TOLD OF THE FOREST

By C. M. Hyskell.

IN MORE ways than one has timber, the greatest asset of the Pacific northwest, become a subject of searching inquiry. Legitimate investments, amounting to many millions of dollars annually, are being put into Pacific coast timber. Much of this money comes from eastern capitalists who personally know little about a forest tree, but who rely and risk their millions upon an examination and report made by a "cruiser." In the last three years, it is estimated that no less than $50,000,000 of eastern and southern capital has been transferred to Pacific northwest timber.

In former years, when it was common to see beautiful fir forests sold at 25 cents per 1,000 feet on the stump, methods of determining the amount of merchantable lumber in a given tract were crude, amounting practically to guess work. In the last few years old methods have been rapidly changing, for the reason that timber values have been doubling, and in some instances quadrupling. The history of the disappearance of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota forests has been teaching investors valuable lessons to be applied to the vast timber operations in the Pacific northwest, where it has been said by J. J. Hill that "a single crop of timber from an acre of ground furnishes more railroad tonnage than would the same acreage of wheat in 50 years."

Tree Worth More Than Sheep.

It is being recognized by investors that guesswork don't pay. A tree is worth more than a sheep. When it is realized that a buyer does not purchase a flock of sheep without first counting the sheep and examining their physical condition, the importance of an accurate cruise of the forest becomes paramount with the investor. The trained timber cruiser may outwardly appear to be an ignorant backwoodsman, yet he ranks with the highest paid artisans in the country. His pay ranges in most cases from $5 to $7 per day and expenses.

The life of the timber "cruiser" is not without its atmosphere of grandeur and its color of romance. He works and sleeps under the shadows of the kingly forest. The campfire is his evening light; his music is the myriad voices of the night; the grim owl's recurrent monologue, the cricket's chirrup, the tree toad's anatriptic tune, and perhaps the coyote's distant ki-yi in some far canyon. And these are blended into the wind's strange whispering through the treetops, a sound that often is marvelously like the dirge of the sea. For weeks, or months, the cruiser toils up and down the forest, by day counting and measuring its merchantable values, and by night stretching his tired limbs in slumber under its protecting boughs. No occupation lends more health and strength to the human frame, and no life is simpler or happier.

Accidents are rare, but a timber cruiser disabled and alone confronts a crisis that may spell death in one of its worst forms. The forest is kindly in the caress of its shade and peaceful solitude; but when grim disaster comes it is remorseless, silent, offering no succor for the broken man who lies helpless in its fastnesses.

Save Cruiser's Life.

I recall the haggard face of a young cruiser who was bleeding to death under the giant sugar pines that cover the foothills of the Cascade range in Klamath county, Oregon. While attempting to fashion a stake his sheath knife had slipped and severed the arteries of his left wrist. It was a hot day, and he was deathly sick from loss of blood when, by the merest chance, he was found by two other cruisers. They tied a piece of stout cloth loosely about his arm, just above the elbow, and under the cloth they slipped a stick about 12 inches long. By turning the stick the bandage was tightened around the arm until it stopped the circulation of blood to the wrist. While the woodsman's pain multiplied, loss of the precious red fluid was held in check so long as the stick was held in position and the bandage did not break.

In this condition the injured man reached a stage road a few miles distant, where it crosses the Cascades between Fort Klamath and Pokegama, the latter a lumber camp on the east slope of the range, connected by a logging road with Thrall, a way station in the Siskiyou mountains on the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad in northern California. Alone and without medical attendance the unfortunate cruiser traveled until the following day at noon, when he reached Redding, California, where the services of a surgeon were secured to mend the severed arteries. When last I saw him he sat on the rough board platform of the little depot at Thrall, and leaned wearily back against the shady side of the shack, and waited for the arrival of the southbound overland train.

Reflecting upon some of the scenes of suffering I have witnessed in far places, I am impressed with the quality of heroic fortitude exercised by the average city man or woman who screws up enough courage to get a tooth pulled or a boil lanced.

Must Face Danger.

The timber cruiser and the log driver must be ready and resourceful in the face of disaster, and possess strength to meet tests of physical endurance. The accidental turning of an ankle, the breaking of a leg, and the man alone in the forest may never leave it, if he is short of will power. George F. King, riding at the head of a log jam down the Ocheouo river, in Michigan, suddenly found himself thrown into the water and struggling among the logs that in an instant had been keyed in by a submerged "pig-iron" Norway pine. The next moment he was crushed against a stump projecting from the bank, and rolled around the stump out of further harm's way, but with the bones of his right leg broken near the thigh. It happened at sunrise.

