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LOSING MONEY.

On School Books—C. A. Gerhard and Others Agitate Subject.

Retail dealers in school text books and supplies throughout the state have started a movement to lower the price at which school supplies are furnished them by the publishers, says the Albany Herald. They claim that the present margin of 12.5 per cent between the price at which the school books are purchased by them and that at which the books are sold to the school children, is too small, and there is no profit; in fact, they assert that they are in reality losing money in selling public school books to the children of Oregon.

Agitation among the dealers in school supplies to secure a readjustment of the margin of supposed profit is being led by Fred Dawson of this city, Patton Bros. of Salem and Mr. Gerhard of Corvallis.

It is proposed to confer with the State Text Book Commission some time in the near future when the plans have been formulated to a greater degree, and urge upon them action of a remedial nature.

Legislative action has fixed the price at which dealers shall sell the books to Oregon school children, and the publishers who are furnishing the books to the Oregon dealers sell the books to the retail men for this established price and then deduct this 12.5 per cent from the amount of the bill. The margin of 12.5 per cent, the dealers assert, is so small that it does not suffice to pay the freight and other expenses of handling the books by 2.5 per cent. Dealers say that it costs them 15 per cent at the least calculation to handle the books, and with this constant loss incurred they are setting about to remedy the scale of prices, or else force the state to sell the books by refusing to handle them.

"It has been a losing proposition with every school book seller in Oregon since the start," said Mr. Dawson, in discussing the matter. "and we who handle school books are determined to remedy the situation if possible. Patton Bros. of Salem, Mr. Gerhard of Corvallis, and myself have been in communication with the subject for some time, and we are writing every school book dealer in the state stating the facts as we know them to be, and urging them to unite in a movement to secure a readjustment of the margin of 12.5 per cent now allowed us."

"In a short time we will meet with the State Text Book Commission and state to them the changes we desire. All of those dealers who have been consulted on the matter thus far are in favor of asking the Text Book commission to fix our margin of profit at 25 per cent, which would be in reality only 10 per cent as it cost 15 per cent to handle the books. The contention of the book sellers, if granted, will not work any hardship upon the child who buys the books, as the selling price to them will be the same as always, and it will only slightly reduce the profit of the book publishers. The text book commission has been notified of our intended action, and Hon. M. A. Miller, one of the commission, has assured me that we will be accorded a hearing when we are prepared to submit our proposition."

For Poultry Breeders.

We again suggest that farmers in Western Oregon try either thousand-headed kale or Swiss chard for supplying their hens with green feed next winter.

Thousand-headed kale is grown like field cabbage and the seed should be sown at about the same time as winter cabbage. Swiss chard is a kind of beets which runs to top instead of mak-

ing edible roots. It is one of the best greens for family use and the chickens are as fond of it as human beings are when it is cooked. It is planted in the spring like beets, but a little farther apart in the rows and the plants should be thinned so as not to stand closer than six or eight inches from each other in the rows. It will stand many cuttings in the latter part of the summer and through the fall and it makes some growth during every warm spell in winter. Thousand-headed kale will give a much larger amount of winter feed on a given area of land.—Agriculturist.

FUNERAL SUNDAY.

Of Mrs. Mary T. Wyatt—Another Pioneer.

Slowly but steadily the ranks of the old pioneers of Oregon are being decimated by death. One by one these familiar faces are passing from earthly view to join the great band on the other side, and in a few more years the last of these revered pioneers of Oregon will have passed on.

One of these noble women was summoned Thursday. She was Mrs. Mary Wyatt, widow of the late Thomas Wyatt, one of the best known and most highly respected women in Benton county. She was aged 83 years, 11 months and 14 days, having been born March 21, 1823 at St. Pancras, London, Middlesex England. Her maiden name was Theodosia Eud. In 1836 she emigrated to New York and on April 18, 1838 was united in marriage to William Wyatt.

With her husband Mrs. Wyatt went to Adams county, Illinois, where they resided one year going then to Henderson county, Illinois where they made their home until the spring of 1847 when the trip to Oregon was made by ox team across the plains. The travelers arrived in this section in October 1847, and settled five miles west of Corvallis, where the home has ever since remained, one of the best known in all Benton county.

