult indeed. Unquestionably many a life could be saved and much intense suffering alleviated if only the poor afflicted could receive prompt attention and skillful medical treatment—such treatment and care and attendance as hospitals alone afford. Another feature of local hospital life is that the patient is closer to home and more accessible to the sweet and encouraging visits of relatives and friends.

During the past year the hospital has been unable to accommodate all who applied for treatment, therefore the management was forced to enlarge. The addition is just now completed and increases the capacity 10 beds, and by a few slight changes 10 more can be added. This makes a total of 33 beds in service with an additional 10 if required. Fire escapes have not been overlooked and all precautions have been taken for the safety of the patients.

Drs. Ferguson and Reuter may well be proud of their work, and every progressive hospital will do well to emulate their example.

For Sale.

One grain drill, one sulky plow, one pair bob-sleds, one 3 1/2 wide tire wagon with hayrack, two two-year-old mare colts (on range), one Durham cow, one Jersey cow. For particulars address or call on F. J. Brooks, Madras, my agent. J. A. Messenger.

For Rent.

Three hundred and sixty acres, located 7 miles east of Madras; 135 acres under cultivation, 250 acres tillable. Will lease for a term of years, or by the year, on shares. Good comfortable house, six rooms, and stables, granary, etc. Good well. For particulars inquire at this office. jz1zf

Dry Farming—The Hope of the West

A Method of Producing Bountiful Crops, Without Irrigation, In Semi-arid Regions.

The following article, by John L. Cowan, was published in the July number of "Century", and is republished here with the consent of the publishers, The Century Company. It contains much interesting and useful information about the Campbell methods of dry farming, most entertainingly told.

(Copyright 1906, by The Century Company. All rights reserved.)

Nearly one-third of the entire area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska and our insular possessions, consists of vacant public lands regarded as naturally unsuited to cultivation on account of insufficient rainfall.

The vacant public domain now consists of about 600,000,000 acres. Of this area, probably 70,000,000 acres are absolute desert, of sand, alkali, rock, and inhospitable mountain peaks, on which no useful vegetation is found, and which will probably never be of any considerable economic value, to mankind, excepting for their mineral resources. Approximately 98,000,000 acres may be described as woodland, sparsely covered with trees, individually of small value, but yet useful for fire wood, fence posts, mine timbers and similar purposes; and some 70,000,000 acres are heavily timbered and of inestimable importance to present and future generations, not only for lumbering, but also for the conservation of the water supply. Possibly 70,000,000 acres may be reclaimed by irrigation, and thus brought to a high state of productivity. There will then remain more than 300,000,000 acres, useful, according to commonly accepted ideas, only for grazing.

However, the vacant public lands comprise only a part of the region of deficient rainfall, known as Arid America. To these must be added the great railroad grants, the allotment of school lands to the several states, and the princely domains that have passed into the hands of private owners. In Texas alone there is an area of unimproved and uncultivated land almost equal in extent to the whole German Empire. With the exception of Washington, Western Oregon, the northern half of California, and small portions of Idaho and Montana, the term Arid America, includes virtually all the land between the one-hundredth meridian and the Pacific. Leaving out of consideration the portions that extend across the Canadian and Mexican boundary lines, it covers a territory extending north and south for a distance of 1200 miles, and east and west for 1300 miles, embracing four-tenths of the total area of the republic, and containing not less than one thousand million acres of land. To this may not improperly be added the so-called sub-humid region, between the ninety-seventh and the one-hundredth meridians, in which occasional seasons of sufficient, or superabundant, rainfall are followed by years of drought, when scorching winds shrivel up the growing grains and grasses upon which depend the hopes of the farmers. Over almost exactly one half the area of our country, therefore, the rainfall is insufficient for the successful cultivation of the ordinary crop plants—by ordinary farming methods, at least. Agriculture, wherever attempted at all, partakes of the nature of a hazardous speculation, generally resulting in disaster, or at best in a meager and hand-to-mouth existence; and grazing, backed up by ample capital and resources, is considered the only safe and profitable pursuit. This vast area in which grazing is the principal industry extends over all or part of seventeen States and Territories. In ten of these, not more than two per cent of the land is under cultivation, and the population averages less than three to the square mile.