At noon, he had crawled along a forest trail and reached a remote stage station, still 35 miles from Sheboygan, the nearest town where a surgeon was to be found. He lay in torture until afternoon of the following day, waiting for the stage, and then traveled in it to Sheboygan, with his swollen limb bursting by degrees through the seams of his overalls.

But he was young, and strong, and six weeks later he put off again to the forest, where his life has thus far been spent. He is now a resident and timber operator at Eureka, California.

"My experience in the woods of the Pacific slope has been that we never are bothered much with any wild thing excepting skunks and porcupines," he said. "The skunks will leave your camp or cabin peaceably if you will gently shoo them out as you would an ordinary cat. The porcupines will sneak into camp and eat your shoes, for the salty flavor, and go away without doing further damage unless they happen to get hold of your piece of bacon."

Commodity of Trade.

The subject of estimating standing timber occupied the attention of land owners, lumbermen and foresters since trees became a commodity of trade. Different rules have been applied, varying from the precise methods of the German forestmeister to those of the American single run cruise; but a uniform system has never been adopted.

In German forests where the practice of forestry has attained its highest degree of perfection, and where the branches and even roots of trees are utilized, contents are calculated in cubic measure. But in America the unit of measure is feet B. M. (board measure). In this country the forests are on a much larger scale, and the product is less valuable, hence most foresters have adopted a system of measuration based upon the German standards but less technical in their application.

The method followed by the United States forest service is that known as the "strip method." Strips one chain in width are made the basis of estimating a tract, and all the trees on these strips are calipered to get their exact contents in board measure. These strips are so run through the forest that the results of the calipering will give, as nearly as may be, average results for the entire tract.

Two caliper men and a tally man comprise a crew of cruisers. The tally man runs the compass and notes in his tally book the diameter of each tree as it is called by the calipers. Sample trees representing different diameter classes are then selected, and the volume of the stand of timber is determined by multiplying the contents of the sample trees by the number of trees in each class on the tract.

Character of Forest.

The accuracy of these methods depends largely upon the character of the forest. If the timber is sound and of uniform density, the results to be obtained in this way are reasonably accurate. But if the forest be spotted or defective the results may not approach within 50 per cent of the amount of timber actually on the ground. In the work of the forest service where cutting has immediately followed the valuation surveys, errors equal to 50 per cent have been found, and in ordinary timber cruising such differences are not uncommon. They may be attributed to the judgment of the cruiser, to the strips having been run through other portions of the land subdivided, or to a difference in pacing as between the compassmen. During the last two or three years timber values have increased so rapidly that the investor requires to know more positively what he is getting for his money.

These conditions have led to development in the Pacific northwest of what has become known as the "Lacey cruise." J. D. Lacey, an old-time timber operator originally from Michigan, cruised by this method many thousands of acres of timber in that region, and later extended his operations to the southern states, where he cruised the bulk of the valuable standing yellow pine. A few years ago he came to the Pacific coast, and by his method upward of 350,000 acres have been cruised by tree count, and 1,225,000 by preliminary examination in Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia. H. D. Langille, formerly in the United States forestry service, who now represents the Lacey company in Oregon, said:

Preliminary Examinations.

"When a tract of timber is offered to us for cruise or sale, if the tract appears desirable at the price asked we make a preliminary examination to ascertain how nearly the representations made by the owner or his agent are correct as to the amount of stumpage, quality, logging conditions and accessibility. These examinations are made by our most competent head cruisers, and frequently entail the same amount of work that is performed in making the ordinary single run cruise. A preliminary report is prepared, setting forth the probable amount of timber of different species on the tract, its character and value, logging conditions, survey, and probable cost of cruising. After considering this report if the facts warrant us in undertaking a detailed cruise we secure an option on the property running for a sufficient time to enable us to do the work and present the results to the prospective investor."

Technical as is the process of the actual cruise, a fairly clear understanding of its details was secured from Mr. Langille and J. H. Tucker, the Lacey company's head timberman.

