



FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

A Circular Letter to Oregon Hop-Growers.

We are in receipt of a circular letter dated Portland, August 26, and signed "An Eastern Brewer." The letter is reproduced for the benefit of those who will read between the lines and see how the wind is. Following is the circular:

The hop growers of the Pacific Coast have received so many circulars during the past season from various sources that they are no doubt disgusted with any further advices or suggestions or reminders through the mail. However, as growers and dealers have all had a "shot" at this method of reaching the farmers, I take the liberty of addressing some of the growers, as a sort of farewell, from the brewers' point of view.

During the past month I have been quietly and privately sojourning in Portland, a visitor at your fair, and during this time I have been watching closely the fight going on in the newspapers and otherwise between the so-called "bulls" and "bears." For ten months previous I have also kept in close touch with the "circular" fight, that has been kept warm by the big "bull" leaders, such as Krebs, Pincus, Durst, Smith and the California Hop Company. These circulars were obtained through a Chicago firm, who received every one of them through their Coast representatives.

I want every grower who received these circulars to get down his "bunch" received from the above mentioned "friends" (?) of the hop growers and see if they made therein a single statement or prediction that events have proven to be correct. They told you—

"Everyone admits that there are not enough hops in the U. S. to last until October 1905."

"Heavy buying will surely take place during January, or February, or March, or April, etc."

"The shorts are getting desperate; the brewers are out of hops."

"When the warm weather sets in there will be a wild scramble for your hops."

"The consumption of hops is 224,000 to 240,000 bales, while the available supply is much less. Where are the brewers to get their hops to last until the next crop comes in?"

And lately I noticed in the papers: "The growing crop is going to the bad fast," "I am compelled to again reduce my estimates for the U. S. to 200,000 to 190,000." "The bears are getting desperate again." "1904 hops will be worth more than 1905 hops." There are secret orders here for 1000 bales by heavy short sellers," etc., etc.

Now let us take the foregoing predictions and statements and analyze them and compare them with what has actually happened and is happening, and is likely to happen. Did the expected wild scramble to buy occur in January, did it occur in February or March, or April, or has it occurred yet? And why were the brewers not compelled to buy as predicted by the "bulls?" Simply because the short sellers you heard so much about did not exist. The brewers did not need your hops badly enough to become panic-stricken and buy at any price asked, but the brewers on the contrary were well-stocked with hops as shown by events, regardless of what "boosters" say in their circulars. The warm weather has come and will soon be gone. Yet the heavy anticipated buying did not take place and prices continued to fall.

Your were told there were not enough hops in the U. S. to last until the new crop came in, but the new crop is coming in and there are still left of the last crop in the hands of growers of the

U. S. 20,000 bales and, as far as I know, all the brewers in this country are still running at their usual capacity and can probably hold out for a few weeks longer. The growing crop is going to the bad daily, according to the Oregonian and its correspondent, yet the largest and most reputable houses in the U. S. continue offering us 1905 hops at 15 cents delivered east in our breweries.

What does the brewer care whether the growers are asking 15c for their coming crop or whether the fake dealers on the coast temporarily boost farmers with false crop news beyond all reason, when we know by the action of the eastern dealers that we can buy hops from good firms at low prices, which proves to our minds conclusively that these firms must be getting crop reports different than certain newspapers get, otherwise they would be asking higher prices. Very few brewers need any Pacific Coast hops in their breweries before January or February, as they can supply their immediate wants with New York State hops. The "bulls" write in the newspapers: "There are secret orders from a large short seller now in the market for 1000 bales, etc."

Have the representatives of this "short" been after your hops lately? Have you seen any buyers sneaking around with large orders? Have you not heard of sales of 1904 hops in Washington and California within the past week at from 10c to 15c? Do you not know that the growers in all sections are trying vainly to sell but are finding it almost impossible to get offers? As soon as the growers of Oregon discover that they cannot get an offer, and that the actual market is far under what they seem to think they can get, and to their regret that they have been fooled and buncoed by the "bulls" and their instruments, certain newspapers, worse than any class of men were ever deceived, there may be a crash that will carry down with it in financial and social ruin the very men who were the instigators of the huge bunco game that has been worked and is still being worked on the hop growers.

Let us analyze a few possible motives of the Krebs-Pincus-Smith-Durst combination of philanthropists. Krebs pleads love for the hop grower and the vindication of his sound judgment, but incidentally he is carrying nearly 2000 bales of 1904 hops and is growing some 700 acres of the coming crop and the latter still remains to be picked. Pincus & Sons, until these people turned "bears," were directing their guns at the short seller, but they, it might be remarked, were carrying 1000 bales of 1904 hops and were boosting for 1905, and it is now rumored that this firm has been heavy sellers of the crop to be harvested and are consequently the worst "bears" in the business.

M. H. Durst, the philosopher, writer and dear friend of the down-trodden farmer, has been carrying, and continues to carry 1600 bales of his last growth and he has under cultivation now about 500 acres in California, very few of which are sold. The California Hop Co., when run down, was found to be a non-existent company as there has never been such a company in California. The circulars mailed under the guise of this mythical firm were undoubtedly mailed by some of the Krebs-Durst-Pincus-Smith combination. Another man who has lately been filling the columns of the papers with bad crop reports is one E. J. Smith. Smith managed to get hold of about 1000 bales of 15c to 20c contracts last year when the 1904 market was booming. Of course Smith is not thinking of his own high priced contracts but is putting his stuff in the papers out of his love for his dear friend, the hop grower.

