

# CO-OPERATION AS IT IS IN ITALY

ITALIAN FARMERS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT MANUFACTURING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.

PIACENZA, Italy, June 30.—A \$150,000 plant for manufacturing phosphate fertilizer, a storage warehouse for distribution of farm implements, and a plant for manufacture of corn cattle food; all built through co-operative effort and financed through credit co-operatively obtained, were shown to the American Commission on Agricultural Cooperation here today.

The manufacture of compressed corn cakes was an impressive demonstration of the utilization of every asset which is a characteristic feature of European agriculture. The country about this city does not produce any corn. Cattle are raised however, and so corn has to be bought from other districts. In the corn grain there is an oil which has absolutely no nutritive value. It is a waste. But in Italy the corn is placed in hydraulic presses and this oil is squeezed out. The oil is sold for the manufacture of soap and the corn is pressed into cakes which are distributed among the members of the co-operative institutions. The same plan has been attempted in the United States, but was not found commercially successful. There is not profit enough in the sale of the oil nor in the sale of the corn cakes in competition with the grain. But in the enterprise visited by the Commission profit is not considered. So long as there is any saving at all it is sufficient reason to adopt the plan, for the entire work is carried on upon a co-operative, non-profit-seeking basis.

In the manufacture of the phosphate fertilizer it is evident that the farmers have gotten down to raw material prices at every point. Iron oxide is bought and roasted. The freed sulphur is employed in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. The natural phosphatic rock is bought and treated with the acid for manufacture of the fertilizer. In this way the farmers buy for themselves only the raw material and conduct every step of the manufacturing process themselves. It is a large undertaking, but it has succeeded. The produce of the plant supplies fertilizer for farms of 115,000 acres about the city.

The actual demonstration of the ability of a community of farmers to thus initiate and conduct economically a manufacturing business of this size was the most convincing lesson of the practicability of agricultural co-operation which the Commission has yet seen.

The enterprise is carried on by the Consortio Agrari, an association of landowners. In this part of Italy the soil is mostly owned by large landowners, and is farmed through a tenant system on a share basis. Consequently co-operation as it would have to be practiced in the United States is not to be seen here. The men belonging to the association are landowners and the small farmers receive only indirect benefit from the co-operative association without entering into their management. In such an enterprise as the one seen by the Commission in Piacenza it is clearly shown that an association of farmers or landowners are capable of giving an economical administration to a business enterprise. There is no paternalism nor leading strings connected with the project. It is such a business undertaking as would be worthy of the best of American enterprises.

The association has erected a large warehouse for storing farm implements. A majority of the machines are of American manufacture, but the assertion so often made in the United States that American machines can be bought at lower prices in Europe than at home did not seem to be borne out by comparisons in prices made by the members of the Commission with the managers of the warehouse, although the prices quoted at the warehouse were practically wholesale prices, since no profits are sought in the sale of implements to members of the co-operative institutions.

Credit for operations of this enterprise are obtained through a local co-operative bank, but not one of a rural type. It is a co-operative bank

## Makers of American Humor

"LEARN ONE THING EVERY DAY"

No. 1. JOSH BILLINGS. (Henry Wheeler Shaw.)

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IT IS said of Josh Billings that his first writings did not win wide attention, but that after he changed his spelling the American public began "to take notice," and soon his popularity as a humorist was great. When he was writing regularly for the Century Magazine under the title "Uncle Esek's Wisdom," Dr. J. G. Holland, then editor, insisted upon printing his epigrams in the correct fashion. Mr. Shaw accepted the mandate, but continued to compose his contributions in his own peculiar misspelled way.



Like most of the early American humorists, Josh Billings was a Jack-of-all-trades. He tried college life, but gave it up before competing a course at Hamilton College. He was successively farmer, steamboat captain, real estate agent and auctioneer. This latter pursuit he followed in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was born in Lanesborough, Massachusetts, on April 21, 1818, but his wanderings carried him West and back again, and finally he died in Monterey, California, on October 14, 1885. Much of his later wandering was due to the fact that he took to the lecture platform and there achieved considerable success. Mark Twain was

organized among the small tradesmen of the town as well as the farmers, and though much of its business is to decentralize credit for the tradesmen and so help the small dealer, it pursues the policy of granting every possible privilege to agricultural enterprise. The notes of the agricultural association are discounted and also the notes of the farmers themselves on purchases made through the association when guaranteed by the association.

### RABBITS TOO PLENTIFUL

Umatilla County Man Appeals to Government for Aid.

PENDELTON, June 26.—J. R. Hoops, a farmer residing near Holdman, 25 miles north from here, arrived in Pendleton today to telegraph an appeal to Washington for Government aid in fighting jack rabbits that have infested the central part of Umatilla county and are doing serious damage to growing wheat and rye.

Owing to the state bounty on coyotes, the coyotes have been practically exterminated and with the disappearance of their natural enemies, the jack rabbits have multiplied in serious proportions. Poisoning, trapping, shooting, dogs and all other methods of attacking these pests had little effect. Hoops claims that in one instance a section of grain land 15 miles long and 12 miles wide has been eaten clean by the rabbits.

