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There is nothing in all the world so important as children, nothing so interesting. If you ever wish to go in for some philanthropy, if you ever wish to be of any real use in the world, do something for children. If you ever yearn to be truly wise, study children. We can dress the sore, bandage the wounded, imprison the criminal, heal the sick, and bury the dead; but there is always a chance that we can save a child. If the great army of philanthropists ever exterminate sin and pestilence, ever work out our race's salvation, it will be because a little child has led them.—David Starr Jordan.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

Pendleton is proud of the school and athletic activities here this spring. The high school and the Pendleton academy are active this spring and are doing things which count.

The high school track meet this afternoon and the debate between Pendleton and Tualatin academies tonight are two important events in the school life of the city and the people take more than passing interest in them.

Athletic training is a part of an education and the East Oregonian delights to see Pendleton high school occupying a high place among the schools of the inland empire in this branch. The same boys who make records in running, jumping, throwing the discus and leaping the hurdles have the mental activities necessary to make good students. Their athletic training should sharpen and stimulate their minds and make them better scholars.

Debates, literary societies, school papers and all the side issues are absolutely necessary parts of an education and should be encouraged. The academy debate which will take place tonight in this city is a necessary part of the academy course of training and is an education in itself.

Pendleton should encourage the coming of more school events to this city. She is the center of a vast section in which are located some of the finest public and private schools in the west and there should be more track meets, school and academy debates, declamatory contests and other school activities here. The facilities are here, the train service is favorable and Pendleton urges upon the public school authorities of the city the importance of bringing these events here.

UMATILLA COUNTY.

The coming of the rain this week, just as the Associated Press and other alarmists were scattering broadcast the information that Umatilla county was on the verge of ruin from drought, piles up the evidence, mountain high, that Umatilla county is the safest place on earth to live.

With a larger wheat area seeded than usual and with a better crop prospect than usual, the unfailing rain that comes always when needed in this county, insures another bumper yield, enormous business, plenty of work for all and handsome bank accounts.

No matter how cold the winter or how dry the spring, Umatilla county always produces a crop. There has never been a failure, never has been a year in the history of the county when a good crop was not harvested in this county. Some spots suffer at times; some of the soil yields smaller returns on some years than on others, but it always yields. A failure is absolutely unknown in the county.

No greater inducement than this can be offered to the homeseeker. The assurance of raising a crop every year, for half a century without failure is a gilt-edged guarantee, but this

is the guarantee given by Umatilla county to intending settlers.

With droughts and blizzards in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas, with killing frosts in the farther east, with hot winds in Texas and Oklahoma, and with suffocating nights all through the middle states, the life-giving atmosphere, the certain crops, the unfailing rain, the balmy climate and abundant returns for labor combine to make Umatilla county an attractive goal for the land-hungry homeseeker.

If we can only give this information to the dissatisfied and discontented residents of the crowded east, nothing further need be done to populate the idle lands of Umatilla county and the inland empire with a first-class citizenship.

BACK TO NATURE.

Last summer Eli W. Weaver, of the Boys' High school, Brooklyn, wrote to the New York state department of agriculture that a large proportion of his boys desired to work on farms during vacation time, says a school journal. Word was issued and soon after Mr. Weaver received 160 applications for his boys. Great was the delight of the boys, who spent their summer days on the farm.

Now an organization has been formed, numbering 2500 members, all pupils in the New York city schools, who plan to spend their summer days as laborers on the farm. "Back to the soil" appears to be a sentiment more deeply seated than many grown-ups have been willing to admit.

Mr. Weaver has suggested an interesting solution for vacation occupation of the children in the congested city districts. The organization ought to be extended to other cities.

It would be a splendid thing if philanthropists could be attracted to the aid of such a movement in order that money might be secured for the transportation of pupils to the farms. The west could use many of the ambitious young people who desire to lead a useful outdoor life during the summer days.

CLIPPING THE TRUSTS.

Some of the trusts may have to cut their dividends, if the probable revision of the tariff becomes a reality, and trust products are placed on the free list, or shorn of the protection they now enjoy, says the Spokane Chronicle.

Steel, for instance, can be made cheaper in this country than it can abroad, yet steel products average \$10 a ton higher here than they do in Europe. The reduction of the tariff may cut the steel trust's annual profits about \$160,000,000—practically in half.

The proposed reduction in steel would, therefore, greatly reduce the dividends on steel stocks, but the steel consuming companies, and even the farmers and manufacturers would benefit vastly. So it is all through the list of protected commodities.

One result of the reduction in prices should be reduction in living expenses, but the necessary reduction in net and gross earnings and dividends for companies may also result in a reduction in wages, so that the purchasing power of dollars and of labor may be about the same as now.

PLUNDERING THE WEST.

As an illustration of the land plundering which has been conducted in the west during the past two or three decades it is only necessary to cite a case at Lewiston. George H. Kester and W. F. Kettenbach, bankers of Lewiston, were convicted last year for fraudulently securing 50 yellow pine timber claims worth from \$5000 to \$8000 each.

Small sums ranging from \$100 to \$500 were paid to the entrymen for the claims by these bankers and the government was thus wantonly robbed by citizens of alleged "high" standing in the community.

Now in order to recover the land United States District Attorney Rulick has asked that all the patents be cancelled, 50 in number, and the land restored to the United States. The patents will perhaps be issued this week in order that their cancellation may be simplified.

