



OPEN TO CORVALLIS.

Free Locks and Open River Year Around.

From time to time the Gazette has endeavored to make plain to its readers the importance of having the Willamette river navigable so far as this city during the entire year. That the locks at Oregon City should be free is unquestionable. Can any reasonable man deny that in time to come conditions on the Upper Willamette will be such that light-draft boats will ply between Portland and Corvallis during the entire twelve months of the year? Of course not.

This is a condition that is certain to come to be in time and the question is if it is going to be good for future generations of Oregonians why is it not proper for us to bestir ourselves and secure some of the benefits before we leave this vale of tears? As regards the locks, too, we are paying a pretty penny for toll. Let us look at the speech of Capt. A. B. Graham, of the O. C. T. Co., made last week before representative men at the Woodburn Farmers' and Shippers' Congress, as follows:

"More than any other one thing the Willamette valley should have free locks and an open river. The reasons have been for more than 30 years manifest, not only to the man with the large business, but to the man with a small one as well. Every producer and consumer is paying a tax to a corporation upon everything he buys and sells, whether it is transported by rail or river. On a conservative estimate the Willamette valley, as far south as Eugene, pays annually a tribute in the way of lockage to the enormous amount of \$100,000 and has been doing so without very much remonstrance, for 30 years.

"At the rate you are going, the loss to you people of the valley in the next 30 years, will be \$3,000,000.

"Why this tax? this lockage? this loss? Because you have borne it passively, instead of protesting vigorously to your representative in Congress, urging them to use their influence and efforts with our Federal government to acquire by purchase the locks at Oregon City.

"But because the owners of the locks are not to be censured, is no reason why you should not set in motion now the governmental machinery for new or free locks. For almost a lifetime you have neglected your own interests, and the owners of the locks have been profiting by your negligence.

"The Willamette drains one of, if not the most, fertile valleys on the globe. The locks at Oregon City drain the pockets of you easy-mark Oregonians to the pretty little tune of \$100,000 annually.

"Gentlemen, you have and are still buying gold brick with your eyes wide open.

"So far we have commenced at the right place, by demanding that the locks be made free. Our next step is to have the Willamette made navigable to Corvallis, every month in the year. All that the river men want is a good four-foot channel at low water—just one-tenth the depth asked for our Columbia river bar.

"As in the lockage question, here again we must demand that our representatives in Congress use their efforts with the Federal authorities in our behalf. I care not the man's politics, if he has his state's interests at heart he will demand these, our pressing needs.

"It is unnecessary to say before this intelligent audience that even if both sides of our river should be girded with a network of electric and steam lines, the river is still nature's highway

and will always dictate freight rates. Nature has been extremely kind to our state and especially so to the Willamette valley, but we have failed to realize our advantages, to take a firm hold upon our opportunities."

"Footprints of the Centuries."

From every side we hear nought but words of highest praise for G. A. Gearhart's lecture, delivered in the Opera House Thursday evening. His subject was the 'Footprints of the Centuries' and it seemed that nearly everything from the beginning of time was given attention in the masterful discourse.

It is, indeed, doubtful if a more able man ever appeared in Corvallis in the role of a lecturer. His voice was fine, full and round; his articulation clear and distinct; the thoughts which he expressed gave evidence of a mind of the highest type, miraculously rich and of profoundest culture. He is the ideal.

From the beginning to the end of his discourse—an hour and a half—he edified, electrified and entertained a very large audience. Many times he said things that moved his hearers to mirth, but the fear of losing the next thought of the speaker prevented them from yielding to a desire to laugh.

Mr. Gearhart paid the highest tribute to Americans, to their energy and progress in all things, pronouncing them almost the ideal people taken as a whole, yet he found many weak spots in our characters, habits and our objects and aims in life. Where laudation was merited he gave it unstintedly, but was as free to point to error. One great fault which he condemned severely was deceit. Let no man deceive himself, which he must do before he can deceive others. In other words, let no man be a hypocrite.

To woman he paid the highest tribute, but he also talked plainly to her. The 'coming woman' he declared to be the one who reigned as queen in her own home. One who did not shift the responsibilities of her household to other shoulders in order to indulge in the vanities of life.

