



ABOUT POOR FARM.

Virgil E. Watters, ex-County Judge, Communicates.

Ed. Gazette: I desire to reply to your article in the issue of the 21st inst., under head of "Poor Farm," that the people of Benton county may know why the former court spent their money for the purchase of said farm.

You say: "The matter of taking care of the county poor is a proposition that has occupied the attention of the authorities in Benton as well as various other Oregon counties. Speaking of this matter as regards Linn county a few days ago the Oregonian said editorially:

"Linn county hired a superintendent to run its poor farm and tried to get some work out of the inmates of the poor house but the plan was unprofitable and will be abandoned. The county authorities figure that it will be cheaper to pay board for the poor. There are few farms poor or otherwise, that will be profitable under the management of hired superintendents, especially if politics sometimes has an influence in the hiring of the superintendent. A farm needs a farmer more than a superintendent."

"The conditions in Linn set forth in the Oregonian approach very closely to what was proposed to do in Benton. In fact, we have the farm. Any person versed on conditions in the valley, or anywhere else, in an agricultural way will not expect profit from a farm, particularly a poor farm. Few farmers make anything of the business.

"Without desiring to criticize any person as regards our poor farm it may not be out of place to ask, "Why, if it were not looked upon as a profitable enterprise, was so much invested in our county poor farm?" It seems that the Oregonian when commenting on conditions in Linn county could very truthfully have included us in the same breath."

During the last four years I have given the matter very careful consideration and investigation and I heartily agree with you, the Oregonian and the Linn County Court, that for a county to run its own farm with a hired superintendent is unprofitable.

From the recent report of the Grand Jury of this county, we believed it necessary to make a change in the care of the county poor.

We believed that the price of land in Benton county would never be lower and that the purchase of a farm would be a safe investment for the county. That the county court could then have suitable buildings erected and otherwise provide for the proper care and cleanliness of its charges and for the rent of said farm, knowing that any and all persons desiring to bid would have an equal chance, which is not the case today. That it would let the contract to the person who would pay the highest cash rent and take care of all county charges at the lowest sum per week. That the buildings would not be furnished by the county or otherwise movable property provided. The present farm is sufficiently near to be at any and all times under the supervision of the county judge, and the reason that the court favored the farm instead of a few acres as suggested by you, was that the person who had the care of the poor would be confined to the premises and that he could handle a reasonable sized farm as easily as he could a few acres with more profit to himself and a corresponding increased rental to the county.

Fearing that you may think the above after thoughts, I will give here an order of the former

court as found on page 516, Journal No. 7, Records of Benton County, Oregon, of date May 21, 1906:

In the matter of the purchase of a County Poor Farm

This matter coming on for hearing upon the recommendations of the Grand Jury and the Court after careful consideration of the same finds: that it would be to the best interest of all concerned that the county poor be kept at some convenient place within a few miles of the City of Corvallis, thereby enabling the court to at all times be in touch with the care and treatment of said poor.

That in all probability land can be purchased at as low a figure today as at any future time; that it would be to the best interests of the county, as well as the said poor, that the county purchase a suitable tract of land so located as to be convenient to Corvallis and suitable for said purposes, and erect or cause to be erected suitable buildings for the proper care of its poor.

That it would not be to the best interest of said county to hire a superintendent of said farm or to furnish said farm with any tools or machinery of any kind, or to furnish said buildings with furniture of any kind whatsoever, but after having provided said farm with the necessary buildings for the proper care of the inmates thereof, that the county court let by bid the rental of said farm per year together with the care of its poor at so much per week.

Therefore having carefully considered all of said matters and believing said findings if carried out to be to the best interests of the county as well as the county poor.

It is ordered that we purchase, etc."

I wish only to add that the above plan is not a theory, but a sensible, practicable business method for the proper care of the unfortunate of our county, and I shall await with interest its development.

Thanking you for this privilege, I am

Yours respectfully, VIRGIL E. WATTERS.

Big Deal Made.

Five thousand two hundred acres of splendid timber land, embracing all of the holdings of the Charles A. Street Lumber Company, an Eastern corporation, in Linn and Marion counties, were sold a few days ago to the Curtis Lumber Company for \$105,300. Part of the tract was in the zone of the big forest fires near Detroit and the fire is probably responsible to some extent for the transfer, as the burned timber will have to be logged off in the next two seasons in order to save it.

The land lies along both banks of the North Santiam river, below Detroit; and along the Breitenbush river and French Creek. It is all near the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, hence the timber is directly tributary to the Curtis Company's mills at Mill City. The tract includes some of the finest timber in the state. It is to be paid for in three annual installments of \$35,100.—Telegram.