"Before the cruisers go on the tract our surveyor is sent ahead to commence running the lines of the government survey. He runs out all section lines carefully, sets new corners where the old ones have been destroyed, and also subdivides each section, running a line either from north to south or from east to west across the center of the section, the direction depending upon which way he may think it easiest to run the cruise. For the section lines and the center lines he sets a stake every 62½ paces. Lines are measured and distances ascertained with a steel tape."

The number of men employed on a tract depends upon the number available, personnel and length of time in which the work must be completed. A competent head cruiser whose judgment in timber has been proven is placed in charge of the crews. He is required to lay out the work, check the estimates of each cruiser at frequent intervals to guard against carelessness or incompetency, examine the field books as they are brought in to prevent errors in the reports and exercise general supervision over the work. Under ordinary conditions a head cruiser can check the work of six estimators successfully unless some of them are new men who require much coaching.

Camp Established.

Each crew consists of a cruiser and compassman. A main camp is established at a central point as convenient to the work as possible and moved from time to time as the cruising proceeds. A cook is employed and at times packers are necessary. A clerk is also detailed to the camp to prepare reports, attend to correspondence and keep accounts and time.

Before beginning to cruise any given section the cruisers are given the declination of the magnetic needle, or "variation," on which the exterior boundary to which the work is tied has been run. Proceeding to a standard corner a compassman sets off the required declination of his compass needle, paces along the section line one fourth or 31 paces, and then sets up his compass at right angles to the base line and parallel to the right angle exterior boundary. Fixing upon a sight object as far in advance as possible he paces in that direction counting his steps and calling "tally" at every 125 paces. He carries an aneroid barometer carefully adjusted at the bench mark established at camp and a celluloid pad upon which to record his topography. The elevation is noted at the initial point and at each feature of the topography, such as streams, tops of ridges, etc., the aneroid reading is recorded. At the same time notes are made showing the number of paces from the initial point to streams, ridges, canons, roads, trails, near and far sides of burns, swamps, clearings, etc., thus supplying the necessary data from which to prepare a topographic map of the tract. The more experienced compassmen sketch the topography upon the ground as they proceed.

Each cruiser is equipped with a celluloid pad upon which to record his figures, a cruiser's hatchet to be used in sounding trees for the detection of decay and determining the thickness of bark, in some instances a height finder with which to determine the height of trees, a steel tape for determining diameters, a tally register used to record the number of trees, a field book and log scale.

Guided by his compassman the cruiser notes each tree within 30 paces of the compass line, estimates the contents of each tree within easy range of his vision ahead and records the number of trees of each species and their contents on his celluloi pad.

If a question arises in his mind as to the contents of a particular tree he determines its diameter by measuring with a tape, ascertaining the number of logs with the aid of a heighth finder and fixing the contents by reference to his volume table. Fallen trees are measured frequently as a check on the taper and volume of that particular form of growth.

Board Measure.

Preceding along the half tally strip in this way the cruiser determines as nearly as possible the actual number of trees of each species, their contents in board feet, the percentage of flooring, merchantable and common lumber, the number of piling, poles and such other product as may appear for each strip. At the end of each tally the totals are determined and noted. The bark of a big tree will vary in thickness, being perhaps three to six inches at the butt and tapering to an inch thick at the top. He uses a clinometer to get the exact heighth of each tree. The bark is deducted. At the end of each tally on this run the totals are again determined and summed up with the totals obtained for the corresponding previous run. The results show the number of trees and amount of timber of each kind on each 2½-acre tract, and these results are entered in the field book. After traversing each 40 in this way eight times each of the 16 2½-acre tracts comprising a 40-acre subdivision will have been cruised twice and every tree seen and estimated according to its contents and quality. Allowance is made on the ground for breakage that is likely to result from felling each particular tree, and if any defect is discovered it is deducted from the contents of the tree, or the tree is counted out as cull if it contains no merchantable timber.

The record of each day's work is carried on the celluloid pad. These pads are turned over to the clerk at the end of a day and the results are carefully compiled. After they have been approved by the cruiser from whose notes they were made, the head cruiser takes them and runs over one or more tallies on that particular 40 to assure himself that the work is correct. If errors are found the cruiser is required to go over the ground again and rectify his mistakes.

When all of the subdivisions to be cruised in any section have been reported and approved the results are placed upon report forms designed for each mixture of species and forwarded to the office for final verification.

