

HEMP IN ITS LATTER DAY DECLINE

History of Once Proud Industry That Passed With the Sailing Vessel and Returned Not With the Grain Harvester.

Now perfumes are made, and where and by whom, will be told by Mr. Haskin in his next article. He will mention the largest flower garden in all the world and will tell how many thousand pounds of rose leaves it takes to make a pound of attar of roses. He will complete an exceedingly instructive article with interesting details regarding the sources from which the perfume manufacturer draws his materials.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright 1909 by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, April 19.—It is probable that American history does not present another such remarkable decline of an industry as that shown by the statistics of hemp growing. Fifty years ago this season the high water mark of American hemp production was reached. The crop that year yielded 149,000,000 pounds of fiber, more than half of which was produced in the state of Kentucky. To-day the annual production of the whole country amounts to less than one-sixth as much as was grown in Kentucky in 1859. One county of the Blue Grass state produced more than half of the whole United States production then.

The latest figures show that there are about 1000 American farms on which hemp is grown today, with an average of 18.6 acres to the farm. The average yield per acre was 733 pounds. Kentucky has 55 per cent of the acreage and about the same proportion of the total crop is raised there. Sixty-nine out of every hundred pounds of hemp grown in the United States is grown in five counties of the blue grass region of the state. Illinois, Nebraska and California grow nearly all of the remaining 12 per cent of the American hemp crop.

The Steamboat Era. The reason for the decline of hemp production is closely connected with the invention of the steamboat. When Rumsey and Fulton were inventing their steamboats they were signing the death warrant of the hemp industry. As sail power was swept from the seas by steam power, the demand for canvas and rope fell off. Then came cheaper hemp from other quarters of the globe, and the decline of profits to a point below that which could be made cultivating other crops which will grow in blue grass soil.

It is the opinion of the department of agriculture that the American farmer in losing millions of dollars by the refusal of American hemp manufacturers to use American hemp fiber in the making of binder twine. A score of years ago when the consumption of binder twine was 50,000 tons a year as compared with 125,000 tons today, the department estimated that if one half of it had been made from American grown hemp the saving to the farmer would have amounted to \$1,750,000. But the twine makers would have nothing to do with the proposal of the department that American hemp fiber should be used. They declared it made a "soft twine" which was not as satisfactory as sisal or Manila twine. To this the department answered with a letter from a large harvester manufacturer showing that American hemp twine worked as satisfactorily as any other in the operation of the harvesters. The efforts of the department never availed to restore American hemp twine to favor.

Hemp in the Philippines. The hemp industry in the Philippines had its birth some two and a half centuries ago. A monk of the Franciscan

order, Padre Pedro, Kapallergas, impressed with the poverty of the people, set to work to train them in the growing of hemp and the preparation of the fiber from the stalk. It is related that he experienced great difficulty in overcoming the natural laziness of the people, but that with certain rude instruments he was able to fashion, they were able to do the work quite satisfactorily. These instruments have been in use without important change from that day to this.

In Colonial Days. The history of the hemp industry in the United States is an interesting one. Virginia tried to establish hemp growing in colonial times. At first it was encouraged by the house of burgesses as a preparation for war. The county courts should distribute to each taxable colonist a quart of flax seed and a quart of hemp seed in return for which there should be given to the tithing master after the next harvest, one pound of dressed flax and one pound of dressed hemp, or two pounds of either under oath that the tithable colonist had grown it. Later bounties were offered for the production of dressed hemp and flax. Colonel William Byrd of Westover was one of the hemp growers who received bounties from the state. But his growing never got to be a passion with Virginia.

Lexington the Trade's Center. Kentucky early got into the hemp-raising business, and from the beginning Lexington has been the center of the hemp-growing district. Within 25 miles of that town there has been more hemp grown than all the rest of North America together. It was at one time almost as much of a legal tender to Kentuckians as gold and silver are to people today. Several editors of the Kentucky Gazette advertised that they would be glad to have subscriptions to the paper in exchange for hemp. Others saw great visions of property for Lexington by reason of its situation amid the hemp fields. Hesekiah Miles declared in his Register that Lexington promised to be the great inland city of the western world.

