

# FIGHT FOR PURE MILK

Among the achievements of the year now ended is the initiation of a pure milk crusade in Portland, in which determined effort for humanity's sake has won a telling victory over apathetic indifference—and the fight is still on.

By Marshall N. Dana.

The object of a pure milk crusade is to obtain pure milk.

The objections of those who oppose make for anything but pure milk.

Milk impure at the beginning can never be made pure; sterilization, pasteurization, use of preservatives, or what not.

Pure milk gives strength, heals disease; impure milk leaves death and disease in its course. The white haze follows always the milk wagon of the dirty dairyman. The cow is second mother to the baby, but if she is mistreated she becomes a dangerous source of provender.

oath or vow; needed nothing save to remember the condition of the dairies to render sacred their determination not to rest until conditions had been righted and the slaughter checked.

It might have been idealism but it seemed necessary.

**Investigation Proceeds.**

This was in the days of falling summer. The weather in Portland was not hot; the water was the city's boast to the world. Still the babies died. We determined the truth, so far as the babies were concerned, that milk is the most important single item of human food. We decided that the deaths must be due to the milk. We had still the dairies before us.

The appeal was to the first instinct of motherhood, the instinct to protect her young. Thousands of Portland mothers responded, urging their husbands into action, venting their indignation in language emphatic, stirring public opinion into white heat.

to plan and worked hard during the day to work out their plans. These came to believe with Emerson that "Person makes event, and event person." There was a close linking of the act and the idea.

There were a few who worked. The history of the campaign's intimate details is much longer than the chronicle of its events. Back of all was the freely contributed strength of a great newspaper, giving unsparring publicity to whatever was true. And there was a splendid, great hearted woman, intelligent as energetic, generous as devoted, whose name never reached the news columns because of her sincere disposition not to advertise her good works. Always leader among the workers, too, was a bluff, big official, who never said a thing that didn't count, and who was as willing to contribute money to the campaign's success as he was to give of his time. And there was another local official who once rejoiced in the sunshine of the sunny south, but who stuck vigorously to promises and inspected dairies in the rain.

THESE are generalities, but they apply specifically to Portland. Here we have in theory won a pure milk crusade. In theory, yes; but in practice it will be a progressive, winning, making necessary constant and aggressive alertness until the babies, whose lives we have saved, become men and women animated with an idealistic desire to save the second generation.

Winning the campaign "in theory" means that "our officials," state federal and city, have promised to enforce the law, a duty which some unfortunates self-deludedly thought they were elected for, and means also that these same officials have been provided with a law which recognizes and strives to utilize the benefits of each of them. But it is a law which will become as much of a dead letter as a thousand others laws if its body is filed away in dusty archives and its provisions forgotten with the promises.

Organization after organization swung into line; the medical profession ranged itself as a man with the crusaders. All were friends who favored and fought for clean milk; all were enemies who were neutral or in any way opposed. Rich and poor were united in the effort and the machinery of the crusade became intricate requiring patient and skillful touch to keep its various parts in working order.

Opposition can be briefly summarized. It was: ignorance, generally diffused; the unscrupulous and selfish greed of politicians; the laziness of officials, the apathy and indifference of the people.

The temptation is to give names, but present purposes forbid. The temptation is to become exceedingly frank and mention some who were office cities, who also have time and thought and encouragement, and a certain blunt stimulus frequently necessary.

**Fight is Still On.**

The fight is partly past. We have the skeleton of legislation and see some of the evidences of flesh of enforcement. And most encouraging of all are the material results of agitation. As sunlight and air are deadly to germs, so has the spot light of publicity proven destructive to dirty barns and filthy equipment. Dairy men are finding they cannot sell milk if it is not clean, that mothers will not give to their babies a white poison, and so the old barns are disappearing with the accumulated filth of years. New barns are coming and healthy cows are given in them plenty of air and light. Milk-houses will be screened from flies and sanitation will prevent the old sickening odor. Disease will be disappearing and a new order will hold sway. The people may well be glad for protection—and the dairymen are among the people.

