

## LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO, OREGON

Just as soon as some people fall in love they begin to imagine they can write poetry.

A doctor says that tired feeling so many get is hereditary. Then, so is the fishing fever.

Nearly every winter the grip kills the last Daughter of the Revolution and the oldest Mason.

Postoffice receipts and marriage licenses should indicate how much prosperity there is in the country.

New York is to have the largest restaurant in the world. Already it has the largest restaurant prices.

At present Mrs. Anna Gould is unable to think of anything in the shape of a man that she cares to tie up to for life.

Japan is learning that it costs a world of money to be a world power. Yes, we know a little something about it, too.

They've locked up a New York woman for beating her husband. It's good to have the law come to our assistance once in a while, anyway.

It must have taken no little amount of courage on the part of Mrs. Harry K. Thaw to admit that her husband was crazy when he married her.

Evelyn is going to sue for a divorce on the ground that Harry was insane when he married her. There are women who would hate to set up a plea of that kind.

It has been decided that there will be no reduction in the price of steel. The man who has been holding off may as well buy his new razor without any further delay.

The New York man who thought his salary was too large is now in an insane asylum. Hallucinations like his will never cause the overcrowding of sanitariums, however.

It is pretty safe to say that if Hayti were governed by a great nation which stood ready to grant the Haytiens self-government when they were ready for it there would be order in Hayti, at least sometimes.

It is reported that a St. Louis clergyman is working hard to prove that the story of Jonah and the whale is not true. But if he succeeds, what good will it do him? The man who spoils a good story is running the risk of getting himself disliked.

Ladies who appear at the court of the Duchess Elisabeth, wife of the regent of the Duchy of Brunswick, must hereafter wear satin rather than kid slippers, and the court chaplains must shave their upper lips. Such are the restrictions to which the frequenters of monarchical courts must submit.

A California Chinaman has developed an odorless onion, according to a dispatch from Fresno. It has long been claimed that a Chinaman invented gunpowder, but if the report from Fresno is not exaggerated the new onion may be regarded as the supreme achievement of Chinese developers and inventors.

Andover, Mass., distinguished as an educational center, has just received a legacy of \$500, the income of which shall be applied annually for an "old-fashioned spelling match." The contests will be public. The competitors are to be between 10 and 18 years of age. It may be that this small sum of money will do more for education than a million spent in research among the bugs of Patagonia—if there are bugs in Patagonia.

Much has been said about the "shrinking" of the globe through the incessant improvements of the means of transportation and communication. Wonders, in truth, never cease, though their frequency breeds an unscientific indifference to them. The opening of the New York submarine tubes was received almost as a matter of course. The automobile races from Peking to Paris or from New York to Paris astonish no one. The establishment of new ocean records recently passed unnoticed. The new records were made by the "floating skyscrapers," the Mauritania and Lusitania. The former steamship made the run from New York to Queenstown in 5 days and 5 minutes; the latter reported gains which foreshadowed an even shorter time for "crossing." A five-day schedule across the Atlantic is expected to become the regular and normal thing for the two great vessels named. And even that record will not long remain unchallenged. Already there is talk of

a four-and-a-half-day schedule. Such achievements wipe out the distance between the two worlds and rob the ocean of its terror. They stimulate travel and intercourse, for even the most timid, the poorest "sailors" and the worst sufferers from seasickness will regard five days on the ocean as a trifling drawback to the pleasures of sightseeing and contact with foreign lands and peoples. Nor are the five-day schedules a luxury of the very rich. Second-class accommodations are now as comfortable as first-class were not long ago, and even the "steerage" need not mean hardship, overcrowding and neglect. The world is shrinking and the oceans are being tamed for all of us, rich and poor alike. That is why hundreds of thousands of laborers are crossing and recrossing the Atlantic and servant girls are taking European vacations.

