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My twilit mountains,—how the night sweeps up
And fills with cloudy glory the god-like cup.
Look! how the sunset lingers on that snowy height,
Like a clear-tinted dream that will not vanish quite,
A hovering brightness more mysterious than shade,
A beckon of joy ethereal, unafraid,
More solemn than the music that in Silence lies
Or that last Vision we see when death shall dim our eyes.
—Florence Wilkinson.

CONSIDER THE TAXES.

Pendleton Commercial association is now about 15 years old but the biggest and most important proposition ever considered by it, the proposition which concerns Umatilla county most vitally, is the question of taxes and assessment presented by T. C. Taylor at last night's meeting.

As Mr. Taylor said in presenting this important subject, a large part of the business of the association consists in doing something for somebody else, while we are doing but little, if anything for ourselves.

The matter of assessment and taxation concerns every taxpayer in the county and it is to the interest of every taxpayer that every cent collected and expended by the county should be made to do its full duty and bring in returns.

There is a work for the association to do in seeking the cause of high taxes and in seeking a just and legal remedy for such. The county officials are only too glad to have the cooperation of the association in this matter and the county's business record is open to the inspection and examination of the humblest taxpayer in the county.

While it may be unjust to the officials to agitate this matter now while a political campaign is at its height, yet it is a question that is always appropriate for discussion by business men and it is hoped that the association takes up the matter in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner.

The association cannot afford to engage in political campaigning. It is above that. But it can afford, and it is its duty, to engage in the discussion and settlement of public questions which affect the business interests of the city and county.

Let the association call the taxpayers together; let them find out what is the matter; what caused it; how it is to be remedied—and then remedy the condition. The question is too big to go by default. Action is demanded and talk will not suffice.

INDEPENDENT BUYERS WANTED.

The Walla Walla Statesman says of the far-reaching and important action of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union in deciding to build a line of independent warehouses in the inland empire:

The decision reached by the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, at a meeting Saturday afternoon, to build a system of warehouses in the inland empire to compete with houses operated by the so-called grain combine, gives promise of going a long way towards solving what has been in the past, the perplexing problem of lowering the cost of handling wheat from the time it is stored in the warehouse until it is loaded on the cars for shipment to tidewater.

There is hardly any doubt but that the advance of storage rates from 50 to 75 cents per ton, by the various grain companies, was unjust, despite the assertions of the warehouse companies that even at the new rate, there is little money in handling grain owing to the heavy advance in the amount of wages the companies are compelled to pay for labor.

Even though the farmers by build-

ing and operating their own houses, do not effect the saving that they anticipated, they will in a large degree, separate themselves from the power exerted by the grain companies and open up a field for the independent buyer.

If the farmers are determined to break away from the warehouse companies there is no reason why the growers should not overlook the middlemen entirely and sell directly to the consumer, or at best to firms that deal directly with the consumer.

No doubt many perplexing obstacles would have to be overcome before this could be accomplished, yet concerted action by the farmers of the northwest would soon revolutionize the present methods of marketing the annual crop and effect a saving of many thousands of dollars each year to the growers.

SCHOOL CHILDREN SUFFER.

If the schools of Oregon are handicapped for state funds, if school taxes are high, if the irreducible school fund is not augmented from the sale of school lands as it should be, if the cream of the school lands of the state have been bartered away through corrupt officials, if Oregon is far behind her sister state, Washington, in the matter of school lands and school funds, whom shall we blame?

The national government has acted fairly by Oregon. This state was given its share of valuable lands, but that priceless heritage is now vanished. In Oregon school lands have been sold at from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre. In Washington but little of the land has been sold and that at \$10 per acre. Most of Washington's school land is still owned by the state and is leased at as much per acre annually as Oregon's lands have been sold for outright.

The Geer administration in Oregon will always stand out in the history of the state as the period of school land and state land plundering. The school children of Oregon and the schools of the state will never recover from the corrupt transactions of that administration.