**Horrible Revelations.**

A man came to the office one day and said that he had a herd of 12 cows. Some of them were coughing and he was afraid they had cow consumption or Bovine tuberculosis. But the dairy commissioner, he said, had refused to make any examination and meanwhile he was selling milk and cream in the city. The investigation proved the story's essential truth. An interview brought some startling statements from the commissioner. Step by step the investigation proceeded unfolding a revelation of conditions that weakened the people of Portland into fear, that brought the mother hurrying to stop over her sleeping child and tremble as she thought of her treasure slipping back into the unknown land whence it came.

Description of these would require a volume; would be as disagreeable as protracted spading into the muck where the cows stood while they were being milked. They seem now like night-mares following a late dinner or the bogymen of childhood; they seem now as they did intangible, elusive, uncouth. What a monstrous creature might our pure ambition for clean milk have become percolating through a mass of ignorance, cheap politics, conservatism, misrepresentation—if we had not kept our attention fixed on the goal of a clean milk supply for Portland.

It was the aggregate of forces that helped toward a conclusion. It was the direction of a few who sat up nights

Days came when automobiles went honking out the country roads. Every dairy constituted an invitation to stop. Inspectors, self-appointed and otherwise, soon were surprised if they did not find a few sunken flanked cows, coated with filth and standing in knee deep manure in barns from which light and air were consistently excluded.

Not a pleasant picture, surely, but these were the sources of the milk Portland babies were drinking.

To be sure, not all of the dairies were so bad. But as many were worse than any description could picture them, that presently a great fear and a great earnestness came over the crusaders.

We visited one home and watched the mother's tears run down her face as she told how her boy had sickened and died and all her love could not hold him back from the shadows. We were advised by the death certificate of the city health office that bad milk was the contributing cause. We visited the dairy and found cans full of milk to town, brought back full of backdoor garbage, and the dairymen was filling bottles with milk, bottles left unwashed from the previous day's filling and no one knows how many days before that particular day.

We visited another home where the baby had died in terrible convulsions three days after she had drunk milk which the bacteriologist found upon test had contained 44,000,000,000 filth germs to every spoonful.

Information came from the health office that babies were dying faster than ever before since the city had been a city, and the memory of the dairies remained with the campaigners.

It was an equation in human life where life was to death as the bad milk to the whole supply. It was a sacrifice of helpless life as needless as it was appalling. Crusaders needed no

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Pioneer Portland—View from East Sixth and Pine streets in 1875—Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society.

## THE ROSE CARNIVAL

Annual festival of flowers that brings Portland additional renown is unrivaled by any other civic pageant in the land. The wealth of roses with which Portland is favored by the bounteous hand of nature well earns for it the appellation "The Rose City."

TO the world at large Portland is known and envied as the Rose City. There are few places indeed where the queen of flowers grows in greater profusion, and few other places where the hardy floral hedges have blossoms the greater part of the year. That the ambition of the rose should be emblazoned big upon the scutcheon of civic pride is just and fitting. That Portland is thus able to flaunt its name within a garland of roses to the gaze of an admiring world is because of the gracious behest of nature in providing soil and climatic con-

ditions so favorable to the culture of this flower of flowers.

And Portland is not unappreciative of her importance, as the annual Rose Carnival indicates. Many are the cities which lay claim to the individuality and uniqueness of their municipal pageants, but none are there that rival Portland's fête in beauty. New Orleans is famed for its elaborate Mardi Gras, St. Louis reveals annually in the appearance of the Velled Prophet, but nowhere is a civic carnival to be found that surpasses the annual tribute paid by Portland to its roses.

The Rose Carnival dates for 1910 are from June 5 to 11 inclusive, for the celebration of which the city will spend \$100,000, and private individuals and individual business concerns much more. During that week thousands of visitors will come from afar to feast upon the beautiful scenes thus provided. No less than 5,000,000 roses will be used in carrying out the decorative schemes, being selected from the wealth of bushes and hedges then in the height of their bloom.