Henry Clay never reached greater heights of oratory than when he was talking of Kentucky hemp and Kentucky women. In one speech in congress he told how the venerable Colonel Shelby—hero of King's mountain—had his family clad by the labor of its own hands, how the spinning wheel and the loom were in motion at daybreak, and how the matron delighted to show her friends the stores of goods that she had woven. When they were married, "Let the painted dolls of our cities sneer at these things," he exclaimed, "the daughters of Isaac Shelby, whether the spinning wheel is in the drawing room, possess a real dignity that would, of its own force, repel the advances of any of these semi-men called dandies."

Kentucky vs. Russia. There was always a great desire on the part of the Kentucky hemp grower to get the best of the Russian hemp. The excellence of their hemp. They were just as anxious that it should be stronger than Russian hemp as they were that it should be stronger than Russian hemp. At one time they had a test on the Connecticut river between Kentucky water rotted hemp and the best Russian hemp. Even was made into rope two and a half inches in circumference and the test applied. The Russian rope parted at 3113 pounds strain. The Kentucky product broke at 3209 pounds. No horse won ever brought more joy to the hearts of the Kentuckians than that test brought them. In all such tests the Kentucky hemp proved superior to the Russian product. At least it was decided to rig one side of the ship Contellation with rope from Kentucky hemp and the other side with Russian hemp rope. After a two years' cruise the captain declared that if there was any preference it was in favor of the Russian. But the American sailor made from dew rotted hemp, and the navy department has always declared water rotted to be preferable to dew rotted, and buy that kind to this day.

Had the Contellation used the Kentucky water rotted, every son of the Bluegrass State, believes the American sailor would have vanquished the Russian bear in that contest. The cut worm is one of the worst enemies of the hemp grower. It does not long ago tried sowing salt to keep them out of his fields. The cut worms disappeared. The American sailor concluded that the salt had proved efficacious. But subsequent similar experiments led to the conclusion that Colonel Chin's cut worms would have disappeared anyway. It is estimated that a crop of hemp requires 30 inches of rain in growing, or nearly 500,000 gallons per acre.

How Hemp Is Harvested. Hemp harvest comes 100 days after sowing. In Kentucky it is usually cut about frost time. In latter years this has been done by machinery. After it has been cured and stacked or shocked, the automatic mechanical harvesters set in, it is spread out and allowed to rot. When the fiber has thus been set free from the binding material of the stalk, it is gathered up and the breaking process begins. This is getting the fiber out of the stalk. From time out of mind the rate for breaking has been about a pound. Two hundred pounds is regarded as a good average, though some have gone as high as 100 pounds an hour and 800 pounds a day. Expertness counts more than main strength, but those who possess that quality will not impart it to others, not even to their own children, in many cases. The scarcity of labor has led to a great demand for machinery for the breaking of hemp, but as yet little progress has been made, and the little old five slatted hand break is still the favorite implement. There are some 300 patents on hemp breaking machines registered in the patent office, but the one which fills the bill satisfactorily has not yet been invented.

But the Romance Clings. The hemp seed business has been brought down to a modern basis. Broom rape is the arch enemy of hemp, and in order to get pure seed much pains is taken. The dealers furnish the growers a gallon of seed in the spring in exchange for a bushel in the fall. When the frost season comes each stalk of seed hemp is carefully cut to prevent a shattering of the seed. Three or four are stacked up together, and when they become dry the seed is beaten out into a sheet. The Chinese seed is so high priced that a person can profitably buy cloth to place around the stalks while yet standing in order to get the early seed.

The decline of shipping, the rise of jute, of sisal, and of Manila hemp, have all had a hand in the decadence of American hemp growing. But the romance of it, growing always in a close association with bluegrass and thoroughbred horses, can never decay. Member of the mulberry family, cousin-german of cane and of sugar, American hemp, in spite of its 95 per cent decline in production, still feels itself one of the bluebloods of the plant world and an aristocrat in the fiber kingdom.

Ash Can Was the Thief. (United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, April 19.—Mrs. C. S. Littman of this city has recovered gems valued at \$250 which she believed had been stolen from her home. The family ash can was the repository of the missing jewels. Saturday Mrs. Littman reported to the police that a solitaire diamond ring and other rings set with turquoise and sapphires had been stolen, and a systematic search of the pawn shops was instituted. Late last night she informed headquarters that a trip to the ash can had resulted in the discovery of the gems lying in the refuse that had been carried out the day before.