Was it dishonesty or incompetency? Which? Let Mr. Geer say. He can take either horn of the dilemma, as suits his case. The fact remains that the injury was done, the crime committed, the state's priceless heritage of school and state lands parcelled out to speculators, sharks and grafters. This is history. Abuse cannot wipe it from the pages of the state's written records.

DEAD, DEAD.

After an exceedingly interesting existence of 15 years, the silver issue is dead, according to William Jennings Bryan. Conditions have changed, the country has developed, resources have been uncovered, vital industries have been established all over the west and the country is beyond the reach of a genuine panic, it seems.

And all this without the enactment of the sixteen-to-one coinage law which was held up for years as the cure-all for the troubles in the industrial world.

True, the development of silver has been retarded in the west. The failure of the silver boom almost depopulated Nevada, but Nevada and other western states have benefited immeasurably more from reclamation of arid lands than they would have from silver mining.

So upon the grave of the silver issue is growing the green verdure of the Irrigation Age. Over the undeveloped silver mines the water of the idle streams is now vitalizing and supporting a population which the mines could not have supported even at their most prosperous period. It is perhaps better so.

WELLMAN'S NEW WEST.

Walter Wellman, the newspaper correspondent and north pole enthusiast, is making a tour of the west for a syndicate of eastern papers and writes from Butte, Mont., that he finds the west entirely free from all effects of the late lamented Wall street panic.

Wellman has found a new west, an independent, free and easy, rollicking, lavish, full-handed land of abundance, unscathed by the past and unafraid of the future.

He says that conditions improve as he progresses toward the setting sun; that money is more free and more plentiful as he enters the once desolated western region; that activity in all industrial lines is pronounced as he comes into the shadows of the Rocky mountains.

The New West is a reality. Ten years ago the west was tied to the apron strings of eastern bankers and money lenders, but today she is a strong and virile queen, without bondage, without master, without fear, standing among her throbbing resources, full-handed and serene.

The coming of the electric line

GEER TOOK THE MONEY.
In answering the charge that he sold the office of superintendent of the Oregon penitentiary to H. B. Plummer for \$1000, during his term as governor, T. T. Geer says in his paper, the Pendleton Tribune:
"The truth is that Mr. Plummer not only did not have any sort of an agreement with me, written or otherwise, but he did not pretend to have UNTIL LONG AFTER I HAD REPAID HIM HIS MONEY AND MR. LEE WAS APPOINTED."

from Freewater to Pendleton within a reasonable time is as certain as the coming of tomorrow's sun. It is not reasonable to believe that the line will stop short of Pendleton, which is the logical center of this great wheat and livestock district. That the line is not now completed into this city is perhaps due to the temporary financial flurry of last fall. While that had nothing to do with western conditions, yet the eastern capitalists who are financing the line were perhaps frightened. Pendleton could hurry up the coming of the line by a little effort, but it will come, anyway, in time.

WHERE IS LITERARY CULTURE?

There is a great literary battle in progress, the contestants being stories by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and Max Pemberton. These are published on the installment plan, each Sunday in several American cities.

The umpires are the readers of the papers in which the stories are published. In a great literary contest one would suppose that in the number of ballots cast San Francisco would head the list, with Boston a close second, Cleveland third, and New York, Indianapolis and Memphis distanced. But here is the result of the balloting for the week ending March 28:

New York, 801; Memphis, 508; Cleveland, 481; Indianapolis, 373; Chicago, 223; San Francisco, 195; Cincinnati, 178; Boston, 119; Nashville, 103; Butte, 51; Total, 2013.

Such is the amazing result, for one week, of the greatest literary contest since the joint debate between "Coin" Harvey and Roswell G. Horr.

In proportion to population of the city and state, Butte makes the best showing of literary erudition; thus showing the influence of Senator Clark and F. Augustus Heinze. Doubtless San Francisco would have a higher place on the list but for the recent decisions of the courts in the Schmitz case.—San Francisco Star.

