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EDITORIAL

LESSON FARMERS MUST LEARN

A trip through Eastern Oregon is sufficient to convince one of the uncertainty of the wheat crop. From our knowledge and actual experience in the raising of wheat in that country we think we are safe in saying that at least three out of every ten crops are partial failures. The old settler knows this from experience. A few have profited by it and as far as possible have diversified their farming, consequently are not suffering to any great extent from the drouth of this year. Fully 95 per cent of the farmers had their eggs in one basket, as often happens, the bottom dropped out and now they are blaming the country instead of their lack of business ability to meet such an emergency by paying more attention to better farming, instead of joining the mad rush for more land and half till it. Farming will pay in Eastern Oregon, but it must be done right. All or none is all right when everything else is right, but it is a mighty uncertain principle for a man who wants to succeed to count on. When Eastern Oregon farmers put their surplus money from good crops into good water systems, hog-tight fences, hogs, cattle, sheep and better cultivation of what land they have they will have taken the most important step toward the successful solution of the farm problem for that or any other country.

SEEK TO CORRAL RETAIL TRADE

The country merchant who meets with mail-order competition might do well to tell his farmer traders that there is a good mercantile trust forming of mail-order houses. Some \$40,000,000 is said to have been the capital decided upon. If there is anything a farmer dislikes, to use a mild word, it is a trust. There is an effort to crush out the competition of the small merchants by this mail-order scheme. It will be an evil day for the small merchant, and for the farmer as well, when the retail business of this country is controlled by one head. The consumer should do his part to prevent it. The fight will be made, not in the big cities, but in the country and small towns. -Selected.

Stensland's ways had been dark so long, no wonder he gravitated to Africa.

BE LOYAL TO YOUR TOWN.

A number of important changes have recently been made in Montavilla and Gresham. Just what effect these will have upon the towns and communities mentioned remains to be seen. One thing, however, is sure—every citizen should consider himself or herself a committee of one to encourage the merchant or merchants who are willing to cast their lot with us, and to encourage people as far as possible to do their trading at home. Be loyal to your town and its institutions,—help it all you can for by so doing you are assisting in the creating of a better trade center, and incidentally helping yourself.

Not very long ago a young lady of five or six summers happened to hear a gentleman who was visiting the family say that it was his birthday. In a very few minutes she appeared in front of her friend and handed him a necktie for a birthday present. He rather objected on the grounds that it belonged to her papa and he might object. "Oh that's all right," said she "It's only an old tie of his and he'll never wear it any more so you must take it," and of course he did.

Snow fall in Colorado accompanied by lightning. Colorado is bound to give her tourists their money's worth. Hereafter summer visitors should demand a rebate when they get the snow without the lightning.

If the attorney general goes ahead and collects the \$147,500,000 in fines for which Standard Oil stands liable, won't that be a long step toward government ownership?

Mr. Bryan says that if we can build the Panama canal we can build and run railroads. However, Senator Morgan is not certain that we can build the Panama canal.

Proof readers in the government printing office will have to learn their jobs over again.

It reflects credit on our Cuban neighbors, and shows the confidence in which the United States government and its representatives are held, that the insurrectionists are willing to cease hostilities and abide by the result of the investigation by Secretary Taft and others appointed by President Roosevelt.

Building to Stay. It was noted at the time of the recent fire and earthquake horrors in San Francisco that certain English papers took occasion to warn British insurance companies against investments in America, "that land of sudden calamities."

Americans have so long been wont to look on themselves as a chosen people and their land as one of special promise that this foreign point of view seems to them almost sacrilegious. Certainly, however, the records would seem to show a depressing array of figures through earthquake, fire, flood, accidents on railroads, on bridges, in mines, in tunnels, in factories, apartment houses and all manner of lofty and weighty structures.

During the past five years the annual fire loss in the United States has been \$2.50 per capita as compared with .33 per capita in the larger European countries. During the last ten years the total fire losses in the United States amounted to \$1,250,000,000. The insurance companies paid out during this period \$807,000,000, and it is reasonable to assume that the premiums paid by the people of the country during the same length of time for protection against fire exceeded these figures. The old proverb about the relative value of an ounce of prevention and a pound of cure would seem to have some application to the situation.

