

**THE MADRAS PIONEER**

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**Mountain Scenery**

It is an old adage that states in effect that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. And its age but verifies the truth contained therein. Numerous examples might be cited bearing out the statement contained in that proverb.

The same conditions exist relative to the natural wonders and scenery of any given community. During the last ten years the daily press and magazines have been exhorting with the American people, vainly trying to impress upon them the fact that there are scenic wonders and natural curiosities in their own land the equal of any to be found in Europe, and that it is not necessary to make yearly pilgrimages abroad in order to satisfy their love of nature and scenery. Out of this condition has grown the phrase, "See America First."

Different localities offer different inducements by way of scenery to the traveler. The writer has just returned from two weeks spent in the Cascade Mountains. While there he saw sights, common though they may be to those who have been brought up in this section, which can hardly be duplicated in the world. Standing on a high peak, he could see the Blue Mountains in the east, to the north Three-Fingered Jack, Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood, and looking along the crest of the Cascade range to the south, he could see the Three Sisters, with Broken Top and Bachelor just a little further south, and Mt. Shasta in the distance, while to the west laid the fertile Willamette Valley, with the Coast Range visible beyond. It was a wonderful sight to one who previously had seen but little of the mountains, a sight we would hate to have missed, and shall long remember. We doubt if a great many who have lived in sight of the mountains all their lives have ever taken the trouble to climb to a peak of sufficient height to look down the backbone of the range as far as the eye could see. Yet the view from this point was one of the most wonderful we have ever seen. Thousand have spent days and dollars traveling to see the Palisades of the Hudson, and they are worth the expense, but hardly, we would think, until one has seen some of the magnificent sights closer at home.

We mention this for no reason other than that so many think their own land the most neglected by nature, and are apt to travel far to see what they think are magnificent sights when greater ones may be seen nearer home. Others carelessly neglect places close at home, to which visitors have traveled many miles to see. The writer lived many years within 150 miles of the wonderful Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. He could have spent three days at the cave for only \$12.50, and must admit now, with shame and regret, that he has never visited that particular one of the "Seven Wonders of the World," which was right at his door. Yet there is a man in Portland, we have been told, who makes the trip across the continent each year to visit and study in that wonderful cavity, in the face of the earth. Almost every day we see accounts in

the daily press of a traveler who has come from the Atlantic seaboard to climb one of the snow peaks in the Rocky Mountains, yet how many are there who have lived, as it were, in the very shadow of these same peaks, and have never been even to the snow line? Truly, a land is not without wonders save in the minds of its natives.

**Conserve the Man on the Dry-Farm**

Among all the ideas that have been advanced about conservation, none seem to have included the most important of them all. The man himself is vastly more important and more worthy of conservation than any material thing he may have on the farm, or even the farm itself. Without him all else would be of no account.

There are yet farmers who have an exalted idea of the value of muscle in farming operations and who pride themselves upon their early rising and long hours of work. Such men despise modern machinery and think its use indicates laziness. They get out of bed at 5 o'clock every morning, winter and summer, whether there is anything to do or not. They deprive themselves of opportunities for reading and self-culture because they can't keep awake after supper, and they wear out years sooner than they should.

Such men were necessary in pioneer days, when both methods and machinery were imperfect, when there were more farmers than of other classes and their products were in small demand and low priced. With the crude methods and machinery of early days, long hours and great physical strength and endurance were necessary. A premium was placed upon this method of living and working, and he who dared to lie in bed till rested did so under the penalty of being called lazy.

Modern knowledge, conditions and machinery have removed the necessity for such ways of living, says the Kansas Farmer, and have taught the farmer that he is a business man and not a day laborer, and that he may and should use business methods and hours on the farm. The successful business man works hard and puts in more hours during the year than does the farmer, but he takes care of himself. His hours of rising are fixed by habit, so that he gets up when he is rested and when the day has begun. He could do nothing during the azoic hours of the very early morning, which are very profitably spent in resting. He gets to his office in time to meet other business men, and his hours are regulated by method.

With the farmer the hours must be different, as he has a different work and his business is with nature more than with men; but he can still have system and method and prosper for it. Except in the emergencies of cropping he can and should observe such hours of labor as are demanded by his business and by his physical well being. He should study and adopt systematic methods and he should take care of himself.

Only the healthfulness of his occupation has saved many a farmer from premature breakdown, and even though saved from this, there can remain but little doubt that he wears out sooner than necessary. What can it profit a man to earn a whole section and so wear himself out that he cannot enjoy its fruits? And this applies with intense force to the farmer's wife. The first step in true economy and conservation should be to conserve the wife, then the man, and after them the fertility of the soil. Own the farm, boss it and run it. Don't let it own and enslave you. Dry-Farming.

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**What Next?**

Now that the question of a union high school, to be located in Madras, has been submitted to the voters in the districts concerned and approved by an overwhelming majority, we are just a little curious to know along just what lines the Central Oregonian will direct its next attacks on the "little burg in the hollow." Do you know, we had just a little rather be barked at, and barked at continually, even if all the barking is done by the Central Oregonian, than to pass through life in such a calm even way as to excite no notice at all? We are glad our paper is read, for we believe the worth of a paper is in proportion to the care with which it is read by the public, and especially by our contemporaries. We are glad other papers see fit to "pick up" or comment on a story from The Pioneer occasionally, but hope the Central Oregonian will be careful to give proper credit should it think proper to use any news emanating from the "little burg in the hollow." Dream on, kind friend, for we believe that every knock is a boost. We might add in passing, that if the Central Oregonian would use the same sincerity in building up and cleaning up its own town, which is rather notorious as an open town, contrary to the laws of the state, as it has employed in picking flaws in the efforts of other communities, there might be more ready buyers on the market than our esteemed contemporary has been able to corral to date.

We noticed an article in the Crook County Journal last week about Dr. Hyde bringing in wheat with heads measuring six inches in length. We do not doubt the statement, but we would like to have the doctor come down in this section, and we will show him wheat with heads that will measure eight inches long, and will not have to hunt far to find the grain either. Some samples brought in the other day of Forty Fold wheat have heads measuring five and a half inches, and some Galgaleous samples show eight inches. These samples were grown on the Agency Plains, north of Madras, and will be sent to Portland to the Pacific Northwest Land Products Show.

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