ECHO OF PIONEER DAYS.

The Cheyenne Tribune says: Whoever thinks that the real old-fashioned all night ranch dance, made famous by Owen Wister and Linn McLean, is a thing of the past, should have been one of the invited guests at a splendid affair given by Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery at their fine ranch home near Iron Mountain on Friday night last, in honor of their recent wedding.

A spirit of genuine western hospitality prevailed, in which the entire adjoining countryside shared, many of the guests making all day journeys to attend the merry making.

The great barn with its splendid floor and brilliant lights, made an ideal ball room, and here, after enjoying a delicious supper, to the inspiring strains of Davidson's orchestra, the happy throng danced away the hours until the near approach of dawn, and the invitation to a beautiful breakfast, reminded them that this, like all good things, must have an end.

In the Sickroom.
Good cheer is better than medicine. The jest has an important part to play as a remedy for irritability. Don't tell long stories. Don't rehearse other people's trials. Don't think up miserable possibilities.

Order, observation and obedience are three cardinal virtues in a nurse. Add to these tact, the want of which is the base of nearly every sin a nurse may commit.

"Bad Blood"

shows itself in a muddy complexion, pimples, blurred eyesight, loss of weight, and general debility.

"Bad blood" is impoverished blood—too poor and thin to furnish nourishment to the flesh, nerves and vital organs.

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by their beneficial action on the system will purify the blood and upbuild the bodily and mental vigor. Beecham's Pills begin right by correcting the digestion and establishing regularity of the bowels. They increase the health-making elements that enrich the blood and give tone and vigor. Beecham's Pills are best for poor blood as they cleanse it thoroughly and

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SKIN DISEASES CAUSED BY HUMORS IN THE BLOOD

The skin is provided with countless pores and glands, through which an evaporation is going on continually, day and night. This is nature's method of regulating the temperature of our bodies, and preserving the natural appearance of the skin. These pores and glands are connected with tiny veins and arteries through which they receive, from the blood, the necessary nourishment and strength to preserve their healthy condition, and enable them to perform this duty.

So long as the blood is pure and rich the skin will be free from eruption or disease, but when the circulation becomes infected with acids and humors its nourishing and healthful properties are lost, and its acid, humor-laden condition causes irritation and inflammation of the delicate tissues and fibres of the pores and glands, and the effect is shown in Eczema, Acne, Tetter, Salt Rheum, or some other distressing, disfiguring skin disease.

These humors get into the blood through a deranged or inactive condition of the system. Those members whose duty it is to collect and expel the refuse matter of the body fail to properly do their work, and this surplus or waste matter is left in the system to sour and ferment and be absorbed into the blood. There are also certain other humors which get into the blood from without. The juice or milk from poisonous plants, such as poison oak, poison ivy, nettle rash, etc., enters through the open pores of the skin and takes root in the blood. This causes a breaking out which remains for a time and then disappears, but returns at certain seasons of each year.

The cause of all skin troubles can be traced to some kind of humor in the blood. Smooth, healthy skins are only possible where the circulation is pure; and therefore the cure of any skin affection can only come through a thorough cleansing of this vital fluid. Salves, washes, ointments, etc., are valuable only for their ability to keep the skin clean, allay the itching, and tend to reduce inflammation; they cannot correct the trouble because they do not reach the blood.

S. S. S. cures skin diseases of every character and kind, because it purifies the blood. It goes down into the circulation and removes the humors that are causing the trouble, builds up the weak, acid blood, and completely cures Eczema, Acne, Tetter, Salt Rheum, Poison Oak, Poison Ivy, and all eruptions and diseases of the skin. When S. S. S. has driven the humor from the blood, and cooled and cleansed the acid-heated circulation, every symptom passes away, the skin is again nourished with rich, healthful blood, and comfort is given to disease-tortured skins.

Special book on Skin Diseases and any medical advice free. S. S. S. is for sale at all drug stores.
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