In the company's western offices these reports are used as a basis for the preparation of topographic maps upon which are shown the altitude of all parts of the tract, practicable grades for logging road, location of burn and all features of interest. Final summaries of the estimates are made showing in condensed form the amount of each species and kind of timber on each section and on the entire tract.

Close Estimates.

Mr. Tucker said: "It is customary for most timber men and lumbermen to claim that it is impossible to get the number of trees on a heavily timbered '40' accurately, but we have proved again and again that it is possible, and furthermore, that it is possible for three or four men to go over a given '40' and get the same number of trees, and come within 1 per cent of each other in estimating the actual amount of timber on the '40.'

"Another reason why we insist on our men going across a '40' eight times is that by doing so they see every tree and have opportunity to see all sides of a tree. If there are any visible defects they are bound to be seen and the proper allowance made. Then again, the density of the atmosphere has a good deal of influence on a man's vision. Looking at a tree half a tally distant he is apt to get it too large or too small. Only close examination of every tree makes it possible to get a correct cruise.

"There has been a great deal of criticism about the different methods of cruising. All we claim for our system is that it is accurate. We know, as nearly as it is possible to know, the amount of each species of lumber a '40' will mill. We also know its quality and defects. We know the nature of the ground, whether it would be hard to log, and if there would be a large amount of breakage. There is no guesswork anywhere in this system, and therefore very little room for mistakes."

The converting of an ordinary woodsman into a competent cruiser is a difficult and often impossible task. The company provides for this contingency by selecting a heavily timbered "40" in the tract it is about to cruise, and the "green" men are tried out. Once cruised by a regular crew the company of course knows exactly the stumpage conditions on this "40" and when the "green" one turns in his estimate the report determines his future relations with the concern. This trial "40" is the graveyard of many hopes.

American Heiresses.

From Puck.

QUOTATIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Fifth Avenue—Bid, count; asked, prince.

Newport Common—Bid, lord; asked, duke.

Chicago First Preferred—Bid, coronets; asked, crown.

Cincinnati Common — Bid, debts; asked, assets.

MOTHER LOVE--By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

ONE of the most remarkable plays ever produced in New York, or in the world, so far as its ideas and symbolic philosophy are concerned, is "A Servant in the House."

Many people will not agree with this statement. I have heard it called by every ignoble name that can be applied to a piece of dramatic work; and again I have heard it praised just as elaborately.

To me it was particularly pleasing, since it illustrated by its symbols and in its dialogue everything which I believe, think and know to be true in the great principles of life and religion. Never have I seen any play, or read and religious book, fiction or philosophy, which brought before my mind so vividly my own ideal of the great master and teacher, Christ, as this play.

But aside from its daring and bold presentation of some tremendous religious truths, the play contained other important ideas. One which ran through the entire drama like a thread of fire, should be a lesson to every wife who sees the play.

The wife of the drama is a "devoted wife."

She has her husband's "best interests" always in mind; she thinks of nothing but his advancement, his success, his glory; and it is by her devotion and influence that the husband had reached a high altitude in the church, and has power, place and opulence. That is a good wife's duty, you will say.

Wait Until You Study.

But wait until you study this play; wait until you hear presented in forceful and intense language those deeper convictions and those higher ideals of what love should seek for its object. Perhaps, then, you will hold a different ideal of what constitutes real devotion, real love in a wife, or a mother.

The play is a plea for the unmercenary, unworthy and unselfish elements in human love, those elements which make a wife or mother urge her husband or her son to accept obscurity and poverty if need be, rather than to climb to place and power and opulence over one least sacrifice of principle, one ignoble or petty substitution of false ideal for a true one, one moment's forgetfulness of what constitutes that much talked of and little practiced theory—brotherhood.

The wife of the play has pushed her husband from poverty and obscurity to a place of power in a fashionable church, and she is ready to have him attain still greater eminence, though accepting "tainted money." The husband's brother, who is a "common workman" and a "fallen man" besides, is religiously kept in the background, because he would reflect upon the head of the church and antagonize a very haughty and proud "Christian" brother of the wife. She believes that she is the most unselfish and devoted wife on earth!

But is she? The question is worth a little study on your part. It is a question of moment today; a question whose answer is to help or undermine our American nation.

