

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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name, have ever been developers. They do not wait for a region to become well peopled and to offer a big paying volume of products before building into it, but satisfying themselves that it will so produce they build into it, and carry producers into it, and so encourage and in fact create a traffic. They "pioneer." It is no empty boast. And it is one which any man may be proud to make. As Mr. Hill says tersely, "Look at what has been done."

Yes, look at what this pioneering of the Hills has done in Washington, and clear across to Lake Superior. It has added millions of producers to that region and the resultant products to those states.

This pioneering work has never been done, or at least not for many years, in Oregon. This is the principal reason why Oregon has fallen so far behind Washington in development. Mr. Harriman has persistently refused to do the pioneering work done by Hill. Hence he cannot say, "Look at what has been done."

But he is beginning, and is apparently in sincere earnest, in intending to carry on this work in portions of Oregon. But he may find competition now. "When we find a promising section we build a branch line and tap it," says Mr. Hill. He will find such sections in Oregon, and big ones, too, and now that he has a line down the Columbia and into Oregon, Hill may rival Harriman in this work of new construction into long neglected regions.

OREGON PRODUCTS IN 1908

THERE HAS BEEN much development in many ways in Oregon during the year drawing to a close, and the prospect industrially is bright for the year soon to begin. Yet production in some important lines has been disappointing. It is not wise to look exclusively at the bright side and features of either individual, municipal or commonwealth life; disappointments, discouragements, afflictions and evils, while not to be magnified or kept principally in view, are useful for reproof, for instruction and even for encouragement. They should serve as promptings to improvement.

Not only have dairy products for the year been below the normal, but the same is true of orchard products. A Southern Pacific freight official is quoted as saying that the fruit output of the Rogue river valley adjacent to Medford is only about 200 carloads this year, against an anticipated or possible output of 500 carloads, and that the yield in the state at large has been only about half the normal volume. This was due principally to unfavorable weather conditions at certain critical times, and could not have been prevented, but such a partial failure can be expected only occasionally, and few if any people are discouraged. Tens of thousands of trees are being planted, especially in the Rogue river valley, and despite the year's unfavorable showing Oregon has fairly begun its march to its proper destiny, that of being the greatest fruit state in the Union.

The dairy industry does not present so favorable an outlook, and seems not to have so good an excuse, or a reason that can so easily be dismissed from consideration. It isn't growing as it ought to, and the prospects are not bright for Oregon to become independent in the near future of eastern importations of dairy products. The same can be said of hog products and poultry and eggs.

These are cases where no persons in particular can be blamed; it is a free country for men to produce what they please and as little as they please; but the Journal intends to continue urging a far greater production of these things, and the benefit to the state that will result. Population is increasing; many people are coming and more will come from other states, and it is to be hoped that a large portion of them will see the matchless opportunities in Oregon for the production of milk, cream, butter, pork, poultry and eggs and help to lift this state out of its position as an importer of these products. Otherwise Oregon will have done very well during 1908 and may confidently expect to do much better in 1909.

LIBEL

THE INSURRECTO politicians are insulting the citizenship of Umatilla and Wasco counties. They are publicly urging that those two counties are a fruitful field for circulating the perjury petitions. It is a claim that a great body of the citizens of those counties are ready to sign a written request to pledged legislators to profane the truth with a dismal lie. It is a claim that belies the present reputation and the past record of both Umatilla and Wasco counties. The petitions have been an utter failure wherever circulation of them has been attempted. Men have not only refused to sign them but have declared it an insult to be asked to sign them. They are petitions that have been commented upon by every newspaper of importance in the United States, and in every instance they have been condemned as an infamy unspeakable. They are denounced by almost the unanimous voice of the state press of Oregon as an unthinkable outrage upon de-

centy. They are excoriated by the spirit of every pupil, by the spirit of every educational institution, by the spirit of the public school system, by the spirit of every pure home, by the spirit of our institutions, by the spirit and fundamental avowal of every political party, and by the spirit of every hope of progress and civilization.

Umatilla county is the home of a splendid school system in which is taught that truth is precious, and fundamental in an upright life. It is the home of a state-maintained normal institution for the education of teachers for the public schools. It is a county of progress and virtue with a long list of eminent and honorable men. It is a county of splendid homes and notable families. The same is true of Wasco. Any announcement that the citizenship of either is ready to give indorsement to a plan of perjury, to a plan of personal program as a substitute for popular rule, to a plan that is everywhere condemned and nowhere approved, is false on its face and an insult that the sequel will wipe out.

THE KING

THE FARMER is king. His credentials for the title are the annual report of the secretary of agriculture. That report is another confirmation of the supremacy of the man on the land as the supreme factor in the creation of the country's wealth. He rolled up a colossal total of more than seven billion dollars this year. It is the most extraordinary aggregate in the nation's history. In exact figures it is \$7,778,000,000. It is four times the value of the products of the mines, including minerals, oils and precious metals. He has contributed 42 per cent of all the raw materials used in all the industries.

