

THE MADRAS PIONEER

Published every Thursday by
PIONEER PUBLISHING CO.

Subscription Rates
One year.....\$1.50
Six months......80
Three months......50

Entered as second class matter
August 29, 1904, at the Postoffice
at Madras, Oregon, under
the Act of Congress of March 3,
1879.

Thursday, June 13, 1912.

Develop the Northwest

The meeting of the Northwest Development Congress in Seattle last week has been perhaps the most striking example ever given of the growth of community interest and co-operation in development work. In Portland we are inclined to assume the credit for being the first community to abandon the notion that a city's interests lie within certain prescribed limits and that its growth and prosperity are best aided by self-boosting to the exclusion of every other community. Portland first invited the co-operation of other Oregon cities in the work of developing Oregon. The spirit then spread into Washington and Idaho. The commercial interests of the towns and cities in the three states came into friendly touch and the idea grew and flourished as the country prospered. Now we have the Governors of seven states and a special trainload of business men from St Paul, Minneapolis and from the towns of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota joining with us in an effort to build up the territory that comprises more than one-sixth the area of the United States.

This great territory lies between the twin cities of Minnesota on the East and the Pacific Coast cities on the West. In that area are millions of acres of undeveloped lands. Settlement on and cultivation of these lands to the extent that the lands of Minnesota and some parts of Oregon are now settled and cultivated, would bring greater wealth and increased prosperity not only to the growing cities that are well within this Northwest area, but to those on the extreme edges. The peopling of the vacant lands of Montana and the Dakotas, far away as they seem to us, will create new and active markets for our lumber, our fish and our fruit. Rivalry for trade supremacy in numerous lines among cities now working together will doubtless also come to pass. But what of that? A half loaf is better than none and almost every distributive point has some speciality of its own for which it desires a wider field of trade.

There is a problem to solve in the matter of American migration to the farm lands of Canada. The Northwest and Alaska offer the solution. Land laws must be made more liberal. Advantages must be exploited. Individual enterprise cannot do all that is to be done. A concerted effort is required. Concerted effort is encouraged by a friendly spirit. The towns and cities along the way, Seattle the meeting place, and the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways have shown their enthusiasm for the cause. Portland's opportunity comes next. The excursionists will be here Monday. It is too good an opportunity to let slip by to show that the Portland spirit is not confined within the boundaries of Oregon or even the Pacific Northwest Oregonian.

Agricultural Education

Those who are inclined to the belief that the government's assistance to farmers is too bookish and lacks practicability speak without full and correct knowledge.

It is noted in a publication

just issued for free distribution by the United States Bureau of Education that instruction in efficiency methods on the farm is now given in this country through 11 main agencies.

These agencies include elementary and secondary schools and agricultural high schools; county schools of agriculture; traveling schools teaching along the same lines; farmers' educational trains; farmers' institutes; agricultural clubs and similar organizations; grades for city schools; normal schools of agriculture and colleges of agriculture.

In fact there is such a variety of information and instruction on tap that the farmer of today could not successfully dodge it all if he would; and would not if he could. The old contempt for the "book larned" farmer has completely disappeared and scientific agriculture has taken its place to stay. Farmers no longer plant and trust to luck for their crops. On the contrary, they are working all the time to promote their growth, to fight off disease and pests and to increase the yield by every means in their power.

And in this work these various agencies of instruction and assistance are of the greatest value. It is interesting to note that the first chair in agricultural education, as such in this country, was founded by the Massachusetts Agricultural college in 1907. That was but five years ago, but so rapid has the idea spread that now about two-thirds of the agricultural and mechanical colleges in the United States are offering some opportunity for special preparation for teaching agriculture. Farming has become a science and a profession.

It is being taught in the public schools as well as the agricultural colleges. Pupils are being trained in its principles and in its operation.

Furthermore, the nation-wide movement for the instruction of young girls in the household arts as parallel courses to those in agriculture which are taught their brothers is even more of an innovation than the teaching of agriculture itself to the children. Indeed, the two causes are regarded as so intimately related that in many colleges they are in a sense combined, the girls graduating from the domestic science course and the boys who graduate from the agricultural course receiving the same degree, and practically every elementary or high school in the country which offers agriculture to its pupils, also includes domestic science in its course.—Canandaigua Journal.

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To the Patrons of Oregon Schools:

We do not attach sufficient importance to our school meeting. This year our annual meeting occurs June 17. On this day one director and the clerk are to be elected in every school district in Oregon, and a matter of much importance to each community. I should be very glad, indeed, to find that many of the Oregon school districts were making the day of the annual school meeting an important occasion, and at the same time taking advantage of being together to talk over the problems of the schools.

The voting for director and clerk will take place at the school house. It should be remembered that women already have the privilege of suffrage in school elections. If all the women of the community will pack their lunch basket, and assemble at the school house on the morning of June 17, I am confident that the men will be there also when the sun reaches the meridian. Of course, the members of the family under voting age will have to have dinner. So all will spread out their lunches under some pleasant shade, and enjoy dinner together.

After a good dinner all will be in the right frame of mind for selecting the officers, and discussing school affairs. The patrons will have this opportunity to investigate the conditions of the school house and grounds, and see what repairs are needed; whether the school house is properly heated, lighted and ventilated, and what books and pictures are most needed. Let us make June 17 a red letter day for our district!

Yours for better schools,
L. R. Alderman,
Sup't. Public Instruction.

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I will be in Town

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Red Snow.

Red snow is often seen in spring at the head of Alpine glaciers. Scientists used to believe that the hue was due to the presence of innumerable tiny red insects, but it is now known to be caused by a microscopical plant which is pink when growing and a deep crimson when in a state of maturity.

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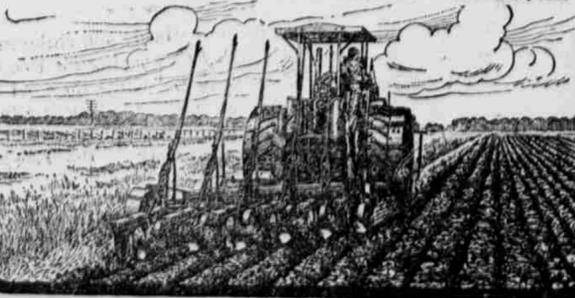
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