Thornwell Haynes Located. (United Press Leased Wire.) Seattle, April 19.—Thornwell Haynes, late United States consul at Singapore, was rescued from the Paxton hotel to the Providence hospital today suffering from nervous prostration. For more than a week Mrs. Haynes has been trying to locate her husband. She wrote Major Miller from Portland, O., stating that Haynes had disappeared in Seattle on his way home from Singapore and requested that he be located if possible.

The police finally found Haynes in the Paxton. Mrs. Haynes has wired that she will forward money for his return home.

WIFE BUTCHER FACING TRIAL TO DRESS WOMAN

Chester S. Jordan Believes He Will Be Acquitted of Atrocious Crime.

Boston, Mass., April 19.—Chester S. Jordan, of Somerville, who has been in jail since last September, when he was arrested and confessed that he killed his wife and cut her body to pieces, hoping to hide the crime, will be placed on trial tomorrow in the superior court for the murder of his wife. The defense will base its case on a plea of temporary insanity. Jordan, who is about 30 years of age, a brother-in-law of Jesse R. Livermore, the New York cotton speculator, and it is understood the Livermore millions will be used freely in an effort to keep Jordan out of the electric chair. Three of the ablest criminal lawyers of Massachusetts have been engaged to conduct the defense.

Most Revolting Crime. The killing of Mrs. Jordan last September attracted widespread attention, owing to the circumstances surrounding the crime, and the subsequent arrest of the young husband. The murder was one of the most gruesome with which police Boston has to deal. The victim, Honora Jordan, was an actress, aged 23 years. Jordan killed the woman in his home in Somerville. Then he went out and bought a butcher's knife and a hack saw, with which he dismembered the body. He severed his wife's head, and the left hand, and tried to destroy all traces of them by burning them in the furnace of his home.

When the rest of the body in a trunk and came into Boston with the ghastly burden, stopping at a boarding-house preliminary taking a steamer to New York. It was his intention to get rid of what remained of his wife by throwing the torso into the water while the boat was en route for New York.

Chamber Grow Suspicious. The chamberman who took Jordan and his trunk to the boarding-house, however, was suspicious about its contents while carrying the trunk into the house. Its weight made him think it contained stolen silverware, and the nervous manner of Jordan satisfied him the man was a burglar. There had been many robberies and burglaries recently. The chamberman believed he was on the trail of a thief, went to the police and told them of the mysterious trunk.

Forced to Open the Trunk. Officers were detailed to go to the boarding-house and investigate. When they reached the house Jordan was not in, but the police went to the room Jordan had engaged and found the trunk. The police did not open the trunk.

About 10 o'clock Jordan returned. Accosted in the hallway by the officer, he at first denied his identity. Later he admitted who he was. Asked about the trunk he denied it and ordered to his room by the officer, however, and commanded to open the trunk. Jordan did not appear to be nervous or alarmed, but hesitated to open the trunk. It was not until after considerable argument on the part of the officer that he consented to open it and inserted it in the lock. Turning his head to one side so he could not see inside the trunk, Jordan threw up the cover and then sank back on his knees, burying his face in his hands and sobbing.

The police staggered back aghast at the sight disclosed. In the open trunk before them lay a sickening mass of hacked flesh, a woman's torso filling the greater part of the trunk, while pieces of flesh from other parts of the body were stuffed into the corners. The entire interior of the trunk being bespattered with blood.

Full Confession. Jordan submitted without protest to the handcuffs and was taken to the station. There he calmly regained his composure, and made a full confession of the killing. He said that after his marriage he and his wife went on the vaudeville stage. On account of his poor health they gave up their engagements and returned to Somerville to live. Mrs. Jordan, according to the husband, had taken to drinking, and he said was associating with other men, and became jealous. It was in a jealous quarrel that the murder was committed. Jordan declared that his wife struck him first, then he knocked her down and was terrified to find he had killed her. That happened at 7:30 o'clock in the evening.

