

COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

COTTAGE GROVE OREGON

J. MCKEAN FISHER, Manager.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

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SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 8, 1906

Prosperity Shows Everywhere.

Any passenger on trains going through the Willamette must observe of necessity the prosperous condition of the country, he cannot help it. The editor was one of the band that attended the big meeting at Eugene on Wednesday, and as he went down he noticed that all along the line to Eugene, evidences of prosperity, new homes, new barns were being built, were being painted up, repairs and enlargements made in all directions. Not a cluster of buildings was to be seen except that some improvements had been lately made or were in progress. Such a condition speaks well for the country. While the farms are doing well they are not doing what they should, fields that have produced nothing but wheat for fifty years are not valuable as they are, the soil must be enriched by a changing of crops, by fertilization, or some other method.

Some of the great fields that were passed were of the very finest kind for irrigation, and on which could be produced in a single year with irrigation more value per acre than probably has been produced in the last five or ten years. With the unlimited possibilities of irrigation in this section it is wonderful to the man that comes from a country where irrigation in the great system of crop raising, that it has not been handled here. With the hundreds of canyons, that are easily dammed and down which in the rainy season pour floods of water that at that time do only damage, but which if conserved would mean vast richness if brought upon the fields in the months when there is no rain, and that too with little expense, because the canyons are cheaply dammed and would not have to irrigate much territory, nor have long irrigation ditches to bring the water to their unwatered district, truly the land is one of promise, with the richness of land that is irrigated waiting ready to bring to the farmers vast sums.

Cottage Grove has one man who is starting in on a big scale to grow an orchard. With irrigation orchards in Oregon will produce better fruit and do so year after year, without fail. With the start Mr. J. I. Jones is making in the orchard business, to start the orchard industry in this section, he should have for his orchard irrigation, so that in the middle of the summer when the trees need the water most they could have it. Under proper irrigation orchards reach their productive state much earlier than other way and retain it longer.

The Willamette Valley is just beginning to see the value of this work. It may be and is more expensive to start in with, but from the very first, the returns are more than double the old way.

The street cleaning gang did good work but there is still room for improvement. An ordinance should be passed giving the marshal power to arrest and put to work on the streets any tramps found within the city limits. A few days haul would soon clean the streets up clean, and would rid the town of all tramps. Councilman Bartels was out trying the effect of a big rattan broom on the mud, and he found that after the heaviest part of the mud had been removed, the broom would clean it off right down to the solid base of the road, and he will favor the city buying a supply of such brushes, and putting all tramps to work, and keeping the streets good and clean.

The Southern Pacific Co. seems to have found a pocket full of ears from somewhere recently, from the number of ears that have been delivered to the shippers in this section within the last few days. If

the Southern Pacific thinks it can stop the present cry of railroad legislation by furnishing cars with fair promptness until after the legislature is over, they are mistaken this time. The cry has started, and is not to be stopped until effective legislation has been passed. If the S. P. can furnish cars now they could have furnished them before.

Portland has cut out all the slot machines. Good for her. Cottage Grove would do well to follow her example.

GREAT FAMINE IN CHINA.

People Starving and Worse Yet to Come.

Tsing Kiang Pu, China, FRANK CRABTREE. DEAR COUSIN: Summer is gone. Our vacation is over. We are back at our posts ready for work. This summer has been very remarkable in this: that we have had almost constant rains for more than three months. The water has been higher than ever known before. Crops are all gone with but little hope of being able to plant wheat this fall.

This part of the country is flat and lower than the Grand Canal. The rains that fall here do not drain into the canal, but the canal drains into the surrounding country through numerous small canals. The rains have simply turned this country into an enormous lake. Wheat was just being harvested when the rains began, and was ruined. Peanuts, beans and corn were all drowned out. Hundreds of families are living in houses with water a foot or more deep on the floors. To tell you about it will not be as impressive perhaps as to tell you of a few of the things that we see and hear almost every day.

It was reported to me yesterday that a man and wife with two children, a boy and a girl, spent a whole day trying to sell the children here on the streets. When night came and they had not succeeded, and had nothing to eat themselves and nothing for the children, they threw them in the canal. They went on the next morning to another city begging.

In a city twenty miles to the east of us came this story:

A man his wife and daughter, were begging. They did not get anything to eat, so they offered the girl for two bowls of porridge. The trade was made. The girl, about ten years old, exchanged hands. The man who bought her afterwards repented and said it was too bad to take the girl so cheap, and he got out four dollars to give to her mother. To this the girl objected, saying that her mother had given her away and if this money was paid out she still might not have enough to eat in her new home. A compromise was made at two dollars.

Still another story is told of a family of four. They were going along the banks of the Yellow River hungry, tired and footsore. The woman decided to end the misery of it all by jumping into the river. The man watched the woman and baby boy go down. He then took the girl in his arms and followed them to a wattery grave.

I know of one widow with six children who are living now on sweet potato leaves that her neighbors grudgingly allow her to pull. When frost comes what will they do?