If the unoccupied public lands to which water can never be taken by irrigation ditches could be made as productive as ordinary Western land under the ditch, they alone would easily support a farming population of 35,000,000 souls. This is more than the entire present farming population of the country. That irrigation alone can never furnish a satisfactory solution of the problem presented by arid and semi-arid lands of the West is proved by the fact that were every inch of the annual rainfall west of the one-hundredth meridian conserved in storage reservoirs and distributed to the best possible advantage, an area equal to one-fifth of the total land surface of the country would remain unsupplied.

Contrary to commonly accepted ideas as the statement may be, it is nevertheless, an amply demonstrated fact that wherever in this great arid empire the annual rainfall averages as high as twelve inches, as good crops can be raised without irrigation as with it. This means that almost every acre of the great plains between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, and most of the inter-mountain parks and plateaus between the Rockies and the Pacific, will produce as abundantly as will the rich prairie lands of Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, and much more abundantly than the richest of the lands in any of the older

States along the Atlantic seaboard; that there is enough land now utilized if at all, only for grazing, to make possible the trebling or quadrupling of the present farming population of the United States; that outside of comparatively small areas in Western Texas and in portions of Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota and southern California, there is little arable land in the great West that may not be divided into forty-acre farms, each one of which will be capable of supporting an average sized family.

The United States Department of Agriculture, the governments of the various States in which vacant public lands are located, and the great trans-continental railroads owning land grants, have awakened to a realization of the importance of "dry farming" or scientific soil culture, which means more to the people of the United States than do all of the costly irrigation projects now under way or projected for the future.

Estimates of the amount of land that can be reclaimed by irrigation vary all the way from 50,000,000 acres up to 125,000,000 acres, with the weight of authoritative opinion decidedly favoring the lower figure. Yet if one per cent of the money now being expended for irrigation works were made available for the education of the people who ought to be interested in dry farming, it is probable that five hundred million acres of land—perhaps more than that—could be reclaimed from its present unproductive and comparatively worthless state, just as rapidly as settlers, whether native born or immigrants from foreign countries, could be taken to it.

It has been demonstrated on a half a score of experiment stations, on as many more model farms maintained by Western railroads, and on hundreds of private farms, that all that is necessary on the plains and in the inter-mountain parks and valleys is intelligently to make the most of the rains and snows that fall in order to grow as good crops as can be raised anywhere. In other words, farming methods must be adapted to natural conditions. This seems so simple and self-evident that the only wonder is that men have been so slow in finding it out.

However, what the National Department of Agriculture, the various state governments, and the great railroad corporations have at last been made to see, has been demonstrated every season for twenty years by Mr. H. W. Campbell, of Lincoln, Nebraska, the pioneer "dry farmer" of Arid America. In scores of places from the James River to the Arkansas he has been uniformly successful in producing without irrigation the same results that are expected with irrigation, with comparatively little additional expense, but not without a great deal more watchfulness and labor. What Western people have become accustomed to calling the "Campbell system of dry farming" consists simply in the exercise of intelligence, care, patience and tireless industry. It differs in details from the "good farming" methods practised and taught at the various agricultural experiment stations; but the underlying principles are the same.

These principles are two in number. First, to keep the surface of the land under cultivation loose and finely pulverized. This forms a soil mulch that permits the rains and melting snows to percolate readily through to the compacted soil beneath, and that at the same time prevents the moisture stored in the ground from being brought to the surface by capillary attraction, to be absorbed by the hot, dry air. The second is to keep the sub-soil finely pulverized and firmly compacted, increasing its water-holding capacity and its capillary attraction, and placing it in the best possible physical condition for the germination of seed and the development of plant roots. The "dry farmer" thus stores water not in dams and artificial reservoirs, but right where it can be reached by the roots of growing crops.