The feuds and assassinations which for ten years have made Breathitt county, Kentucky, the most infamous spot in the United States have lately attracted new attention because of the tragic death of the man to whom, more than to any one else, the reign of terror was due. It would be hard to find, even in a Greek play, a more dramatic ending to a career of abhorrent crime. The man who had become both a political and a financial king of his mountain realm, who had debauched the civil life of his State as well as that of his county, and who had no one knows how many assassinations to his discredit, was finally shot down in cold blood, in his own store, by the son whom he had allowed to grow up in untaught, unrestrained drunken viciousness. Nothing stranger exists in the civilization of the United States than the feuds of which that which has just ended is typical. The actors are of the purest American blood, the most unmixt lineage, of any people in the country. They are forceful, proud and independent, and possessed of more than ordinary natural ability; but they have lived in isolation, cut off from the learning of the schools and almost everything else which spells progress. Constant intermarriages have intensified natural traits and raised the sense of family solidarity to a height that has rarely existed elsewhere except among the Scottish clans in the days of the border warfare. It has been the family or the friend against the world, with the Colt or the Winchester as the court of last resort. The end of these feuds is undoubtedly in sight, if it has not already been reached. Even before this latest murder, public indignation, like a tide had been rising slowly and irresistibly in Kentucky. It had already sent to the penitentiary for life two of the most notorious of the assassins, and had driven others from the State. The parricidal bullet may have been only anticipatory.

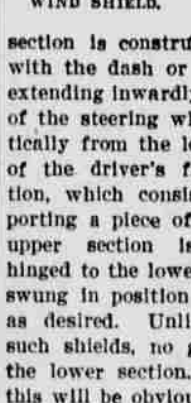
### AUTOMOBILE WIND-SHIELD.

Readily Adjusted to Protect the Face of the Driver.

Wind shields and weather screens, are among the automobile accessories which the motorist finds are absolutely essential to comfort and pleasure in riding. A resident of Scotland, Eng., has therefore carefully studied the requirements and designed the one shown here having had it recently patented. It is formed of two sections. The lower

section is constructed in combination with the dash or front of the vehicle extending inwardly to a level near that of the steering wheel. Extending vertically from the lower section in front of the driver's face is the top portion, which consists of a frame supporting a piece of window glass. The upper section is adjustable, being hinged to the lower section, and can be swung in position or allowed to drop, as desired. Unlike the majority of such shields, no glass is employed in the lower section. The advantage of this will be obvious.

WIND SHIELD.



### Pleasant Relief.

"Your husband seemed to be in a very good humor this morning when he left the house," remarked Mrs. Naybor. "Did he?" inquired Mrs. Spenders. "Yes; I couldn't help wondering what it was." "Pshaw! I know! I forgot to ask him for any money."—Philadelphia Press.

### A Pleasure Foregone.

"Have you studied political economy?" "No, sir," answered Senator Sorghum. "I'd like to, but I'm afraid my constituents would think I was amusing myself reading books instead of hustling for pensions and appropriations."—Washington Star.

No matter how wrong a man may be, if you jump him he always has a come-back.

The man who pays his coal bills always has money to burn.

## THE GREAT TOBACCO WAR IN KENTUCKY

Revolt of Farmers in the Blue Grass State Against the Tobacco Trust.

HAD MANY TRAGIC FEATURES.

How the Fight Was Forced on the Growers—Night Riding and Its Crimes.

Kentucky is the tobacco State. While she produces hemp, wheat, corn, horses, hogs and cattle in abundance and with profit, tobacco is her great cash crop. Of the 110 counties (mountain, blue grass and Western) there are few if any which do not consider the plant a staple. It is the crop which costs the most to produce, calls for the greatest amount of labor, most rapidly debilitates the soil and, under normal conditions, brings the greatest returns.

Kentucky may be divided into four large districts, with four separate and distinct types of tobacco, none competing with the others. In the extreme western part of the State is the dark tobacco district (which includes about twenty counties in Kentucky and ten in Tennessee). There the growers are organized into what is known as the Planters' Protective Association, with headquarters at Guthrie. The tobacco grown in this district has a very large, almost black leaf. While some of it is used in domestic manufacture the bulk of the crop is exported to England.