Mr. Gearhart dwelt in a very pretty style upon the creation of the earth and all its treasures. His words were the expression of most original thought along this line. He said that in the creation of this great sphere ages, and untold ages, before the origin of man, God anticipated our every want and made conditions possible whereby mankind had it within their power to better conditions by discovering and developing these things.

The speaker dwelt upon electricity—an unknown quantity—and drew a picture of man harnessing this force and utilizing it. He spoke of the gold and other treasures secreted within the bowels of the earth awaiting uncovering at the hands of man that he might profit therefrom. In every illustration the speaker was plain, exact and logical.

Summing it all up it was a word picture capable of arousing and appealing to the best minds of the age.

OAC Wins.

The first basket ball game of the season was played in the Armory Saturday evening. The Newburg team was unable to come as scheduled, and the Salem Y. M. C. A. were secured to be the first team to meet the farmers this year. From the pace the locals set, it is quite evident that OAC will be heard from in basket ball this season.

The farmers were by far the superior team. Their playing showed more consistent team work, better individual playing, and a better style of play all around.

The following is the line-up of the home team: Forwards, Reed and Swan; Guards, Bilyen and Rhinehart; Center, Cate.

Take a look at Nolan's holiday windows.

THAT PLAGUED SCALE!

Fruit and Roses of Oregon Threatened by Pest.

That our fruit trees and fine shrubs of all kinds are in danger of complete extermination goes without saying. In fact there is no doubt of it and that destruction is wrought by the ever increasing San Jose scale. And yet our people pay no heed to the matter—that is, take the people as a whole.

We are quite reliably informed that there is a law on the statute books of Oregon for the purpose of compelling people to keep their trees and shrubs healthy, and yet nothing is done save by a few. It avails one orchardist but little to attempt to keep his orchard free from San Jose scale if his neighbor adjoining allows scale to multiply at will. For years a few fruit-growers in the state have realized the deadly work wrought by the San Jose scale and have fought it to the best of their ability yet with little result because others would allow it to multiply.

In the course of a year this scale multiplies itself three million times. For years it did not seem to threaten anything serious, but in time on a basis of such rapid propagation it gets to 'going some' and this is now coming to be recognized in all its seriousness.

No matter how many laws we have on the statutes for the regulation of a given thing, public sentiment must justify them or they are dead letters. So it has been in the past as regards San Jose scale—it lacked a sentiment against. So long as a man's orchard is all right he scoffs at the idea of deadly pests, no matter what the condition of his next door neighbor's trees. But let his own orchard begin to fail and his faith in the 'deadly' effects of scale and other things begins to increase and he becomes an earnest inquirer for effective sprays and the like.

At present nearly every orchard from the head of the Willamette Valley clear to Portland is infected by this scale and from now on we shall find an astonishing growth of sentiment favoring a prosecution of the law intended for protection against allowing San Jose scale to spread at will.

The roses that have made Oregon famous are dying off and the beauty of our world is threatened in addition to our fruits. We must wake up in the valley and follow the example of such sections as Hood River. In this great fruit-raising valley when scale is discovered the work of extermination is at once commenced. If spraying will not destroy the scale, then the tree is cut down and burned, it matters not whose tree or shrub it is nor where it is located. It is for the protection of all that this is done and sentiment sees that it is done. Here self-preservation upholds the law.

Experts, men versed in these matters, tells us that at the rate the San Jose scale is now spreading throughout the valley it will be but eight years until we have no fruit. Surely it is time to act. Get your spray pumps and get busy.

Fruitgrowers Convention.

The next annual convention of the Northwestern Fruitgrowers' Association will be held in LaGrande, Union county, Oregon, January 3rd to 5th inclusive. That appreciative city is making every effort to make the convention a success in every way. The LaGrande Commercial Club has taken the matter in hand and will place its splendid new building at the disposal of the convention. The Club has also arranged for a complete and exhaustive exhibit of the resources of the county, and for the time, the great Club-gymnasium will

be converted into a splendid Horticultural, Agricultural and Manufacturers' Hall. Every effort will be made to not only show the fruit possibilities of this rich and fertile county, but also to show the many other industries which contribute to make the Grande Ronde Valley the veritable 'Garden Spot of the West.' An opportunity will be given the delegates and visitors to see the valley and learn the exact conditions existing here. A special program has been arranged for the entertainment of the convention, and speakers of note along horticultural lines have consented to address the meetings. LaGrande invites all who are interested in the development of the West to attend this meeting and they promise every attention possible. LaGrande has ample hotel and restaurant accommodations and a whole town full of wholesome, enthusiastic citizens who are only too anxious to extend the glad hand of friendship.