Rice, flour and beans are twice their ordinary price, and there is not much to buy even at that. Fuel is also very high. By spring we will see hundreds of men, women and children starved to death. Thousands of families, ten or twenty times as many as were effected by the San Francisco disaster are without anything to eat.

The hard part of the famine is yet to come. When winter comes, or harder yet, spring, what will they do?

These poor people live from hand to mouth. They eat today what they earned yesterday. If they earn nothing today they go hungry tomorrow. The farmers eat each crop as it is made. If a crop misses they have nothing to eat. This year everything is gone, so there is nothing to eat. It is even worse than that for hundreds of their straw houses have tumbled down.

I know of one little hamlet where we have some Christians, every house but one has fallen. They have surrounded this with a mud wall or dam to keep the water back. Where we usually go on a dry dirt road we now go by boat for about a mile to them. The water is from two to six feet deep over this entire strip of country. These people are living in the mud surrounded by water, and eating one meal a day, yet cheerful with it all.

Two steamer loads of rice per

month would keep this people from starving to death, but it would not keep them from being hungry. Hope I have not burdened you with all this detail. Naturally, this is the thing nearest my heart at this time. If any of your readers, who have plenty and to spare, should care to cast their bread upon this water in the hope of finding it again after many days, I would be delighted to distribute it for them. It a good opportunity for true Christian charity. I am as ever,

Yours truly, A. D. RICE.

Silk Creek.

Mrs. D. J. Smith is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelley of Cedar Creek were visiting their daughter, Mrs. H. M. Damewood, Wednesday and Thursday.

A. D. Owens went to Eugene Wednesday to attend a convention of the business men of this part of the country.

Mr. Sweeney was to go to Roseburg Thursday to prove up on his homestead.

Frank Peterson was a guest at the home of M. F. Babcock Wednesday night.

Tuesday while playing at school Kile Kendall, a boy 14 years of age ran into the fence and hurt his left side quite badly. It is to be hoped he will soon be all right.

Roy Rac is stopping with D. A. Estes now.

Prescott Wheeler spent Saturday night with friends at Cottage Grove.

E. A. Wheeler and wife returned recently from a visit to friends in California. They think Silk Creek is the "place".

President's Message

Tuesday President Roosevelt's message was read to Congress, and for two and a half hours was listened to with greatest attention. The message was very long, and dealt fully with many subjects that the President felt should come before Congress in its session. He stated that he had only just returned from Panama and would later be ready to give a full report on the conditions there.

He took up the many lynchings that had occurred and their effect upon society, he recommended a National Divorce law. He favors commercial and industrial education and believes that a farmer should be educated in that line before undertaking it. He recommends that all coal lands and forests should be permanently withdrawn from entry, and only be allowed to be worked under a royalty, by individuals.

He sees great benefits to be derived from an inheritance and income tax and believes such taxes are just.

He wants all corporations to be controlled and the government to take action against those that are violating the laws. The great burden of his message was the control of corporations and the restriction of their many abuses.

The president wants all corporations prohibited from contributing to campaign funds, advocates an eight-hour law, and a drastic child labor law.

He advocates more equality for Japanese and wants them given Naturalization rights.

He wants to see the Navy kept up to its present standard of efficiency and the obsolete warships replaced by modern vessels steadily, as fast as the expense can be undergone.

The purity of food meets his consideration and he recommends still further legislation.

The message covers a vast field, dealing ably with all, recommending that all the laws can give the people, and advocating fairness in dealings with everyone, citizens and corporations, foreigners within our land, and without. In his message the President has brought out more clearly than ever that he is a man for and with the people.

Dr. Thomas McClary, Star Humorist.

Subject, "The Mission of Mirth" Everybody Wants to laugh. All must laugh that hear McClary.

Good sound sense. Great entertainment. Refined humor and plenty of it. Side spitting stories all through the message. Hear him and laugh with him, Saturday, Dec. 22. Prices 25, 35 and 50c.

It is noticeable a cold seldom comes on when the bowels are freely open. Neither can it stay if they are open. Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup tastes as pleasant as maple sugar. Free from all opiates. Contains Honey and Tar. Conforms to the National Pure Food and Drug Law. Sold by Benson's Pharmacy.

Cottage Grove Churches

METHODIST EPISCOPAL, Rev. J. L. Beatty, Pastor. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School, 10 a. m., Epworth League, 6:30 p. m., Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be present.

First Presbyterian Church, Pastor R. C. Grace. Morning service, 11, evening 8, Y. P. S. C. E. 7 p. m. All strangers and sojourners welcome.

Morning subject "Distinctive words in the Christian religion." Evening subject "Hours of Darkness."

Episcopal Church. Services held the second Wednesday evening of each month at 7:30 in Masonic hall. There will be services every fifth Sunday of a month.

Catholic Church, Father Carrol. Services the second Sunday in each month.

Christian Science services held over Allison's Barber shop every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Christian Church, Rev. D. E. Olson Pastor. Services at 11 in the morning and 7:30 in the evening. Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 6:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 o'clock, Intermediate Endeavor Society at 2:30 and Choir practice every Saturday evening at 7:30.

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Cottage Grove, Oregon



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