Then comes the stemming district of seven or eight counties, so called because the stem is removed from the leaf before marketing. Nearly the entire crop is exported to England, France and Italy.

The Green River section includes six or seven counties and produces a tobacco midway between the dark tobacco and the white burley. It is used in both the domestic and export trade.

were hammered down and farther down until the dark tobacco was bringing 3 cents and the white burley 6 cents. Such a reduction meant ruin for the farmers. The actual cost of production, reckoning a man's labor at \$1 per day and a team's services at 50 cents, would be just about this figure. There was no allowance for the terrible drain upon the land itself, for the fact that in the rush seasons the farmers were forced to hire extra help at \$1.20 to \$2 per day, or for the fact that the work is the hardest and most exacting of all farm labor, and that much of it must be done in the most inclement season.

The producers had nothing to say as to the price. The trust made its offer and it was a case of take it or leave it alone. The farmers were rapidly being reduced from an independent and prosperous condition to one of almost servitude and with actual want staring them in the face.

Finally the dark tobacco growers organized as the Planters' Protective Association and pooled their tobacco. They held out for two years before selling a pound. Then the raw material in the market became exhausted and the trust was forced to come and buy at the pool price of 9 cents instead of its own price of 3 cents. These organized producers and the American Tobacco Company are now working under a fairly harmonious agreement and have been for two years.

With this splendid example of the power of union before them the oppressed and individually helpless farmers of the great white burley district in November, 1906, organized as the Kentucky Union of the Society of Equity. Each member agreed to pool his crop with the others and to sell only through the officers of the organization. Warehouses were purchased or erected in various places. The pooled tobacco was either brought to these warehouses or stored in the producers' barns. At Winchester samples of all pooled tobacco were kept and the Equity farmers demanded that the purchaser, instead of going to the farmers or having the farmers come to him, should purchase by sample of the Equity officer. At the beginning the Equity people, when the Trust price was 6 or 6½ cents, made out a price list which would make the average price on all grades of an average crop 15 cents, some higher and some lower.



PROCESSION OF NIGHT RIDERS IN KENTUCKY.

By far the largest district is that where white burley is grown. This includes from forty-two to fifty-five counties and, roughly speaking, embraces all of the State east of Louisville, Maysville and Mt. Sterling. Two counties in Indiana and three in Ohio also produce white burley tobacco. This peculiar grade can be grown nowhere else in the world. It is used almost entirely in domestic trade and from it the very highest type of plug chewing tobacco is made.

The tobacco producers of the stemming, Green River and white burley districts are very generally organized under the Kentucky Union of the American Society of Equity.

The American Society of Equity is a national organization of farmers. Its objects are the improvement of methods of agriculture, the introduction of new and improved seeds, social intercourse, and, more than all else, the securing of fair and equitable prices for farm products. In many respects it is to the farmer what the trades union is to the craftsman.

The American Tobacco Company, otherwise known as the Tobacco Trust, is an organization of capital which well nigh controls the manufacture of tobacco in this country, which is gradually invading the retail cigar and tobacco trade, and which has such strength and such extensive ramifications that it dictates the price of raw material to the grower.

So much for the fundamentals of a condition which has produced the present tobacco war in Kentucky.

When the tobacco market was an open one—that is, when there was opposition among the bidders for the raw leaf—the price of white burley was about 15 cents per pound, and of the dark tobacco about 8 or 9 cents. Then came the Tobacco Trust. Opposition in bid—was eliminated and prices

trust has come forward and bought 1,000,000 pounds of pooled tobacco at Equity prices and the independent manufacturers are buying a little.

With about 160,000,000 pounds of burley tobacco pooled, the Equity growers decided that it would be inadvisable to increase the store until the trust was forced, from lack of other supply, to purchase what is already in hand. Their slogan became "No tobacco crop for 1908," and it is the effort to enforce this mandate upon its members and upon other growers which has resulted in the night riding which has attracted so much attention.