Klamath county, where the United States is building irrigation works to reclaim 250,000 acres of land, offers the chance of a lifetime to homeseekers and investors. Not cheap land but good land cheap. Farmers are needed in Klamath county and land can be had on favorable terms. Write to Frank Ira White, Klamath Falls, Oregon, for further information.

See Zierolf for all kinds of grass seed, orchard, timothy and clover seed.

Fruit Jars—Yes, we have them. Thatcher & Johnson.

SAW HIS PHOTO.

In Spurgeon's Album—A Corvallis Pastor Honored.

In their trip abroad, Prof. and Mrs. J. B. Horner saw more interesting places and things than they will be able to describe in detail in many a year to come.

While in England they ran across a photograph that probably gave them as great a surprise as did any object during their travels, for in the picture they beheld a face that is known and respected by all residents of Corvallis—that of Rev. Mark Noble, for years the faithful, earnest pastor of the Baptist church in Corvallis. In his own entertaining way Prof. Horner tells of the old photograph and of where he saw it, in far away England. He says:

It was Sunday. We had been to Westminster Abbey and at the gray cathedral known as St. Paul's. Charles Spurgeon has many friends in Oregon, so we visited the old church where he ministered to the thronging thousands. At the entrance we were handed a card calculated to actuate the worshiper and make him more receptive to the divine message which was to come from the pulpit that day. Charles Spurgeon has been dead these years; but we expected to find his son in the pulpit. Sickened by that privilege, because the minister was not able to appear. At the appointed hour of the service, however, the hymns were led by a precentor, and everybody seemed to participate in the singing. The congregation in Spurgeon's church resembles a body of congressmen at worship with their wives. There was no organ or other musical instrument in evidence. This was Spurgeon's idea. The godly man said: "When the people's hearts are filled with the love of God, the people will sing." Hence the organ was not required in his church, in fact there was not room for it.

After prayer, scripture reading and a hymn, a member of Parliament was introduced as the speaker of the day. He preached upon the higher life of England and the possibilities of Englishmen the world over. He is one of His Majesty's strongest advocates of the new educational bill in England. His bronzed face and calloused hands and his earnestness as he expounded the word of God, seemed to intimate that while he is a godly man and a member of Parliament, that he is also close to his mother earth—a veritable child of nature who impresses you with the simplicity of the Spurgeon followers in London—in fact, a typical American in the motherland.

After the close of the service, the aged Curate takes us through the apartments of Mr. Spurgeon, and refers to the college and other institutions maintained by that congregation, likewise, the lasting good which emanated from the preaching and efforts of the world's greatest Baptist preacher. Among the trophies which the church cherishes, is Charles Spurgeon's photograph album, containing the portrait of his dearest and best friends. Many of these represent crowned heads and the honored of the earth. Not to be overlooked are Queen Victoria and Gladstone. To us the most interesting, however, was the old picture of a young man whom Mr. Spurgeon dearly loved. The young man was one of his converts, trained in his Sunday school by the present curate, educated in Mr. Spurgeon's college, and many say that he breathes the purity and simplicity so noticeable in the life of the great Baptist preacher. The curate said: "I am now past my 80th year, and I have known all of Mr. Spurgeon's associates. None of Mr. Spurgeon's boys were nearer to him than this young man. There was nothing that Mr. Spurgeon would not confide in him."

But who is that young man that the Curate especially points out as Mr. Spurgeon's young friend?—This young man who used to preach to Mr. Spurgeon's overflow congregation?—this young man whose name was written in the affections of the Great Divine? We look below the picture and we see in Mr. Spurgeon's handwriting the name, Mark Noble, who was for years the pastor of our city. Then it dawned upon us for the first time that we had never stopped to realize when we read of the Great Divine how much personal pains and endeavor he spent in educating and preparing a pulpiteer for the First Baptist church of Corvallis. It seemed as if the Corvallis church of days gone by was merely an overflow audience of Charles Spurgeon's great church, with Mark Noble as its preacher.

Georgia Minstrels.

Some way or other it always happens that the judicious advertising succeeds. Judicious means many things. Some people better never advertise. This can be said of many shows. Some attractions better never advertise. Managers who are not honest, whose advertisements mislead and whose shows disappoint, they had better leave advertising alone.

The managers of the Richards & Pringle's Famous Georgia Minstrels endeavor to advertise nothing but what they can show. They are in a class by themselves being the only recognized negro minstrels that play the first class theaters and cannot afford to mislead their patrons.

Some show people are careless in their statements. They become so used to writing "biggest," "grandest," "greatest," "best," and "world's largest," that they can only think in superlatives. They mean to be honest, probably are they are merely careless, and failure is the price of carelessness.