Portland is a real city of roses, there being enough plants within its bounds, which, if set side by side, would make a flowering hedge extending from this city to Los Angeles. The choicest varieties are produced in wonderful pro-

## PORTLAND HAD ITS SHARE OF MEETINGS IN YEAR JUST ENDED

The largest convention held during 1909 was that of the Northern Baptists, with over fifteen hundred in attendance. Of supreme importance to this northwestern country was the meeting of the American Association of Agricultural College Presidents and Directors of Experiment Stations in connection with the National Association of Farmers' Institute Workers.

Special trains chartered by the Portland Commercial club took these guests over the Willamette valley on a two days' trip—over the Hood river fruit district in the day. The National Association of Retail Grocers and the National Federal directors brought delegates from every part of the United States.

Presidential Postmasters of Oregon, the Oregon State Dairy Association, State Horticultural Society, Northwestern Photographers' association, all drew delegates from beyond the confines of Oregon.

The year 1909 was especially notable in the entertainment of visiting parties, such as the California Promotion committee, Chicago Association of Commerce, Worcester board of trade, Texas bankers, Brooklyn Eagle party, Japanese Industrial Commission and innumerable excursion parties. President Taft's visit was one of the events of the year.

The most prominent convention scheduled for Portland in 1910 is the national meeting of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which meets biennially.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PORTLAND is recognized as the leading educational center of the Pacific northwest. There are 64 public schools maintained at a cost of about \$1,300,000 a year. The schools require the services of 750 teachers, whose annual salaries aggregate \$750,000.

The census recently completed shows the school population of Portland for the year 1909-10 to be 35,354, a gain of 1290 in a single year. Of this number, 17,458 are male and 17,896 female children between the ages of 4 and 20 years. In Multnomah county outside of Portland there are 428 children of school age, a gain of 122 since the last census. Thus the school population of the county for the current year aggregates 35,980, a gain of 1422. Of the 50 districts in the county 25 show increases, 21 slight decreases and four no change.

The schoolhouses of Portland are modern in every particular and reflect the general sentiment of the people for higher educational facilities. Teachers are selected from the best prepared applicants and represent the leading colleges and universities of the country.

An examination of the school enrollment from 1875 to 1909 shows an annual gain ranging from 2 per cent in 1880 to 19.7 per cent in 1909. The growth in the past 10 years has been steady, the lowest annual increase being 3.2 per cent in 1900.

Modern methods prevail in all the schools and the highest results are secured. The special classification system peculiar to Portland schools, was introduced in 1897 and has worked to the satisfaction of all interested. In every schoolroom there are two important divisions progressing at different rates. The classification insures better

results to young and old students and makes a place for the dull pupil who can progress along the same lines as others in the same class.

