

**Of Interest to Farmers.**

Some interesting statements and words of warning to American farmers are given in a report on pure seed investigations submitted to secretary Wilson. It says thousands of pounds, probably tons, of grass and clover seed are shipped annually into the United States which contains all sorts of vile weed seeds. Among these such pests as the Russian thistle, Canadian thistle, wild mustard, chess, doddard, wild daisy, trefoil and plantation were introduced. Nearly every year witnesses the advent of additional pests of this character brought to America in the same manner. The difficulties in the way of eradicating such seeds, when they are once established in a community, are well nigh insuperable. A large amount of cheap seed is now being sold as novelties at fancy prices through manipulation of the name and the report says that the German coffee berry, which many salesmen are now advertising as a cheap substitute for coffee, is really the common soja bean which can be bought cheaply almost anywhere. A collection of 15,000 vials of seed from nearly all parts of the world have been made at the department to assist in testing the foreign seeds found in commerce and the department will thus be able to give warning against new and dangerous pests. The report says most of the imported seed could be duly raised here, opening new avenues of profit to American husbandmen and it particularly points out sugar beet and hairy vetch seed as capable of being made an important industry.

Upwards of \$5,000 worth of old record books, receipt books, journals, ledgers, and various other kinds of books of the old O. P. R. R. company were burned Wednesday. All the company books that were considered of value were at the court house. Jacob Blumberg wanted to purchase the books and speculate on them at the expense of some paper mill, but Superintendent Stone thought it a bad idea to have the books scattered over the country, so he had them hauled to the place where the old turn-table once stood and consigned them to the flames.—Corvallis Times.

Anton Pfanner, the Forest Grove banker who recently closed his bank and decamped, was a gold-bug democrat and voted for McKinley and kicked on what he called 50-cent silver dollars. A report on the condition of his bank shows that of the \$48,390.49 deposited with him, \$20,216.37 was subject to check and \$5,000 was demand certificates of deposits. The cash on hand when the bank was closed was \$1,744, and even that amount the depositors cannot touch. These depositors would be well satisfied if they could get the fifty-cent dollars that Mr. Pfanner kicked against. There were a good many such bilks as Pfanner in the last campaign.—Budget.

Marion county is liable to have a lawsuit with her assessor. The assessor claims \$4 per day for assistants and the court has made an order allowing only \$2.50 and \$3 per day. The court refused to audit the bills for a greater sum and the assessor will sue the county, his attorneys being Tilmon Ford and W. H. Holmes. This will settle a vexed question as to whether the assistants of a county assessor are to be paid the same amount per diem that the law allows the assessor.

Man wants but little here below, and though we toil and sweat, from harsh experience we know that's durned near all we get.

One of the coming men in Oregon politics is Bishop H. L. Barkley. He is a man of the people and holds a very close place in the hearts of the masses.

E. M. Waite, the veteran printer of Salem, dropped dead while taking part in a baseball parade in that city last Tuesday. There was to be a match game between the barbers and printers, and Mr. Waite was leading the procession of printers with the proverbial printers towel as a banner. Suddenly and without warning he sank to the ground. He was hastily picked up and carried to the nearest drug store but life was extinct.

From present indications, says one of the Astoria papers, the salmon pack on the Columbia this season bids fair to be the largest in several years. It is estimated that to the present time 300,000 cases have been packed, and, judging from the experience of former years, there is every reason to believe that at least 250,000 cases will be put up between now and the end of the season. There have been no big runs of fish, but the run has been unusually steady, and the less expert fishermen have made nearly as large catches as those who crowd down to the bar. As a result all the men have done well, and when the season is over will have good sized balances to their credit.

Nebraska is the first state to bring within the reach of the voters under city and town governments the systems of the initiative and referendum. Two-thirds of the voters of a locality must accept the plan before it becomes a law of politics, and Omaha will be the first city to submit the question at a special election shortly to be held. If the rule is adopted then 15 per cent of the voters may thereafter by petition propose ordinances, and 20 per cent of the voters may compel the city government to submit proposed ordinances to a vote of the people. So far the initiative, so-called. For the referendum it is provided that ordinances passed by the city council shall not go into effect for 30 days, and if 5 per cent of the voters petition for the submission of any ordinance to popular vote the same shall be submitted, and must be approved by a majority to come into effect. If 10 per cent of the voters petition, then the ordinance shall be submitted at a special election held within 20 days. Ordinances relating to the immediate preservation of the public peace and health, and items of appropriations for current expenses not in excess of those made the previous year, are excepted from the referendum rule.

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