Recently experiments have been made in building residences with concrete blocks, a substitute for brick and stone. Partition walls as well as outer walls are of concrete, and in some cases the stairs are of concrete. In a concrete house there is little that can feed the flames except the flooring, trimming and furniture. Great care is taken to secure strength at all points of strain and prevent collapse even under extraordinary shock.

Temperance For Railway Men. Consul General Howe reports from Antwerp that the use of whisky and other alcoholic beverages by government or municipal employees during hours of service is practically prohibited in Belgium, with the result that drunkenness is rarely met with in any branch of the public service and never among railway employees. In fact, it may be said that while certain qualities of cheap gin are available to the poorest classes of laborers, drunkenness among them is the exception and not the rule. The prevalence of mild, cheap, wholesome brews of barley beer and light wines at moderate prices diverts the taste from alcoholic beverages which are more costly.

The importance of prohibiting the use of all forms of intoxicating liquors by railway employees is not only realized in Belgium, but also in the empire of Germany, where the director general of the railways in Alsace-Lorraine has forbidden their use by those engaged on the railways during their hours of service. This rule applies to all grades in the service and to all hours of the day. A first offense is punishable by loss of grade and the second by dismissal from the service. The measure was taken in consequence of the accidents which have grown to be rather frequent both on the railway and in the workshops.

It may be added that some of the railway companies of the United States, notably the Pennsylvania, have adopted similar strict regulations against liquor drinking by their employees.

France sets an excellent example to those nations among which extravagance is breeding all sorts of unhealthy conditions and men seem to live only to attain the luxuries which lead to degeneracy. Germany expected to crush France in 1871 by imposing a heavy indemnity at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, but the stockings of the plain people were so fat that the debt was wiped out in three years. France always has money to lend and is pre-eminently a creditor nation. She lends on none but gilt edged securities, however.

Would Suppress Poison Ivy. Writing in the Pacific Medical Journal of a personal experience with poison ivy, Dr. E. S. McKee suggests that the plant be put out of business by the most radical means. Says the doctor:

Legal measures for the prevention of this trouble by the eradication of the plants should be taken, especially in thickly settled communities. Immune persons, of whom there are many, should be employed to complete this destruction. This can be done mechanically by uprooting, or, better, by the application of sulphuric acid, 2 c. c., to the stems every two weeks till the plants are killed. The brush should not be left on the ground nor the wood used as fuel, for the poison is found in the wood long after dead and even in the smoke. Indeed, there are persons who cannot pass to the windward of these bushes without suffering from their venom. Others can handle them with impunity and even inject the poison under the skin without suffering any inconvenience. It is possible, though not probable, to transfer the poison by the clothes or towels of persons affected or handling the plants. Immunes when handling the plants should wash with alcohol to avoid carrying it to others.

The remedy which Dr. McKee found most efficacious consisted of a saturated solution of acetate of lead dissolved in 53 per cent of alcohol and 47 per cent of distilled water. He suggests that victims of poison ivy wash the parts touched by the plant with diluted alcohol as soon as possible after contact with the plant. This should dissolve and remove the poison.

United Artisans Gresham Assembly, No. 175, meets in Regner's Hall 1st and 3d Friday each month. Henry Douthitt, M. A.; C. A. Nutley, Sec'y. All Artisans Welcome.

GRESHAM REBEKAH LODGE No. 61, I. O. O. F., meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The officers are: Nora Durrell, N. G.; Mrs. Joseph, V. E.; Mrs. H. E. Davis, secretary; Calla Kenney, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Roberts, D. P.

W. O. W. Clover Camp No. 318, Gresham, meets in Regner's Hall on 2d and 4th Mondays at 8 p. m. D. F. Talbot, C. C.; E. L. Thorp, Clerk. Visiting Woodmen Welcome.

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