"Other men get along; other men make money; why can't you? is a phrase familiar to many a man's ear before he decides to enter Wall street, or to attend the races and bet on the horse "after a tip," or to borrow a little money from his employe, sure that he will return it with interest later. In seven cases out of each ten a woman has been the immediate or remote cause of a man's dishonesty.

Ballot Not Needed.

It is often said that woman does not need the ballot, because she possesses a more "subtle influence"; but it would be well if every woman fitted herself to cast an intelligent ballot, and if the country which allows this privilege to all but idiots and convicts allowed it also to its intelligent women. The "subtle power" of woman would then be augmented by her larger, wiser, more comprehensive power. It is because she has never developed her full reasoning faculties that she often incites the ambitions of husband or son to unworthy aims and still believes she is the ideal wife and mother.

Over and over in these columns a plea has been made for the education of mothers, the education which should make them understand that love is only great and true love when it makes its object consider the rights of all other created things, when it prefers to see its object delayed or hindered in an ambition rather than to see success attained through pushing aside a principle or forgetting a duty to the race. This idea is precisely what makes one of the shining threads in the wonderful woof of the "Servant in the House." Only the wife, instead of the mother, stands as the type needing education.

It would be interesting to know just how many excellent Christian women in any of our large cities today, or in our lesser towns, for that matter, seriously object to having their husbands gamble when they are successful. How many are ready to say, "I would prefer a cheaper rent, last year's garments, and no vacation trip to having you make money for me in any way that will not bear the full searchlight of investigation. I can love you better knowing you are absolutely beyond reproach in every business transaction, and I can be happier in this knowledge, even if it means a restricted way of living, than I can be to live in opulence, and even question how you obtained your success."

Unless a mother or a wife feels this kind of love for her son or husband, she does not love him; she loves only what he can do for her worldly pride and comfort.

Loves the Beautiful.

The mother or wife who loves the beautiful, true characteristics which make real manhood, will inspire a son or husband to be, rather than to seem. She will strengthen him to find happiness in the consciousness of his own absolute integrity and truth, and largeness of horizon, rather than in the striving for a success that means a sacrifice of principle, or a pushing aside of others, and the winning of prizes by schemes, and frauds, and brutality.

And she will, too, make him realize the truth in that old platitude, honesty is the best policy, for in the long run a man who stands by the very best that is in his own soul, and who knows that his soul is a part of the whole glorious universe, that man will succeed; he will have everything in life worth having, and he will enjoy what he has tenfold and a hundredfold more than his brother who has pushed on to what he and the world call a greater success by walking over the rights of his fellows and sacrificing his own principles.

Are you a wife or a mother? Do you ever hope to be? Then go to see the "Servant in the House" and ask yourself just how your expression of devotion is manifesting itself.

WAGERS BY GOLFERS.

Some Difficult Feats Accomplished by Scottish Players.

From the Westminster Gazette.

The Scottish golfer who we read about has undertaken for a wager to drive a ball a mile in a dozen consecutive shots has probably set himself an easier task than some of his predecessors north of the Tweed.

Among the most interesting wagers of this kind was one taken in the Burgess Golfing society as long ago as 1798, that no two members could drive a ball over the spire of St. Giles' steeple. The feat was attempted by a Mr. Scoales of Leith and Mr. Smellie, a printer, each being allowed six balls, and both competitors succeeded in sending their balls well over the weathercock, a height of more than 160 feet from the ground.

Some years later Donald McLean, a writer to the Signet, won a substantial bet by driving a ball over Melville's monument in St. Andrew square, while several Scotsmen have performed the difficult feat of driving the ball from Burntisfield links to the top of Arthur's seat, a species of golfing steeplechase which requires considerable stamina as well as skill.

Hilda Reads As In a Looking Glass

THERE was recently brought to the attention of The London Chronicle the case of a 14-year-old girl who ever since she began to form her letters habitually writes from right to left, reversing the letters in the process so that they can only be read when held up to a mirror. The girl's name is given as Hilda Goldsmith, and considerable space was devoted to the story. "The girl," the paper said, "is not left-handed in the ordinary sense of the phrase. If she is offered anything she takes it with her right hand. But as soon as she is asked to write anything she takes the pencil in her left hand, and, starting from the right-hand side of the paper, she goes laboriously across it, writing each letter the wrong way about."

The publication of Hilda's queer habit of forming letters brought from an authority on chirography a letter which has set a large number of people in England experimenting after the fashion of the Jabberwock rhyme in "Alice in Wonderland," and a large number of others explaining the facility of spiegelschrift.