Perjury, conspiracy, fraud were all practiced by these entrymen and bankers in plundering the public domain of 10,000 acres of timber land worth \$250,000. These same bankers set themselves up as model citizens handling the people's money, soliciting public patronage and helping direct the affairs of a community.

Is it safe for the public to trust its funds with men who will willfully rob the government? Where a man is crooked in one line can he be trusted in any other? These are pertinent questions and when the plunging speculators who are handling the people's money come to realize that people regard them in this light, it will put a

stop to much of the crooked work that is being uncovered in the west. It is no wonder President Roosevelt is determined to place every foot of remaining timber in a forest reserve. The plundering of the forest domain of the country is one of the most shameful pages in the history of the west.

Now that the primaries are over it is hoped that Senator Fulton returns at once to Washington where Oregon's interests urgently need him.

However the primary election goes, the wheat, wool and alfalfa crops for 1908 will be the greatest in the history of Umatilla county.

THE WANDERER'S SONG.

There will be, when I come home, through the hill-gap in the west, The friendly smile of the sun on the fields that I love best; The rep-topped closer here and the white-whorled daisy there, And the bloom of the wilding brier that attars the upland air; There will be birth-mirth sweet—mellow none may know— The flute of the wild wood thrush, the call of the vireo; Pleasant gossip of leaves, and from the dawn to the gloam The lyric laughter of brooks there will be when I come home.

There will be, when I come home, the kindness of the earth— Ah, how I love it all, bounteous breadth and girth! The very sod will say—tendrils, fibre, and root, "Here is our foster-child, he of the wandering foot. Welcome! Welcome!" And, lo! I shall pause at the gate ajar That the leaning lilacs shade, where the honeysuckles are; I shall see the open door—O farer over the foam, The ease of this hunger of heart there will be when I come home! —Clinton Scollard, in the Outlook.

FIRST LIGHT IN 30 YEARS.

An item from Carson City, Nevada, says: For the first time in 30 years 12 shaggy mules saw the light of day last month at Reno, Nev. These mules were used to haul ore on the 700 foot level of the Sutro tunnel on the Comstock lode. In the future electric locomotives of the General Electric company type will haul the ore along the underground railway.

It was in 1877 that the Sutro tunnel was first opened and the mules were taken underground. As the years passed many of the animals died but the 12 old veterans survived to be pastured out for the rest of their natural lives as a fitting reward for long and faithful service.

When Virginia city was snowed in and cut off from the world in 1890 the Sutro mules saved the lives of the inhabitants. Provisions were lowered into the mouth of the tunnel, hauled five miles underground by the mules and hoisted from the Virginia shaft.

Throughout the mining districts of the west, mules and burros in mine haulage work are fast being displaced by electric locomotives. These locomotives are built especially for underground work and will turn sharp corners, and work in narrow, low roofed tunnels even better than the animals. The electric locomotive will haul more ore and do the same work quicker than the mules.

Test of Pure Politics.

The whole number of voters registered in Union county is only 3145, says a Union county paper. At Camp Carson but one out of 30 registered others not having been in that precinct the requisite length of time. There are four republicans and one democrat seeking nomination for county clerk, one of whom is William F. Anderson of La Grande, who has just closed what he esteems a test candidacy for pure politics. His legitimate expenses up to this morning do not exceed \$125. His announcement in the local papers, hire of hall and band; hotel bills and carfare alone are so reckoned. He has spoken to goodly numbers all over the county in favor of purity in official life and for local option, with the open declaration that he has been able to make a pleasant canvass for votes and has not found it necessary to treat a voter nor accept treats of liquors or cigars.

Wasco County Registration.

Not a populist in Wasco county! That is the record as shown by the abstract of registration of electors sworn to by County Clerk Bolton, says The Dalles Chronicle. In all the 28 precincts of old Wasco there is none who will subscribe as a middle-of-the-roader. Of the total number that registered for the primaries, 662 democrats, 86 prohibitionists, 74 socialists, 62 independents and 23 who refused to state their politics. These independents and those who refused to state their politics will not be permitted to cast a ballot tomorrow, as the primaries are only for the convenience of the parties in nominating their candidates. There are 3269 names on the registration books for the primaries.



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HOW TO LIVE 1000 YEARS.

Samuel Fallows, bishop of the Reformed Episcopal church and founder of Christian Psychology—a combination of faith cure and medicine—now in his 73d year, believes that men ought to be in their prime at 80 and live to be 120 years old, says a Chicago dispatch. Here is the explanation he gives:

Drink sour milk or pure buttermilk two or three times a day. Avoid too strenuous living. Go to bed early and get up with the rising sun. Take plenty of exercise of a kind not associated with your actual employment. Obey rigidly the laws of hygiene. Keep a clear conscience. Love God and be square with your fellow man. Drink some more sour milk. The prelate said: "I am indebted for my material to three sources:

"1. The Bible.

"2. A newly published book by Prof. Elie Metchnikoff, a French scientist.

"3. Science in general. "Metchnikoff, one of the professors in the Pasteur Institute in Paris, is the greatest exponent in the world of the theories of Darwin. It is his business to hunt up diseases and their remedies. In a new book Metchnikoff points out that the reason men do not live a great age is because under modern conditions the arteries harden with advancing age, due to deposits of calcareous substances.

"He has discovered that the antidote for this condition is sour milk. The sheaths of the arteries are softened by the milk. The principle, he says, is as sound as the virus theory in hydrophobia and anti-toxin and vaccination for other ailments. "Metchnikoff declares that sour milk or pure buttermilk should be drunk two or three times a day.

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