Actually Expects Acquittal. Fearing discovery of his crime, he conceived the idea of cutting the body up, taking it away on one of the steamers and throwing the parts overboard and then reporting to the police that his wife had left him. Jordan, according to his confession, while dazed at the awfulness of his deed, went about in a careful manner carrying out his plans, which were frustrated 24 hours later by the suspicions of the chamberman. During his long period in jail Jordan has maintained the same comparative calm that he exhibited when he was arrested, and apparently feels confident that he will get off.

KILLER CHOKES ON A FISH BONE

(United Press Leased Wire.) Vienna, April 19.—Emperor William of Germany narrowly escaped strangling to death after swallowing a fishbone, according to a message received from Corfu, Greece, today by the stock exchange.

The emperor was dining with his suite when he suddenly clutched his throat and uttered a cry. He rose and in the face and it was feared he would strangle to death. Physicians hastily set to work and finally removed the fishbone. The emperor was so unmoved by the incident, the message says, that the dinner was abandoned.

The emperor is at Corfu for a brief vacation.

KILLS HIMSELF WHEN DIVORCED WIFE WEDS

(United Press Leased Wire.) Seattle, April 19.—Louis Kopperman was found unconscious yesterday near a roadhouse at Lincoln Park and died in a short time from loss of blood due to self-inflicted knife wounds. From letters found on his body it appears Kopperman was dependent over the fact that his divorced wife had remarried.

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CONSTIPATION

WHAT IT COST TO DRESS WOMAN

Class at Berkeley Studies Problem of Apparel; Foolish Conclusions.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Berkeley, Cal., April 19.—Blaming men for the folly of modern women's attire, Miss Jessica Peixotto, assistant professor of economics at the University of California, and six of the brightest women students in her class, have reported that at least \$1000 a year is necessary to dress a woman "decently."

Isabura Rhoda, a Japanese male student in the class, returned a minority report fixing \$110 as the maximum to be spent for feminine attire. Miss Peixotto's class has been investigating the subject of the cost of living in the great middle class. Their figures were computed on the basis of a family of three "efficient" persons. The young women's estimates, summarized, follow:

Necessary income for three, \$5000.
Dwelling, palatial.
Food for three, \$1085.
Clothing for woman, \$1000.
Clothing for man, \$400.
Hats for woman, \$75.
Miscellaneous, presumably what is left.

Rhoda's estimate, which follows, has led to some speculation as to the allowance given Mrs. Gladys Emery Aoki by her Japanese husband. He is the Japanese student's estimate of the cost of living of a family in moderate circumstances:

Necessary income for three, \$1300.
Dwelling (cost to buy), \$2500.
Food for three, \$500.
Clothing for woman, \$110.
Clothing for man, \$110.
Hats for woman, \$10.
Hats for man, \$5.

Female members of the class were loud in their denunciation of the men, whom they blame for the extravagance of the fair sex.

"What are women to do?" they asked. "The men insist that their wives dress as well as their neighbors, and that costs money. They go shopping with them and encourage them to buy expensive things, then throw up their hands in horror when the bills come in."

SHAKEUP THREATENED IN CUTTER SERVICE

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, April 19.—It is stated that an investigation will probably follow the filing of charges by Lieutenant James A. Burns, against the conduct of the revenue cutter service of the Pacific coast.

Burns, who was formerly an engineer in the service, has filed with the secretary of the treasury charges alleging improper equipment of the coast service, and he criticizes the attitude of the officers in command. He claims that the service rendered on the Pacific coast does not warrant the large appropriation.

He charges that the work of life saving is not carried on properly, and that officers frequently refuse to move without explicit orders from Washington. He states that at the time of the wreck of the liner Valencia three years ago, three revenue cutters lay within 200 miles of the hapless vessel, but refused to go to her aid until orders were received from the treasury department three days later.

Other charges recite that the captain of the cutter McCullough refused to participate in the rescue work during the great fire in San Francisco because he thought himself unrecognized by the

and that the protection of the seals in section of the American Commercial

naval officers commanding the harbor, Alaska is virtually a monopolistic pro-

company.

Editorial From Sunday Oregonian

When the \$500,000 by 1911 are gone, the people who want cheap real-estate lots will have to go much farther out. Better buy now and get some of the value increase yourself.