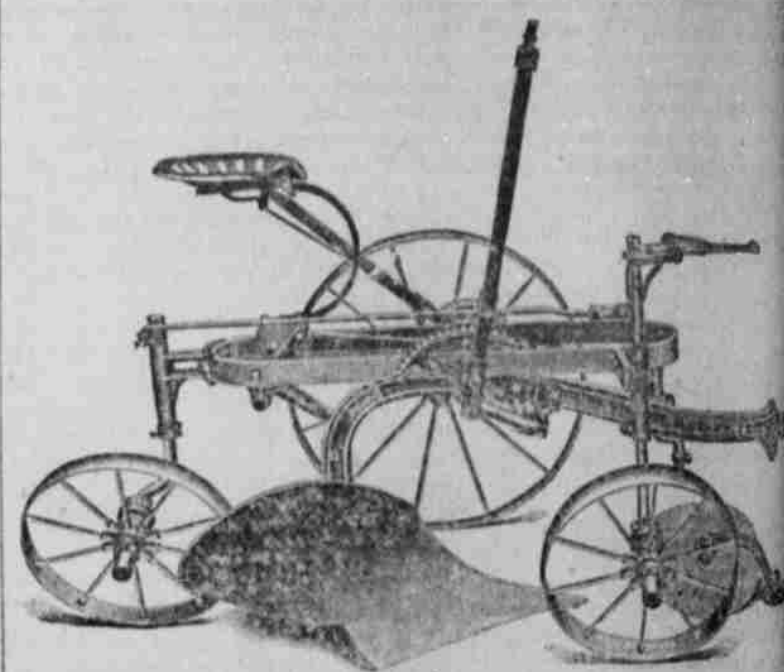
Through these principles a rainfall of twelve inches can be conserved so effectively that it will produce better results than are usually expected of an annual precipitation of twenty-four inches in humid America. The discoverer and demonstrator of these principles deserves to rank among the greatest of national benefactors. He has not merely made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, but he has made it possible to cover with wheat and corn, alfalfa and other useful crops, tens of thousands of square miles of fertile land on which nothing but sage-brush, cacti, Kansas sunflowers and bunch-grass are now found.

PIANOS

GOOD PIANOS

When you come down to it everything else about a piano is of comparatively little importance but TONE. It is the tone that fixes the artistic value of a piano. It is the tone that regulates the money value. It is tone that gives it its right to the title. It is the absence of tone, and consequently of all musical worth, that stamps so many cheap, so-called pianos the frauds they are. Do you know of any other institution on the Coast where the question of tone is so dutifully looked after as at Eilers Piano House. We are Pacific Coast authorities on piano tone and Pipe and Reed Organ tone. Get prices and catalogues. EILERS PIANO HOUSE, retail headquarters 353-355 Washington St., Portland, Oregon. Largest and Leading Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Every Western City.

LOOK AT THAT MOULDBOARD



As Good as Money Can Buy

The Racine & Sattley Wonder Gang Plow has proven itself as a durable, light-drawing, clean working plow. They stand test, and the farmer who buys one may know that he is putting his money into an HONEST plow. Sold by

MCTAGGART & BYE,
Madras, Oregon

GREEN HOTEL

F. J. BROOKS, Proprietor

The most popular house in the town. This is the place to go if you want the best meals, the best beds and most courteous attention. Travelers' headquarters.

LIVERY & FEED STABLE

J. W. LIVINGSTON, Manager

in connection with hotel. First-class livery rigs on short notice. Transient stock well fed and cared for. Our rates are very reasonable.

MADRAS, OREGON

MADRAS TO SHANIK

Daily Except Sunday. Special attention given to carrying express matter. Fare, \$4.50; round trip, \$8. Agent at Madras Hotel

Cornett Stage & Stable Company