The Equity owners recognize the hardship which would be incurred by cutting out the crop of 1908, but they agree that it is better to receive 15 cents a pound for two years' crop than to be forced to accept about 6 cents for three years' crops. Meantime they would turn their attention to other crops and, best of all, give their lands a rest.

The sympathy of the great mass of the people is with the farmers in their effort to force the trust to pay a reasonable and remunerative price for tobacco. Defeat means starvation prices and continued scarcity of money. Victory means prosperity for grower and merchant alike. For this reason the merchants are straining every resource to carry their tobacco growing customers on their books and the farmers are cutting expenditures to the lowest possible limit. It is a struggle in which practically all of Kentucky has a vital interest. Everywhere one goes he hears word of commendation for the Equity; the only condemnation is for the excesses to which the night riders have gone.

But there is an excuse for the night riders. Their mildest action is, of course, illegal, but it is understandable. The law is slow. In every community in which there is a great struggle for betterment, with consequent deprivation and sacrifice, there are always those whose cupidity prompts them to take advantage of the situation and reap a personal benefit, even at the cost of aiding the common enemy. These individuals, though strictly within their legal rights, are necessarily not popular with their neighbors, and to an extent these neighbors are excusable when, persuasion failing, an appeal is made to coercion. There is the law of the statute books; there is also the law of the community. Infraction of the one may be punished in the courts; defiance of the other is more difficult of correction.

So long as the night riders confined themselves to the raking of tobacco beds there was little criticism. When valuable warehouses were burned there was a general expression of indignation and condemnation. When murder was resorted to the manhood and decency of Kentucky were roused to a height which demanded that all night riding must cease and that the criminals who had gone to such terrible excesses must be discovered and punished.

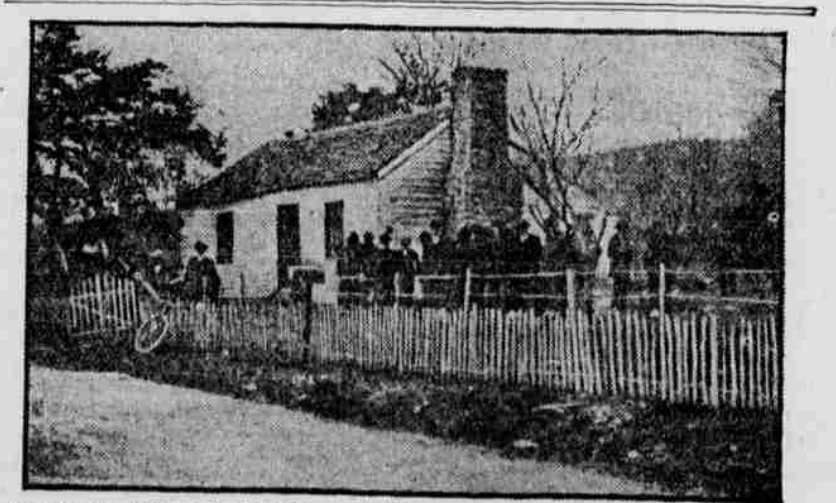
It is not difficult to account for night riding in its incipency. And from this basis perhaps it is easy to understand how irresponsible, dare-devil young men, prompted by a love of rough adventure and occasionally by personal spite, took advantage of conditions to commit excesses and outrages.

Accompanying the night riding which has been such an unfortunate feature of the tobacco producers' fight against the trust there has been more than one tragedy, but the one which attracted the most attention and created the greatest indignation was the killing of Hiram Hedges by some member of a masked mob.

Hedges was a hard-working, honest man for whom it has been a long struggle to support his numerous family. He was a man of decent morals, was counted a good neighbor and was not known to have had an enemy. Like all farmers in his part of the State, he was a tobacco grower, but in a small way. In his immediate neighborhood there had been very little organizing among the farmers and he was not an Equity man.

One night he was visited by a mob of about seventy-five men, called to the door, accused of planting tobacco, and in the presence of his family was riddled with shot.

Occasionally a detective tries to disguise his breath with a clove.



HEDGES' HOME, WHERE A NIGHT RIDING TRAGEDY OCCURRED