The increase in farm products over 1907 is \$290,000,000 and would have been much larger but for the lower price of cotton and hay. The aggregate is the climax of a succession of years of unprecedented increase. It is a 65 per cent increase of the total of nine years ago. With the products of 1899 taken at 100, the steps by which the present colossal aggregate has been reached are shown, as follows: 1903, at 125; in 1904, at 131; in 1905, at 134; in 1906, at 143; in 1907, at 159; in 1908, at 165. For ten years the farm production has exceeded the fabulous sum of \$60,000,000,000. The corn crop for the year is worth \$1,615,000,000, and is an increase of 43 per cent over the average for five years. The cotton crop is one of the three highest ever produced and with a value, in spite of low prices, next to the highest. The greatest hay crop in history has been gathered. Its farm value is \$621,000,000 or 6 per cent above the five-year average. Wheat is 620,000,000 bushels, or 23 per cent increase in the ordinary total value. The oats increase is 10 per cent, barley 23 per cent, rye 17 per cent with similar increases all along the line.

The story is one of unvarying growth. It is a marvelous tale of agricultural achievement. It is anomalous that in the midst of it there should be lack of comfort, convenience and thrift in the country home, the home of this king in our wealth production.

CALHOUN

THE EYES of the country will be focused on San Francisco next month. On the 5th inst. begins a legal battle that will be one of the most notable in the court annals of the coast. It will be the trial of Patrick Calhoun, a New York millionaire, for the alleged offering of a bribe to Supervisor Nicholas to secure a favorable report on an overhead trolley franchise. The late conviction of Ruef lends double interest to the coming trial of Calhoun. The best legal talent that money can secure has been retained for the defense and the assembling of the forces has begun. With a powerful array of assistants Francis J. Heney will lead the attack, and it will be the supreme test of the widely known prosecutor's forensic strength. The business connections and financial standing of the defendant will add accumulated interest to the proceeding and give to it a character that did not attach to the Ruef trials. Further unusual interest will appear in the fact that the defendant is a type of man rarely found in the prisoner's dock. The procurement of valuable franchises by the means alleged in this case are often heralded by rumor, but it is seldom that the big actor in the game is brought to the bar of justice. Here there is such a man, and confronting him there is a powerful engine of prosecution and doubtless a powerful array of evidence. These considerations, together with the consequences that would flow from a conviction, will make the coming legal struggle one of commanding importance and extraordinary interest.

THE DATE IN HISTORY.

1683—Isaac Walton died. Born August 9, 1637.
1796—The first circulating library was established in Salem, Mass.
1796—General "Mad" Anthony Wayne died in Presque Isle, Pa. Born in Easttown, Pa., January 1, 1745.
1825—Patent office and postoffice in Washington, D. C.
1846—The first regiment to fight against Mexico was organized in Pittsburgh.
1892—Randall L. Gibson, United States senator from Louisiana, died at Hot Springs, Ark.
1893—A provincial plebiscite in Prince Edward Island supported prohibition of the liquor traffic by an overwhelming majority.
1896—The new law separating church and state went into force in France.
Mrs. Wood and nine children, the youngest about 18 months old, came here from the city of Dallas, Texas, says The Dallas Chronicle. Her husband died. The eldest boy has helped support the family by blacking shoes in the city. The youngest children are sick in the hospital, suffering from typhoid fever, and the mother is not able to care for the necessities of clothing and the necessities of life.

ingly significant that so many people are considering and discussing the problem of disarming vicious, reckless and irresponsible gun toters. Something should be done in this direction, and it is none too early to add action to talk.

After all, one of the stories about Governor Haskell and Standard Oil, sprung in the heat of the late campaign, is untrue and has been so acknowledged by the newspaper that started it. It was the story with reference to Governor Haskell and the Prairie Oil company, and published in the Guthrie Times. Governor Haskell brought two libel proceedings and as a result Editor Benedict, in a signed article in his paper, acknowledges that the story is untrue. The libel suits have been dismissed.

The Ananias Club

It is no exaggeration to say that the refusal of the Indianapolis News to support the Republican national and state tickets was a heavy handicap to the Republican party in Indiana. Bryan came within 10,000 votes of carrying the state, while the Democrats succeeded in winning the governorship and United States senatorship—results for which Republicans hold the News largely responsible. That the News incurred the president's deep displeasure by its political course needs no proof, that he was all the angrier because of the friendship between Vice President Fairbanks and Delavan Smith needs no demonstration. Such is the background of the refusal of the Indianapolis News to support the Republican national and state tickets was a heavy handicap to the Republican party in Indiana. Bryan came within 10,000 votes of carrying the state, while the Democrats succeeded in winning the governorship and United States senatorship—results for which Republicans hold the News largely responsible. 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