The chirography expert testifies that a friend of his, a well-educated man of good intelligence, possesses this power. As a child he found it much easier to write backward with his left hand than forward with his right and when at a dame's school had his ears boxed by his scandalized instructress for indulging his fancy.

At the present day he finds it convenient to circumvent unauthorized readers by writing his postcards in mirror script.

Ordinary people find it a task of great difficulty to write backward if they concentrate their attention and will on the task and try to picture the foundation of the letters and so on. That is not how the writer of spiegelschrift has acquired his accomplishment. He has learned to write with the right hand in the normal fashion, and his brain spontaneously translates what he has learned into backhand writing.

If we want to learn how to write spiegelschrift we must give our subconscious self a chance. Take a pencil in each hand, and while the right hand is writing a sentence, leave the left hand free to imitate the movements of its fellow. If the writer can acquire the requisite degree of self-detachment he will find that the left hand, of its own accord, will reproduce in mirror writing whatever the right hand has written.

Science is not yet prepared with a full explanation of these things. But there is one obvious suggestion which directly springs from the facts. Our brain is composed of two symmetrical halves. But the organ of speech—as we know from what happens when that particular part of the brain is injured by accident or disease—is situated in one particular spot in the left hemisphere, which supplies nerve force to the right hand and right side of the body generally. The corresponding part of the right brain would appear to be id'e, or at least not to be fully employed in normal persons.

In other letters it was pointed out that mirror-writing was a common form of amusement 30 years ago.

Sugar and Fruit for Horses.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Grain is not the only food on which the horse thrives. In Egypt the khedive's best mares are fed largely on currants, and these fruit fed animals are noted for their endurance and speed. Figs, during the fig harvest, form the food of the horses of Smyrna. They turn to it from oats or hay.

The green tops of the sugar cane are fed to the horses of the West Indies and for long weeks in many parts of Canada windfall apples form the horse's only food. In Tasmania peaches and in Arabia dates take the place of hay and oats, corn and bran.

UMCHIVALROUS MEN By Mrs. John A. Logan

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THE world has recently been treated to the most astonishing lack of chivalry on the part of men occupying prominent positions in society. Following their selfish indulgences and having too little to do, some of them have become enamored with women other than their wives, and, wanting excuses for deserting their wives, they have publicly given utterance to disgusting pleas in extenuation of their own abominable conduct.

Their wives may be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion or wrong, whereat these recreant "mollycoddles" pose as being neglected and not sufficiently petted. Some have accused the mother of their children as wanting in wifely duty. They cowardly pose before the public for sympathy, laying bare the most sacred relations of man and wife. They forget that habitual drunkenness, gourmandizing and unfaithfulness to their wives begets disgust and aversion in the minds and hearts of the devoted wives. The wife may have borne silently all the humiliation and agony of soul over her husband's debauchery to find in the end that he has been playing martyr and appealing to everyone who will listen to him for sympathy because his wife "does not love him any more." That respectable persons and newspapers will repeat and publish such revolting attacks of men upon innocent women who have had the misfortune to have married such men is incomprehensible. A woman's love may die, but it requires a great deal to make a woman who is a mother forget her duty, and there are very few who forget their husband's love.

It is inconceivable what any woman could do that would in the least justify a husband in appealing to the public by discussing the sacred relations of husband and wife, especially if children have been born to them. Such men deserve ostracism as unworthy members of society.

The most execrable creatures on the face of the earth are cowards, and if men who attack women whom they have made their wives, and to whom they have given their names and sworn to love and cherish, are not cowards in every sense of the word, it would be hard to find those who should be called a coward.

There are many ways to cure domestic infelicity or quietly sever matrimonial ties without inviting the public into the confidence of either party of an unhappy union, and the man who is responsible for newspaper notoriety in his efforts to blight the life of the woman who has once been his wife, to secure public favor for himself, should at least be made to feel the contempt of all manly men. Hiding behind the disposition to shield men and condemn women, these cowards make all kinds of assertions against helpless wives that they know could not be proven, and that no woman with "proper self-respect would for a moment allow to be discussed in her defense. As a man who once got his own consent to play such a role would know no bounds to his perverted imagination and depraved nature, and would be ready to do or say anything that would come into his vitiated mind or that might be suggested by unscrupulous attorneys, behind whom they generally hide.