GREENOE HEIGHTS

\$20 Lots

IS THE PLACE

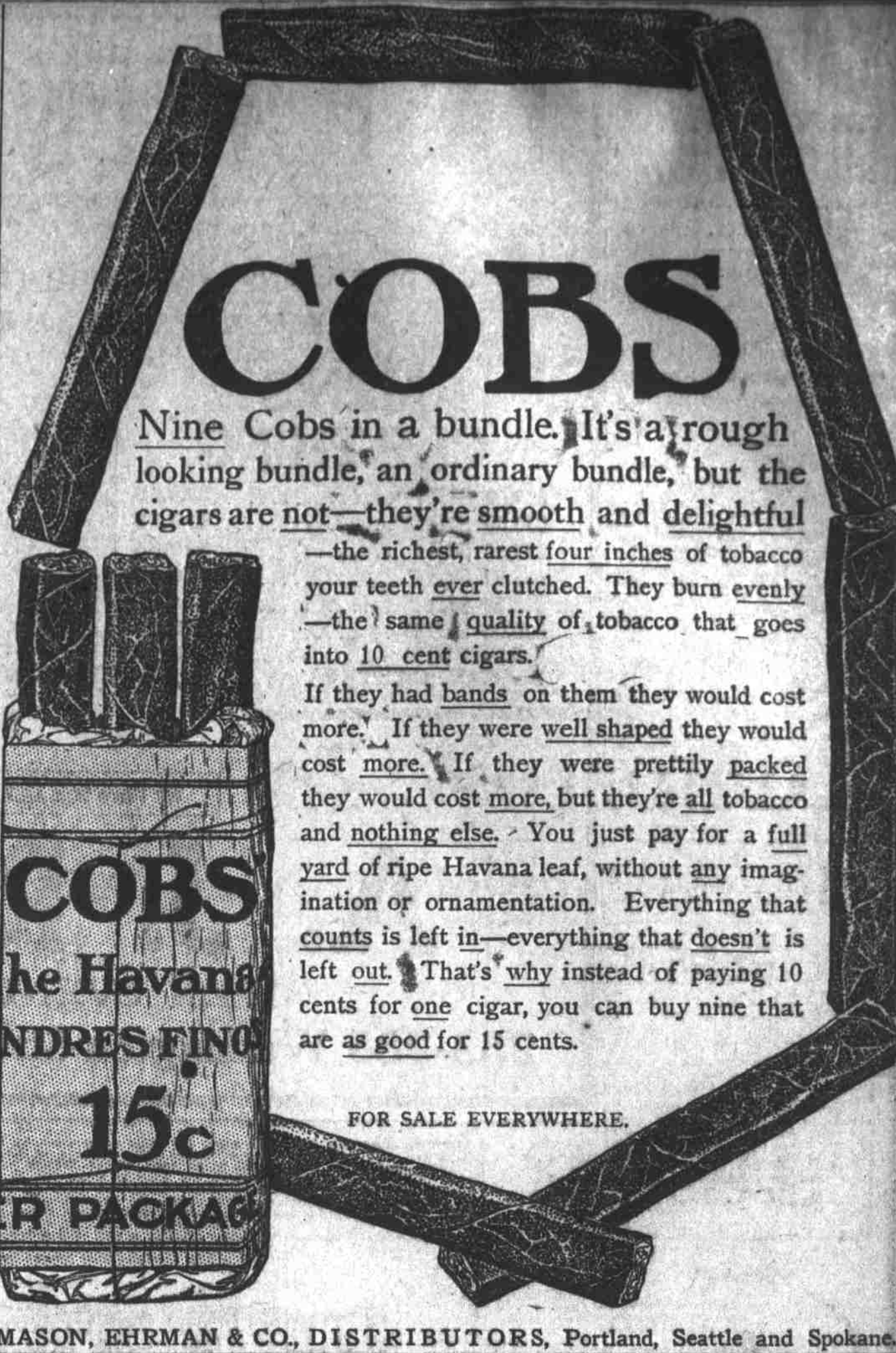
Ideally located on line of the United Railways, now operating and building. And it is announced that within 60 days the United Railways will be serving GREENOE HEIGHTS. Other lots along the electric line are being held at ten times the price of GREENOE HEIGHTS. When the line is completed there will be a great advance in values. Buy now and reap the reward. Action must be quick. Lots \$20—\$5 down, \$5 per month, no interest.

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