Hoops will urge the government to send agents here to inoculate captive rabbits with the bacilli of a disease fatal to these rodents, known as "rabbit distemper," with the expectation that those inoculated, when turned loose will infect all others that they come in contact with.

one of his associates in his lecturing days.

In the quality of their humor, Mark Twain in his earlier writings and Josh Billings had much in common. Extravagance of statement and radical absurdity of ideas were the chief constituents of their output. "I am too old and too respectable to a phool ennymore," said Josh. And the American public of his day placed confidence in his consistent extravagance of assertion and gladly refused to believe him?

Many of the humorists of the wartime period resorted to the trick of queer spelling, and as we translate their writings into ordinary speech today we are likely to find little left that amuses us. But Josh Billings can stand translation. His epigrams are always good, and there is a vein of philosophy underlying his humor that is true to any age. In this he often reminds us of that first American humorist, Benjamin Franklin, and, like Franklin, Billings created an almanac that ran for several years and was crowded with fun and philosophy so thoroughly mixed that the reader could not tell where one left off and the other began. Listen to his description of laughter: "Anatomically considered, laughing is the sensation of peeling good all over, and showing it principally in one spot. Morally considered, it is the next best thing to the 10 commandments. Theoretically considered, it can outargy all the logic in existence. Pyrotechnically considered, it is the fireworks of the soul. But I don't intend this essay for laughing in the lumb, but for laughing on the half-shell."

Every day a different human interest story will appear in The Times. You can get a beautiful intaglio reproduction of this picture, with five others, equally attractive, 7 by 9 1/2 inches in size, with this week's "Mentor." In "The Mentor" a well known authority covers the subject of the pictures and stories of the week. Readers of The Times and "The Mentor" will know Art, Literature, History, Science, and Travel, and own exquisite pictures. On sale at The Times office, Price ten cents. Write today to The Times for booklet explaining The Associated Newspaper School plan.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the common council of the City of Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon, until 5 o'clock p. m., Monday, the 7th day of July, 1913, for the improvement of that portion of Tenth street south from the south line of Ingersoll avenue west to the south line of Railroad addition to Marshfield, in the city of Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon, according to the plans and specifications on file in the office of the City Recorder and there open to the inspection of all persons interested therein.

All bids must be in accordance with the requirements accompanying said specifications, and upon blanks for that purpose which will be supplied upon request at the office of the City Engineer.

A certified check of five per cent of the amount bid must accompany the bid, to be forfeited to the said City of Marshfield in case the contract is awarded the contractor and he fails to enter in a contract with the said city within five days.

The Common Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

JOHN W. BUTLER,  
Recorder.

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Board of Directors of School District No. 9, Coos County, Oregon, for the completion of the attic in the High School Building in said District, according to the plans and specifications prepared by Wm. S. Turpin, architect.

The contractor to furnish all labor and material. The successful bidder will be required to give a bond in the amount of 50 per cent of the contract price, as mentioned in specifications.

Bid to be addressed to John F. Hall, Clerk of School District No. 9, and will be opened at 7:30 o'clock p. m., July 10, 1913, at the office of Hall & Hall, in said district.

Each bidder to deposit a certified check of 5 per cent of bid made payable to School District No. 9, to be forfeited in case bid be awarded and bidder fail to enter into contract with satisfactory bond within five days from date of award.

The school board reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to award a bid not the lowest, if they deem the bidder most responsible.

Dated this 24th day of June, 1913.  
JOHN F. HALL,  
Clerk School District No. 9, Coos County, Oregon.

# Let's Get Together!

To furnish your home complete and to continue furnishing it is the principal object of this store. We've got about everything necessary to furnish a house from basement to garret, and to be perfectly frank with you we are a little crowded just now. One of our landlords has taken away more than half of our warehouse store room and we have been compelled to build a gallery in our big store to make a place for our stock. Furniture takes up a lot of room. Every square foot of space costs money. To make room for goods already bought and which will be tumbled in on us by the manufacturers in a few weeks we want to reduce our present stock. Naturally we can't give goods away, but we are making some very attractive prices on everything we have. Come in and see for yourself. You can't afford to overlook such an opportunity to buy.

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## Announcement

The Modern Woodmen of America, Forestry Team, are building a pavilion back of the Bank of Oregon, where they will hold a "Bowery" Dance July 4th and 5th, opening on evening of July 3d. Music will be furnished by Lew Keyser's Orchestra. Dancing July 4th will start at noon time, to continue until midnight. The same program will be followed July 5th.

The pavilion will be 70x90 and will have a good floor. The entire Forestry Team, in uniform, will have charge of the pavilion. Before dancing starts on afternoons of July 4th and 5th, an exhibition drill will be given free. Refreshments will be served on the grounds. The team will also give fancy drills during the parade on July 4th. Police protection will be furnished at the pavilion at all times. The pavilion will be handsomely decorated, and everyone is assured a good time.