Until those in authority establish some punishment for these miscreants, there is little protection to be anticipated for defenseless woman against miscreant husbands.

ROGUE RIVER FRUIT PROSPECTS--Largest Crops on Record are Promised--Orchards Through Blooming *and* Fruit Appears to be Well Set

YOUNG APPLE TREE LADEN WITH FRUIT.

APPLE ORCHARD IN BLOOM.

ONE of the largest crops on record is in prospect in the Rogue river valley this year. The crop of 1907 was an immense one and fancy prices were realized, but the prospects are that the 1908 crop will far surpass that of the previous year.

Orchards are through blooming and the young fruit is well set. With the exception of a few of the older pear orchards planted in the lowlands of the valley absolutely no damage has been done by frost this year, although there were several heavy frosts late in the season. These pear orchards were among the first planted, when it was supposed that the heavy black soil of the bottom land was best for pears. It has since been found that pears do better on the hillsides than on the bottom lands and hence the great bulk of pear orchards are on the hillsides and have been untouched by frosts. None of the apples were caught.

An orchard in bloom is a sight well worth going miles to see. From a distance trees look as if they were heavily covered with snow, and the bloom stands out against the dark orchard land, making a contrast that is noticed miles away.

The season has been backward on account of continued cold weather, but the trees are simply laden with young fruit. Perhaps nowhere in the world do the fruit trees bloom more heavily than in the Rogue river valley. Every branch and twig on which there is room for a blossom has several stuck on and it is always necessary to go over the orchards many times to thin the fruit out, so that a sufficient quantity will obtain the right size.

The phototgraphs show an apple orchard in bloom as it looks between the rows. The bloom is well advanced and the foliage heavy enough to afford protection from the frosts. Another photograph shows one of the largest and oldest cherry trees in Jackson county in full bloom. The breeze caught the tree the same time that the photographer snapped his camera. The other photograph shows a young commercial orchard just coming into bearing. The foliage is heavy but the bloom has been light on account of the age of the trees. The orchard is looked upon, however, as one of the most promising in the valley. Another photograph shows a Newtown pippin tree laden with fruit. The yield has been so heavy that the branches touch the ground.

This year over 8,000 acres of young orchard apples and pears have been set out in the Rogue river valley in the district of Medford, making a total acreage exceeding 35,000 acres in choice apple and pear commercial orchards in the heart of the Rogue river valley.

ALL AMBIDEXTROUS.

Why Man Gives Preference to Right Hand Over the Left.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Right-handedness and right-eyedness came with genus homo. Dr. George M. Gould has watched for them in squirrels that use their front paws to hold nuts, cats that strike at insects in the air or play with wounded mice, and in many other animals, but he is certain no preference is given to the right side over the left.

But in the lowest human savages all over the world choice in greater expertness of one hand is clearly present. One cause for its development is in primitive military customs. In all tribes and countries since man used implements of offense and defense the left side, where the heart lies, has been protected by the shield, and the left hand was called the shield hand, while the right hand was called the spear hand.

Next to fighting came commerce. The fundamental condition of bartering was counting with the low numbers, one to ten. The fingers of the free or right hand were naturally first used, and all fingers today are called digits, as are the figures themselves, while the basis of our numberings is the decimal or ten-fingered system. Every drill and action of the soldier from ancient Greece to modern America is right-sided in every detail. Firing from the right shoulder and sighting with the right eye brings the right eye into prominence.

It is significant that with the decline of militarism comes the suggestion of schools for ambidexterity and the establishment of a movement for promulgating the gospel of two-handedness and its obvious advantages.

The Simplest Life.

From the London Daily Mail.

In a wood about 30 miles from London lives an old man who for 20 years has known no other roof than an umbrella.

"Twenty years ago I took to the woods," he said. "During the great snowstorm a few weeks ago I slept soundly, and when I woke in the morning I was covered with snow many inches deep. But I am never ill. I have not had a day's illness in my life. I have lived a simple, single life, and I have no more worry than that true has. I have no rates and taxes to pay. I have no wife to bother me and I have plenty of friends.

"No one ever interferes with me. I never light a fire, and I never ask for money.

"When darkness comes on I put up my big umbrella, take my boots off, put my legs into a sack and cover myself up with clothing, on top of which I place the mackintosh."