Go to the opera house on next Saturday night and judge if the Georgias are over advertised.

CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY.

Benton Pioneer Spends Happy Day With Children.

Thursday was the 80th birthday anniversary of Caleb Davis, Sr., and the Davis farm four miles west of this city was the scene of a large and happy gathering on that day in honor of the event. Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were there, and the chatter of happy voices was heard on every side, while bright faces and sparkling eyes made up a picture not soon to be forgotten.

The rooms were made beautiful by an abundance of cut flowers, the dining room being especially attractive with its heavily laden table on which were vases fit for a king. The birthday cake was a thing of beauty and a joy forever, with its 80 lighted tapers. It was sampled by all present and pronounced a masterpiece of good cookery.

Mr. Davis, the honored guest, was born in Pennsylvania, 80 years ago, and came to Oregon in 1850 spending four years in the mines. He then returned to Iowa where he remained for ten years. In 1855 he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Henkle, who died in 1892. In 1864 Mr. Davis again came West, remaining two years in California and two more in Southern Oregon, coming to Benton county in 1868, where he has ever since resided, being an honored and esteemed citizen.

The children present at Thursday's celebration were: Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Washburn, Brownsville; Mr. and Mrs. George W. Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, Harlan, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Davis, Corvallis; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Davis, Harlan; Mrs. G. M. Strange, Oakland, Calif.; Z. H., Thomas, Bertha and Fred Davis, Corvallis.

The grandchildren were: Mrs. J. C. Smith, Lester Davis, Charles, Clarence, Esther, Robert, Norma and Rowland Davis. The great-grandchildren in the assembly were Eleanor and John Washburn Smith, children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith, of Soap Creek.

W. S. Gardner was at the farm at the close of the day's celebration and took a fine outdoor picture of the entire company.

For Sale.—30,000 acres of land in Lincoln and Benton Counties, Oregon, along the C. & E. R. R. known as Road Lands, now owned by an Eastern Company. For prices and terms, call or address L. H. Fish, Western Agent, Albany, Oregon.

Big Investment.—Eight hundred and nineteen acres level land, good soil, on county road, 3 1/2 miles from Brownsville. Price, only \$11,500. Brownsville Real Estate Co., Write for our list of property. R. W. Tripp, Mgr.

See Zierolf for Economy Jars. 74t



"ADMIRE"

but half expresses it. We have some things recently opened up you'll go in ecstasies over. For an out and out superior line of

Newest Style Jewelry

you can find it here. We invite you to call and see some choice things just received. Prices are not high. Small margins of profit content us.

Albert J. Metzger WATCHMAKER

Occidental Building, - - - Corvallis

SPENCER'S Hair Invigorator

And Dandruff Eradicator



Prevents the hair from falling out and stimulates the growth

A purely vegetable compound free from grease, mineral, or other deleterious substances

Price, - Fifty Cents

Manufactured by

The Vegetable Compound Company

Corvallis, Oregon

FOR A FINE LINE OF Guns, Fishing Tackle, Baseball Goods. Go to GunHodes. We Carry the Famous Bristol Fishing Rod

ACCURACY. In time-pieces is a necessity with the average person. A watch that keeps perfect time is a boon to anyone and should be repaired and overhauled at least once every 18 months, and by skilled workmen only. E. W. S. PRATT, Jeweler and Optician. Estimates on Work Cheerfully Given and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

SEEING IS BELIEVING. Then come in and see my line of Sporting Goods and be convinced that it is the best and most complete line ever brought to your city, consisting of Guns and Ammunition, Fishing Tackle, Baseball Goods, Bicycles and Sundries, Pocket Knives, Razors, Sewing Machine Supplies, etc. M. M. LONG, CORVALLIS, - OREGON.

THE GEM CIGAR STORE. All first-class cigars and tobacco; whisk and pool rooms. Every customer treated like a prince. JACK MILNE. Four doors north of postoffice. Ind. Phone 130.

D. C. Hiestand. Chas. Blakeslee. CORVALLIS STEAM LAUNDRY. Patronize Home Industry. Outside Orders Solicited. All Work Guaranteed. CORVALLIS, OREGON.

Public Sale. Why Not Use Electric Lights? I will sell at my ranch, two miles northwest of Bellefontaine, all stock and my entire farming outfit and household effects. Stop scratching matches on your wall. Those streaky match scratches look mighty bad on any wall. The "matchless light" is the electric light,--a simple twist of the wrist does it. We are improving and perfecting our lighting service in this city and can give better service for less money than ever in the history of the city. If you would like to know more about it, call on us in our new office opposite the O. J. Blackledge furniture store or phone us, Ind. Phone 469. Willamette Valley Co. G. A. Clark, Mgr.