Reference to voluntary advise of hop dealers, I would like to say that whenever you see a hop dealer going out of his way asking you to hold your hops or sell your hops, and when this man spends his money freely by circulars and otherwise trying to impress upon you the wisdom of his words, just repeat to yourself the old adage: "Has that man an ax to grind?"

As soon as this letter is seen by some of the "combination" referred to above they will say, "Why, some bear or short seller wrote that letter; can't you see through it?" But I ask again, isn't it time that you pay no further attention to what these boosters tell you? Ponder on the thing that I have placed before you; reflect on the fact that in the past three years buyers bothered you to death trying to buy your hops in the bale and trying to make contracts for the growing crop, while at the present time you see scarcely a buyer around and you must go and look for one if you want to try and get an offer. Weigh well the things that have happened, and, drifting back in your memory, compare the things that happened to the things that were predicted.

And now a final word of advice to the hop grower of the Pacific Coast. Give no further consideration to the Krebs, Pincus, Smiths or Dursts of the hop business, but sell your 1904 hops before your 1905 crop is harvested because the moment that your new hops are in the bale, your 1904 hops become "olds" and you know that buyers will make offers accordingly. Do not get stubborn and hold two crops. As to the new crop; pick, dry and bale this as carefully as possible and then give legitimate buyers samples and sell your hops at whatever the market may be and make a firm resolve that you will never get in your present condition again, but will sell every year during the months of September, October or November whether hops are high or low at that time. In the hop business it is an old and true axiom as to the selling of hops that, "The early bird catches the worm."

Working on 'Sewer.

Early last week workmen were set at the task of repairing the Jefferson street sewer. This is no small undertaking. During last winter the high water in the Willamette river formed a sort of eddy at the mouth of the sewer and certain large rocks which had been placed there as a sort of bulwark, or protection, were displaced. The displacement of this stone was made possible by loose earth washing from beneath and around the stone. For about a week the work of clearing away at the mouth of the sewer has been in progress and a large excavation is the result. From the displacement of the stone a large cave-in resulted and the sewer pipe was displaced and crushed for many feet back from the outlet. A great deal of work yet remains to be done. Prof. Skelton, of OAC, is superintending the work.

Don't forget that we are headquarters for Graphophones and Records. We have just received a new lot of Columbia Disc and Cylinder Records. Also a lot of the American Blue Records—the best made. Graham & Wells. 701f

Cheap Sunday Rates Between Portland and Willamette Valley Points.

Low round trip rates have been placed in effect between Portland and Willamette Valley points, in either direction. Tickets will be sold

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, and limited to return on or before the following Monday.

RATE TO OR FROM CORVALLIS, \$3.00. Call on Southern Pacific Co's Agents for particulars.

ANOTHER FIRE.

House Vacant at the Time of Conflagration.

A few minutes after 3 o'clock Saturday morning the fire bell gave warning that something was warming up about town. Many drowsy citizens tumbled out of bed post haste and hurried to the scene of the conflagration. From town it was apparent that a house in the neighborhood of the Mechanical Hall at OAC was ablaze.

The building proved to be what is generally known as the Berlin house. The building was a one-story structure, and while quite old was really a good, commodious house. On account of its proximity to college it was a very desirable place for people residing here for the advantages of school during the college year.

A great many citizens gathered around the burning house, but it being so far from town by the time people arrived the flames were so advanced that there was no possibility of doing anything to save the building and those on the ground were compelled to stand by idly and watch it burn. The building had no tenants.

The house was built some fifteen or twenty years ago by E. Berlin, well known in Corvallis at that time. Several years ago the house and a few acres of land became the property of M. O. Liebe. Mr. Liebe resides at Summit. Whether or not he will rebuild is not known. The fact that the house was not tenanted, also the hour at which the fire occurred, leads to the conviction that some party applied a match. Hard as is such a state of affairs, there is little doubt but Corvallis is harboring a fire fiend.

Some damnable creature who delights in deeds of darkness is in our midst, but unlike a leper, his outward appearance does not provide a sign indicative of his mental depravity. What there is about so contemptible a deed as firing in darkness the property of one who never did the "fire bug" injury is a question the solution of which is beyond us.

The house boasted a fireplace that stood on a wooden foundation some six feet from the ground. The house burned down around the chimney and there was much speculation as to whether or not the chimney would remain upright after the fire was out. The chimney fell finally, after all other portions of the house had collapsed.

It is said Mr. Liebe, the owner, was on the point of selling the property to John Gottmacker, a deal being on the verge of consummation. The last party to occupy the dwelling vacated the premises a couple of weeks or more ago. The fire was discovered by Prof. T. H. Crawford.

Take THE GAZETTE for all the local news.

Ten Dollars Reward

Will be given by the Undersigned for the arrest and conviction of any party killing China Pheasants out of season in Benton County.

Corvallis Social and Athletic Club.



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Longer terms, higher wages and better opportunities for promotion award the Normal graduate for his enterprise. School directors appreciate the superior ability of Monmouth graduates and the demand far exceeds the supply. Special attention given to methods work in graded and ungraded schools. Catalogues Containing Full information will be sent on application. Correspondence invited, address

E. D. RESSLER, President.

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E. W. S. PRATT, Jeweler and Optician.

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Fresh Bread, Cakes and Pies. Ice Cream, Confectionery and Nuts, Cigars, Pipes and Tobacco, Fine Soda Water, all flavors.

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and all your friends who are interested in Furniture and House Furnishings. Our large store room is full of well selected stock of goods, and more coming on every freight. Do you need a Couch? 20 different styles to select from. New line of Linoleums just received, prices 60c to 80c per square yard. Come in and see our new Sideboards and Parlor Sets. After this date you will find our Stoves, Ranges, and Shelf Goods all in the new store where you are always welcome.

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