Can You Guess?

Homer Lilly has two exceptionally fine steers and it is his intention to exhibit them on Main street next Friday and allow the patrons of his meat market to guess at their weight on foot. The man who guesses nearest the combined weight of the steers will receive a cash prize of \$5, while \$250 will be awarded for the party guessing nearest the exact weight of the steers taken separately. The animals were recently brought here from the Siuslaw country and Mr. Lilly himself does not know their weight. The weighing will close at four o'clock Saturday afternoon and the steers will then be weighed. If you wish to see something big be on the street Friday.

Splendid Recital.

The joint recital given in the college chapel last Friday evening, by Prof. Tallander's class in instrumental music and Prof. Helen V. Crawford's senior class in elocution, was one of the best ever given at OAC. The large room was not able to accommodate the audience. The hallways and stairways were turned into an auditorium, yet many were refused admittance even under these conditions.

Every number of the program was enjoyed by the appreciative audience. Everyone performed their part in a manner complimentary to themselves as well as to reflect much credit upon their instructors.

Miss Lulu Spangler rendered two vocal solos which were of the highest order. The instrumental solos by Misses Moore, Horner, McDonald and Sprout were exceptionally well given.

It is an injustice to compliment any individual taking part; everyone performed in such a creditable manner that they are deserving of highest praise. The writer, like all those in attendance, will only remark that the recital was an entertainment such as seldom visits these parts. It was a pronounced success in every respect.

Remember! With every dollar's worth you buy at Pratt's you get a ticket on the \$50 Diamond Ring given Free. 102-4

Calling cards—popular styles in cards and type—at the Gazette office. 804

EXTRA INDUCEMENTS For the Holiday Trade

We are now comfortably located in our new and large quarters on north Main street in the Fischer building. Our stock is new in every line and very complete. During the next thirty days there will be special inducements for the public to trade here. Unmatchable bargains in every department. Come.

Groceries, Shoes, Ladies' Dress Goods, Men's and Children's Clothing, Dishes, Fancy Lamps, Cutlery, Crockery, Etc.

Toys For the Little Folk

Lay in a supply now—while the stock is unbroken. Bring the little children and let them suggest what Santa Claus shall provide. The variety is great and prices are low.

Silverware Free with cash purchases. Goods delivered to all parts of the city at all hours of the day.

MOSES BROTHERS

Christmas and New Year Beautiful Jewelry Lovely GIFTS Silverware

The Holiday Season is near at hand—time to think about your friends. This store is full of good suggestions and we invite you to inspect the large stock of magnificent holiday offerings.

A FIFTY DOLLAR DIAMOND RING Some one will get this ring for nothing next January. For every dollar purchase you get a ticket. Ask us to explain. **E. W. S. PRATT, Jeweler and Optician.**

JANUARY 2, 1906

the special class in Eclectic Shorthand will commence a rapid course with two to three recitations a day so as to complete the course

APRIL 30, 1906

with a speed of 100 to 150 words a minute. Eclectic is easy to learn, none as easy to read and none so rapid.

We want thirty students

to enter this class not later than January 2, and we will make 20 per cent. discount to those who enroll December 21; commence any time thereafter. Let us talk it over at once.

Corvallis Business College

I. E. RICHARDSON, President

Buyers of Furniture

Don't miss the opportunity to look over our large line this week. Matchless bargains in rugs and art squares. Some very pretty Axminsters added to our already large stock. It is not too early to select your presents

And Christmas Goods

We have a large and well selected stock bought expressly for the holiday trade. Goods will be marked and stored until Christmas if desired. Another invoice of pictures arrives this week.

Come in and see us

Hollenberg & Cadv, Corvallis