Mrs. Wyatt was converted in September 1853 and ever thereafter remained a noble, conscientious and devout christian. She was the mother of eleven children, of whom the following five survive: Mrs. A. J. Williams, Philomath; J. E. Wyatt and S. T. Wyatt, Corvallis; Frank Wyatt and Miss Eva Wyatt, Philomath, all of whom are honored members of the communities in which they reside.

The funeral of Mrs. Wyatt was held in the M. E. church at Philomath at 11 a. m. Sunday, a large company of neighbors and friends being present to show their respect for the departed. The interment was in Mt. Union cemetery.

COMING!

"The King of Tramps" to Corvallis Opera House.

In the Yankee Doodle comedy, "The King of Tramps," which comes to the opera house March 25th, we are not to see the rum soaked, husky voiced shambling hobo invariably seen with attractions of this title. Instead, we are to meet a "Sunny Jim" always going out of his way to spread happiness, always singing and carrying a light heart, a character that good sensible people can view from the front with a feeling of interest.

A capable company of farriers, singers and dancers surround the principal characters, and patrons are assured of a performance well worth seeing.

Ira Row returned Sunday from several months' stay at a town up the Columbia. He will re-enter OAC.

Ziaroff keeps a kind of clover and grass seed for sale.

STOLE SPAN OF HORSES.

But Escaped—Animals Found South of Corvallis.

Sometime during Thursday night some one stole a fine pair of Percheon horses and two sets of double harness from the barn of Henry Leibner, in northern Benton county, and made off with them under the friendly cover of darkness. The animals were valued at about \$300 each, while the harness was comparatively new, and the theft naturally created great excitement in the vicinity.

When Mr. Leibner went to the stable in the morning and discovered his loss he immediately notified the Benton county officers and Sheriff Burnett kept the telephone hot all day sending messages to all neighboring places in order that everyone might be on the lookout. Inquiry soon showed that the thief or thieves had taken the road to Corvallis but after tracing them for a few miles the trail was lost.

On Corvallis streets the theft was the principal topic of conversation all day Friday and much interest in the outcome of the case was shown, as horses are almost like gold these days and the hardihood of the thief, in trying to escape with such booty created much discussion, besides which, horse stealing in Benton is an innovation.

Friday afternoon Henry Gerhard was plowing on the Off Wilson place south of Corvallis. As he followed the plow around and around the field he heard the neigh of horses in a dense clump of underbrush on the river bank nearby, and knowing that it was not an animal that belonged on the ranch he went to investigate. Tied to trees were two hungry, restless horses, each carrying a double set of harness. Mr. Gerhard had heard nothing of any thief, and he went back to his work and at quitting time spoke to Mr. Wilson of his discovery of the animals in the brush.

John Smith had been to the Wilson ranch that afternoon and had related the story of Mr. Leibner's loss, so Mr. Wilson immediately telephoned to Sheriff Burnett the information of Mr. Gerhard's "find." In company with Roy Raber, Sheriff Burnett left at once for the Wilson farm and spent a couple of hours in hiding near the stolen horses, hoping the thief might return, but he did not. Sheriff Burnett arrived in Corvallis about ten o'clock and placed the horses in a livery barn where they were fed and cared for until Saturday when Mr. Leibner came for them.

No trace of the thief has so far been obtained. How he expected to successfully get away with or dispose of the animals is a mystery. The theory is advanced that the party had a slight knowledge of the territory into which he took the animals, but that he lost his bearings, for he drove into a clump of brush that he could not get out of save by retracing his steps, as a steep bank was on one side, the river on another and dense brush ahead. About 100 yards away, however, is a ford where one might cross the river easily, and it is probable that this was the place headed for: but missed by the thief.

Eugene-Corvallis Canal.

The special committee from the Commercial Club will soon make a report on the proposed Eugene-Corvallis canal, and a survey will be made during the month of April.

This canal project was suggested some months ago by J. H. Bouilly, an attorney of Eugene, and so much interest has been shown by the people of this section that the Eugene Commercial Club took the matter up for careful and more thorough consider-

ation, with the result that a number of business men are actively at work endeavoring to find out just what can be done.

