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Weekly Crop and Weather Bulletin.

WESTERN OREGON.

Weather.—From Tuesday to Saturday (13th to 17th) unusually warm, clear weather prevailed. On Saturday the temperature began to fall. Sunday was cool, cloudy and threatening; rain began Sunday night, and continues today (19th). The rainfall amounts to from one to three-quarters of an inch, being greatest west of the Coast range of mountains. The highest temperatures occurred on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, when they ranged from 82 degrees to 90 degrees, being the highest on record for the month of April. The night or minimum temperatures ranged from 42 to 58 degrees. Light frosts occurred in the foothills on the morning of the 13th. The mean temperature of the week was 64 degrees, a rise of 12 degrees from the preceding week, and 19 degrees warmer than the first week of the month. The day temperatures averaged 77 degrees, and the night 51 degrees.

Crops.—The marked change in the weather from that which preceded the current week has had a most beneficial effect upon vegetation, and the warmth being followed by the rain of last night and of today, has been most opportune. The lowlands were in good condition to work during the latter days of the week, while the higher land is too dry. Plowing and seeding were prosecuted with the utmost vigor, every horse and man available were used, working from fourteen to sixteen hours a day, to get in the normal acreage of grain, and many almost succeeded. Plowing and seeding will continue. The weather was favorable to fall-sown grain, it made good growth during the week. Grass sown since January 1st is doing nicely, and the current rain will start the grain sown during the past week. Grass has good growth and stock is fattening up. Garden-making has been very active. Onions, lettuce, radishes and asparagus are becoming very plentiful. Tomato, cabbage, and cauliflower plants are being set out; potato vines are showing above the ground, and corn is being planted.

Maple and oak trees are coming into leaf. Grapes are showing leaf. Currants and gooseberries are formed. The bloom is rapidly dropping from almonds, apricots, nectarines, early peaches, early cherries, and Bartlett pears. Apples, quinces, and strawberries are coming into bloom.

The tone of all correspondents has improved, and the reports all agree as to the excellent prospects for grain, grass and fruit. Today, the 19th, may be set down as date of general blooming west of the Cascades, for bloom for apricots has fallen and apple bloom is just coming in. Lambing is about over, and a large percentage of the lambs has been saved; the increase has been great.

The weather conditions today are favorable for showers and fair weather at intervals, but hot weather is not again probable for sometime. Frosts are not probable.—Crop and Weather Bulletin.

By the census of 1890, Oregon ranked the 38th state in population. By the figures of the United States department of agriculture, however, she now ranks 4th in number of sheep; 12th in number of cattle; 20th in number of horses; 28th in number of swine, and 37th in number of milch cows.

For the first time in twenty-five years the circuit court for Benton county concluded a session without a jury trial. The session only lasted two and a half days. The grand jury returned but one true bill.

To Bond or Not to Bond.

The question of issuing \$2,500 city bonds will be submitted to the voters of Toledo next Saturday. This is a question of considerable importance and should be given careful consideration before a vote is cast. It is argued by those in favor of the bonds, that they can be sold at a low rate of interest, and that the money thus secured can be well expended in making needed improvements on streets, building a wharf for the city or in furnishing fire protection or a system of waterworks. It is also claimed that this amount of money expended would make times good among the laboring men of the city.

While these arguments are well founded, as far as they go, we are constrained to believe that there are objections to bonding that outweigh these arguments. The principal objections we have to the bonds are these: That the purpose for which it is proposed to issue bonds is not definite enough. It is for street improvements, fire protection or waterworks. It seems to us that the bonds, if issued, should be for some one purpose. Again to issue \$2,500 bonds is to go to the limit of the city's credit. The statute law under which we are incorporated provides as follows:

"Section 36. The common council shall not in any manner create any debt or liability which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed the sum of \$2,500 without first obtaining authority from the legislative assembly of this state to contract a debt or liability in excess of said sum."

As we understand this section the city could not issue a warrant for a single dollar unless it had the money in the treasury to pay the same, no matter how urgent the necessity.

Again if bonds are issued they will run for ten years. There is no paying them off before that time, and the interest would amount to at least two-thirds of the principal sum by that time, and the principal would be yet to pay. It seems to us that it is not wisdom for a city to depart from the business rules which surround individuals, and there is certainly not a single business man in town who would in the face of these hard times go into debt to the extent of his full credit unless he was assured beyond reasonable doubt that the venture was not an experiment. It seems to us that now is a good time to stay out of debt.

These are the principal reasons why we cannot favor the bonds in their present shape. They are only individual opinions, however. We are aware that some of our heavy taxpayers and most progressive citizens are in favor of the proposition.

Ex-President Harrison's Success as an Author.

Ex-President Harrison will conclude his series of papers on life in the White House in the May Ladies' Home Journal, and take a respite from his literary labors which have so profitably and congenially occupied him for more than a year. General Harrison is the first president to show the public through the White House, "upstairs, downstairs," etc., and to detail the president's daily routine, and the social and the domestic phases of life in the Executive Mansion. He is also the first chief magistrate to crystallize his knowledge and the experience gained as chief magistrate in a series of lucid, instructive and entertaining magazine articles on the functions of our government, such as were "This Country of Ours" papers.

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