

Lincoln County Leader

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

COLLINS & HAYDEN, PUBLISHERS

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Should Lincoln County Farmers Combine for the Common Good?

Editor LEADER:—I wish I had written this letter two weeks ago, for if my neighbors are like me there has been all kinds of chance for reading and thinking while the rain storm has been keeping most of us within doors. However there is plenty of time ahead of us this winter for the like occupation. So here goes:

The County Fair last September proved past all question that every division, nay, every precinct of our county yields farm, ranch, garden, and orchard products of the first and most marketable quality.

Another thing was shown—that, although the county's population is still small, yet it is so spread out that a good beginning of improvement has been made in every district. Dairying, cattle, sheep, goat and hog raising, chicken farming, fruit raising, large and small, vegetable growing, all are more or less widely followed and that not only close to our one railroad, but in all our side valleys and settlements.

Newcomers are many, although the tide of settlement is only just reaching our shores. Prices of our lands have already risen, but are yet far from the level they will surely gain. Farms and ranches are being improved, orchards are being planted, high grade stock of all kinds is being bought and raised.

No one who knows the facts will doubt or challenge these statements. The first result is that every farmer, rancher, stockman, orchardist and chicken raiser in the county knows in his soul that he cannot stand still if he would, but if not for ambition's sake, yet for very shame of being left behind he is bound to join the procession of improvers.

The old, easygoing day is past, when it was the fashion to be content if the sale of a small bunch of cattle or a little wool kept the family in groceries and clothes and paid a trifle of taxes, with a little help from a few eggs and chickens, and a hide or pelt or two carried in to the cross roads store.

Another point is that, whether because more money and labor is being invested in improving our farms and ranches, or has been spent in the purchase of Lincoln county land at higher prices than formerly, there must be higher returns. That is that there must be larger quantities, of better worth raised, and also, what is raised must be marketed to the best advantage.

I want to notice here.

There are two kinds of "worth," or value, in what we raise. The first is, what we get for our stuff if it is sold in a fair or open market. But the second is, what is there left to us after the stuff is sold when we have paid the expense of raising and marketing. It may not be much gain to us to get high prices per head, or per dozen, or per gallon, or per box for what we have to sell if there is but a trifle left, or possibly none at all, when we have paid the cost of raising or producing, the expenses of transportation to market and of commissions or losses on sale. These three items make up the difference be-

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tween gross cost and net cost—that is cost of producing, cost of transportation to market, and cost of commission on sale or selling.

In a young community like ours, one only beginning to be developed and where few crops have yet been raised, the chances are that the products will be good, pure and abundant. We know that this is the case with us. We are closer to the original storehouses of Nature, and there has not been time for us to rob them to our injury. So our returns, and also our profits, ought to be larger than in older settled regions, where the storehouses have been more or less emptied in the course of years.

But is it not true that while the quality, and the quantity of our products we believe should make us prosper, and we know that we have worked hard and as sensibly as we know how, yet when the year's end has come and we take stock of our possessions, we find that after expenses and debts are paid there is mighty little left. Some of us may then just scratch our heads for want of an answer to the question—and go on working in the same old way. Others will keep on with the "why, why," till some light breaks in. Remember, others besides us in Lincoln county have been and are asking this "Why?" Many answers have been given, some bad, some good, some best.

Maybe we can get some good from knowing what some of these answers are. I will repeat the question in an altered form, and leave the answers for another letter.

"Is the net profit, or net return, for your year's work on what we raise and sell all it should be? If not, why not?"

The O. A. C. has done many good things for the farmers of Oregon. But few better than to publish the bulletin on Farmers' Account Keeping, written by Professor Bexell, recently issued. Most strongly do I urge everyone who reads this letter to mail a post card to the O. A. C. at Corvallis and ask for a copy. I did so and received one by return mail. I have read it carefully. I find it plain, easy to understand, not hard to follow in its directions. Many things we don't understand now will come out of all mists and fogs when we have read the little book, and to do what

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, Portland, Oregon.
November 5th, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that Emil Theodore Raddant, of Siletz, Oregon, who, on Jan. 20th, 1909, made Timber and Stone Application Serial No. 6909, for sec. 4, section 5, township 13 south, range 9 west, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Ira Wade, County Clerk, Lincoln County, at Toledo, Oregon, on the 14th day of January, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses:
A. W. Morgan and Z. M. Derrick, of Toledo, Oregon; George Hodges of Elk City, Oregon and Warren Hall of Siletz, Oregon.
ALGERNON S. DRESSER, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land Office, Portland, Oregon,
November 6th, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that Edwin Blanchard Sampson, of Rose Lodge, Oregon, who, on July 16th, 1908 made homestead application, Serial No. 694, for Lots 5, 6, 7 and sec. 4 of sw. 1/4, sec. 6, township 8 south, range 9 west, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final Commutation, proof to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver, U. S. Land Office, at Portland, Oregon, on the 22nd day of December, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses:
David N. Rogers, Gustav Elle, Andrew Spillers and Albert Elle, all of Falls City, Oregon.
ALGERNON S. DRESSER, Register

Professor Bexell advises will not take most of us more than three minutes a day. Then, in three months' time we shall know for sure what kind of work pays to do or have done—what stock pays us best to keep and run, what crops we should raise, and what our profit on them is, or might be, or should be.

WALLIS NASH.

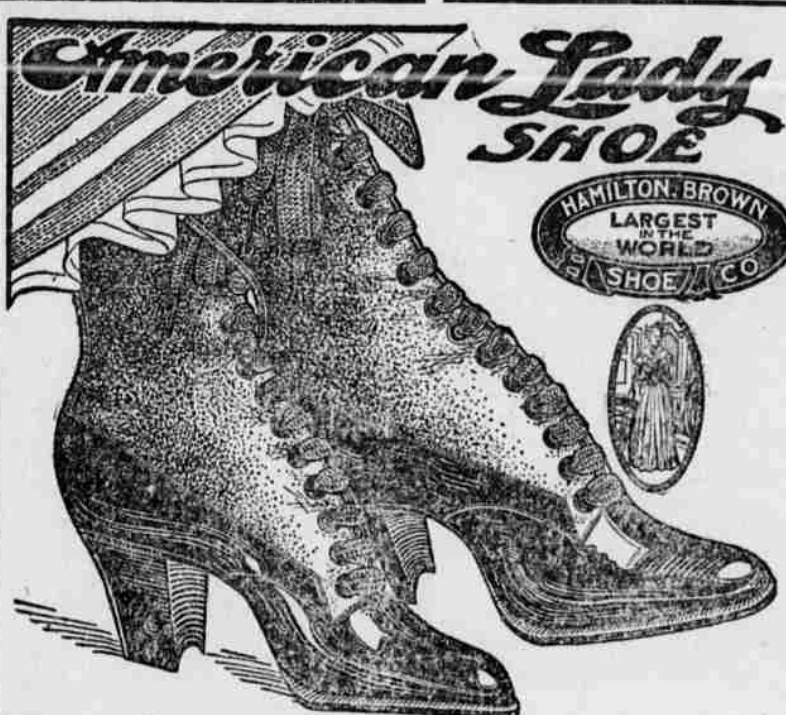
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