The proposed canal will follow the line of an existing ditch which drains the country from here to the Long Tom River. The canal will run northwest of Eugene for about ten miles, when it will strike the Long Tom. The channel of the Long Tom will be followed and improved as far as Monroe.

When boats used to run as far up the Willamette as Eugene these boats went up the Long Tom as far as Monroe without difficulty.—Oregonian.

Lovers of Music.

To those who are interested in the divine art and all intellectual features, and there is a goodly number of such in the community, we desire to say a word regarding William H. Sherwood.

Sherwood is pre-eminent among the American-born pianists. Of this there is no question. He occupies the same exalted position among native-born artists that Gottschalk and Dr. William Mason each occupied in their day. In fact, he is a great artist among artists and a credit to his native land.

All who attend his recital here next Thursday may do so with the assurance that they will hear America's greatest native pianist. We are favored here in receiving this visit from Sherwood, not only in the matter of having him come here at all, but in securing him at a lower admission than it would cost in Portland. Hoping that Sherwood will not be greeted with a small audience, we remain,
Unsollicitly,
RUTHYN TURNEY.

Child Labor a Curse.

Have you sometimes wondered how certain articles of ready-made wearing apparel could be sold as cheaply as you could buy the goods and make them yourself? If you have, and have not already read articles describing the miserable lives led by child-laborers who slave from daylight until dark for a mere pittance, making these garments, and thus waste their young lives, you should secure information on the subject and give it a thought.

Speaking on this vital subject in an address before the Chicago Industrial exhibition Rev. A. J. McKelway says:

"I want to see the big stick at Washington shaken over the heads of those who employ child labor. I want to see this problem made a national issue and carried on to the federal courts.

"Child labor is the curse of textile trades. It is literally true that the clothing you have on, from the stocking on your foot to the flower on your hat may have been, and probably was in some part, the product of child labor. The time will come when the American people will boycott articles made by child labor."

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For references write or call, Aberdeen Banks, or Corvallis Creamery Co.,
WEST COAST PRODUCE CO.,
24th
Aberdeen, Wash.

Earl Hawley, an OAC boy who has been attending college at Schenectady, New York, arrived in Corvallis, yesterday, and proceeded at once to his home at Bellefontaine, where he will remain for the present. His plans for the future were not learned. He was attending the same electrical school at which Joe Henkle, also of Corvallis, is a student.

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Mrs. Radir's Will.
The will of the late Mrs. Margaret Radir has been filed for probate over at the county clerk's office. The instrument was executed before Judge Holgate October 23, 1901 and E. Holgate and William Cress are the witnesses.
After providing for the payment of all her debts, the expenses of administration and other bills, Mrs. Radir bequeaths all her real property to her husband, Adam Radir, during his lifetime. To her daughter, Mary Graham, she gives 85 acres of land situated near the Radir homestead in Linn county, and to Eliza P. Smith, another daughter, 173 acres, which is the homestead, with all its improvements, after the demise, of course, of Adam Radir.
Four years from the time Mrs. Smith comes into possession of the property she is instructed to pay to another daughter, Mary E. Whitman \$1,200 and to a grandson, Richard Smith, \$600.
Two other grand children, Paul and Vera Radir, son and daughter of William Radir, deceased, get nothing by Mrs. Radir's death, as it is stated they

have sufficient of this world's goods and that their father received financial favors during his life time of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Radir.
Say Its "Hell."
An illustrious American warrior is authority for the statement that "War is Hell," and there is war in the Willamette valley—war upon San Jose scale, moss and other enemies of Oregon fruit.
Hence the odor of brimstone, which is boiled in making the solution with which the trees are sprayed. No sinful soul that ever went to the lake of fire was more certain of destruction than is the hapless scale insect that falls victim to the lime-sulphur bath. If man could see this diminutive insect and understand his language as the shower of spray falls on his defenseless head, beyond a doubt the last audible despairing cry would be, "This war is hell."—Oregonian.
A team belonging to Ned Smith and hitched to a wagon created some excitement yesterday morning by running from the city livery stable to Main street and thence north to the Bouldea grocery, where Mr. Bouldea caught them and drove them back to the starting point. No damage was done.