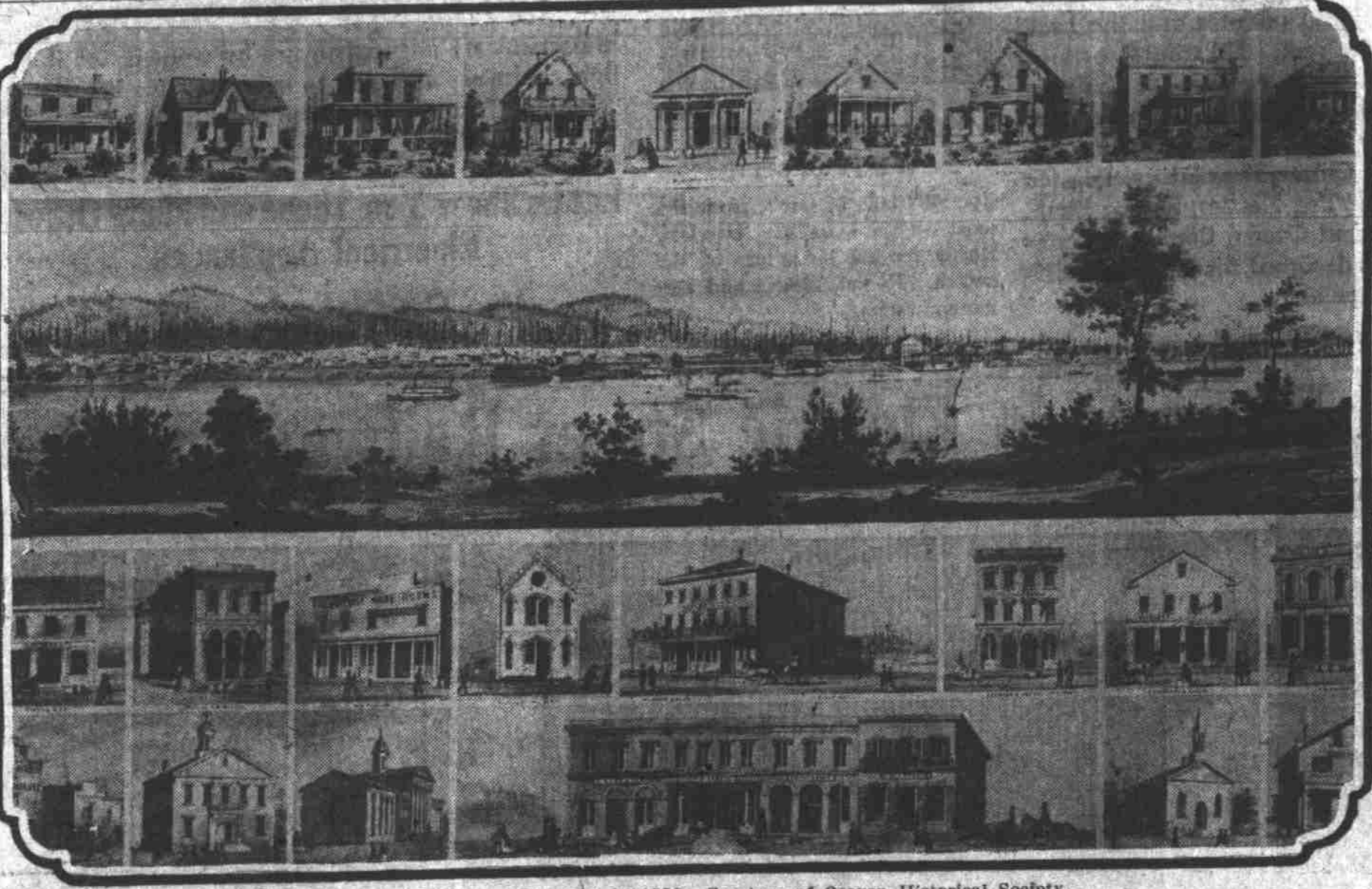
There are special courses devoted to sewing, manual training, music, and the building and machinery trades. Every department attracts its quota of energetic students intent upon securing the benefits of a modern education. And Portland, through its appropriation from the state and county and a special levy of 4.2 mills on a property valuation of \$50,000,000, offers those educational advantages to all of her school children.

## Undeveloped Power

Oregon has an undeveloped water power equivalent to 3,317,000 horsepower. The power developed and utilized for present purposes amounts to 24,600 horsepower. The sites for power are favorably located in different sections of the state, and power can be transmitted at reasonable rates for agricultural and industrial development.

Oregon produces 46 per cent of the prunes grown in the United States. The annual crop ranges about 27,000,000 pounds of dry prunes and 100 to 150 carloads of green fruit marketed in crates. An acre of prune trees produces from five to seven tons.

Oregon has paper mills, representing an investment of \$4,500,000, employing 845 men, and having a payroll of almost \$1,900,000 a year. The exports of printing paper, from the mills from Portland to the orient aggregated 2,654,744 pounds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909.



Panoramic View of Portland in 1858—Courtesy of Oregon Historical Society.

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