

The Daily Astorian.

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OLD TIMES EAST.

The Way it Used to Be.

This is an expensive age. Our richest men began with more nothing but their brains and hands, and with little education. Chester W. Chapin, one of the richest men in Massachusetts, when he was twenty-one years old let himself out to work twelve to fourteen hours a day for \$12 a month, farming and teaming from the army to the boat on the Connecticut river; but he laid his money up. Now you would insult a young stripling of eighteen years to offer him such wages. He was the tax-collector in 1822 for the town of Springfield. His fees were \$80 for collecting \$8,000—the whole taxes for that town. He pays more taxes now than the whole town did then. It cost more time and trouble to collect them, than now. The people were so scattering and they were so afraid of a tax-collector he said some would run and hide up stairs or down cellar when they saw him coming, and in some instances he hunted them up in their hiding-places after their family said they "wa'n't there." After finding the delinquent he would get a part of the tax money and go again for the rest or pay it himself. He has paid in this way hundreds of dollars, finding it easier to earn the money than to collect it. Money was scarce and worth something then. I recollect in 1825 or '26, in our town meeting, the proposition was to raise for the coming year \$14,000 for the town of Springfield; Oliver B. Morris arose and objected by saying: "What are we coming to? It is astonishing that pride and ambition, or fashion should demand such a tax." But they overruled the old man, and he lived to see pride, fashion and ambition rise much higher. A great change surely.

The fashion of those days I recollect. When my mother was going to get a new dress, or gown, as it was called then, the woman that was engaged to come to the house to cut and make it told her she was so tall and large she must get six yards for it. Five yards was the common pattern, and 50 cents for cutting and making and a dinner found. What a change from that day to this! The cloth \$1 and the making 50 cents, and dress was worn to meeting. The fashion and pay of the preachers has changed. The first Methodist preacher in our town got \$100 for one year's salary, and if he had a present of a pair of socks he must report it. The second preacher had a wife and three children, and \$35 was added for each child. Bishop Hadding in our time got less than \$75 a year. Also Priest Clough and Lorenzo Dow less than either. Our old Methodist preachers worked for a living and for God, instead of for reputation and a salary. I was thinking about the fashion in domestic affairs, say music, fifty-five years ago. Governor Thrash and I met at Monson for Thanksgiving, with the family where he got his wife—at old Uncle Saul Squires', uncle to us both. Their house music was, for treble, the flax spinning-wheel, played or run by one of the girls; for the tenor, the large spinning-wheel, played by another girl; for bass, the old lady whacking away at the old loom, all working to make their music profitable and healthy. The fashion of those days was to have a good healthy family of from eight to ten children, all learnt to work for a living. What a change! Instead of a good, healthy family now, all up in the morning early to work, we see from one to three little

pipng children, with a sickly mother, not able to take care of two as easily as our mothers would ten, fifty years ago without a hired girl. The children now must be in fashion—lie in bed until eight or nine in the morning, no appetite, little vitality. They play on some kind of instrument, and go to school to be crowded with more kinds of lessons than our old schoolteachers ever knew. But this is the fashion and intended improvement of the age. Perhaps this generation does not look at these things as I do, but I think that health, economy and mortality are not improved by getting high wages or a fashionable education. This generation will spend what its fathers have earned. Generally it is watching the pulse of the man who has property, longing for the time to come when it will come in possession of what it has not earned. It is a known fact that the rising generation are spendthrifts.

Another great change is in the mode of traveling. Fifty years ago we had to go through the country by stages, at the fast speed of seven miles an hour. This was much faster than the common farmers traveled. It was considered a great treat to take the stage at old Jeremy Warriner's tavern—start at four o'clock in the morning and get to Boston at nine o'clock in the evening, if the going was good. When the fare was reduced to \$5, two of us worked two weeks to get money enough to pay our fare to Boston, eighty-eight miles. The young men in these days earn enough in one day to pay their fare, and go in three hours instead of seventeen. Our conductors get for driving their team through to Boston \$3 or \$4, and the old stage-drivers got \$12 a month. This was Chester W. Chapin's standard price in those days. Connecticut river steamboats, started by Blanchard, fifty years ago, cut down the fare to Hartford to \$1, which enabled us all to go to Hartford and back in one day for \$2 and stay four hours in Hartford. This was another great treat for \$2, costing us five day's work. Now young men can earn enough in half a day, and go out and back in the other half.—*Springfield Republican*

The Timber Lands of the New Northwest.

Practically, the whole country between the Minnesota prairies and the Rocky mountains is bare of timber. There are little strips of forest trees along the water courses in Dakota, but they consist mainly of cottonwood, soft maple and alder, and furnish only a scanty supply of fuel to the settlers and are of no value as a source of building material. West of the Missouri there is nothing worth sawing into lumber until the advanced spurs of the Rockies are reached—the Big Horn, the Judith, the Big Snowy and the Yellowstone mountains. In the gorges running up their sides there is sufficient "bull pine" and spruce for the settlers' purposes, and for railway ties and bridge timbers, but there are no large well-timbered areas. On both sides of the main divide of the Rockies about the same condition is found. The pines are somewhat larger, and some cedar is met with. For want of something better, the timber is of great value for local consumption, for fuel and building purposes in the neighboring valleys, but this is all that can be said of it. Not until I reached Clark's Fork of the Columbia, or the Pend d'Oreille, as it is known to the settlers, did I see any ex-

tensive body of good timber. On both sides of the stream between the Cœur d'Alene and Cabinet mountains, lies a heavily timbered belt of about 100 miles in length by 30 miles in width, reaching down to and around Pend d'Oreille lake. The trees are "bull pine," cedar, hemlock and spruce, with a little white pine. The western slopes of the Cœur d'Alene mountains and the Bitter Root mountains, which are a continuation of the same range, are moderately well timbered and furnish material for fuel, fences and buildings for a wide stretch of rich, bare country further west. From these mountains westward, to the narrow valleys running up into the Cascade range, the country is nearly destitute of forest growth. A few stunted pines grow on the sides of the deep, narrow valleys through which the steamers run. Along the lower course of the Columbia and around Puget Sound there are immense forests of fir, furnishing a practically inexhaustible lumber supply. Eastern Oregon is almost treeless, but the slopes of the mountain ranges bear sufficient timber for local uses. Eastern Washington, fast becoming a great wheat field, feels most the lack of forests. Western Oregon, including the fertile, well-settled Willamette valley, is well supplied from both the Coast and Cascade mountains, while Western Washington is all a vast forest, where the clearings are mere specks upon the immense expanse of woodland. This magnificent forest is destined to be a source of great wealth for centuries to come. The lumbering operations up to this time, although very extensive, have only notched it here and there at long intervals close to the water side.—*E. V. Smalley in the Century.*

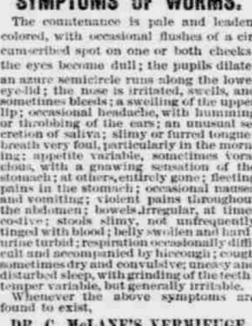
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