

The Herald

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1909.

There seems to be a great deal of energy expended almost daily by the Portland press in telling of the great gains made in population in that city. We will not gainsay this, but is the progress being made by that city in the matter of new factories and enterprises employing labor, keeping pace with the influx of immigrants? It is all very well to get population but it is also imperative that provision be made for the employment of those who have not the means to buy land or to engage in some profitable business. If the manufacturing industries are pushed forward so that they are abreast of the growing population all well and good, the more the better for the remainder of the state, but we fear that the city is not boosting enough for such enterprises as are desirable. We would like to see Portland's population double in the next few years, but we want it to do so in a conservative manner, so that the whole state may grow with it and this can be done by aiding manufactories to locate there and help to maintain the great multitude of people who depend on their daily labor for their daily bread. The prosperity of Portland means largely the prosperity of the whole state and especially is this true of the western part of the state. We hope to see more about the locating of large enterprises and the encouragement of smaller ones, in the Portland papers in the near future.

Indications point to the fact that it will be a matter of but a short time until we will have electric connection with Portland. In such an event it will mean the doubling of the population of every little town in this valley along the line of the road. It will mean the cutting up of many of the large real estate tracts into small acreage property and the locating in this valley of many prosperous and progressive eastern families. Nowhere in this state is there such great opportunities offered the intending settler as there are near Monmouth. Here we have the soil for the production of perfect berries, such as have gained a National reputation for Hood River. All that is necessary is for the right men to take hold of the matter and they will soon make this section of the state as famed for its fine berries as elsewhere. If we could ship, even one carload of strawberries a week, during the season, it would mean many thousands of dollars distributed here during the season. Then why not do it? The soil and climate are here and the berries have been raised in quantities that put the matter beyond the experimental

stage. Again the smaller ones that are unfit to ship, could be canned, if not at a good profit, at least without loss.

The action of the Board of Directors in lowering the recent levy voted at the spring school meeting, is commendable. They did not lower it to such an extent as to impair the reputation of the district, in that it is high enough to enable them to hire a teacher competent to head the high school. As the matter stands with regard to educational conditions here at the present time we must have the best teachers that we can procure or have the rating of the school lowered. On account of the higher grades of high school work having been done in the Freshman year of the Normal school, it will be necessary for us to maintain a higher standard than any other school in the county. It may look to some that a smaller town should not pay more for its principal than a larger one, but when it is considered that the quality of work done is of a higher grade it is unnecessary to say more to those who desire our young people educated.

Forest Grove has voted bonds in the sum of \$70,000 for a new gravity water system in that city. It is a town less than three times as large as Monmouth and with no better resources back of it, yet on top of this bond issue we find that there have been many thousands of dollars expended in new buildings this year and the prospect is for a much greater growth during the coming year. This is the regular story wherever the spirit of progress gains a foothold. Let Monmouth profit by the example set by her sisters in the valley and we will witness a splendid growth here as well. Instead of voting to change the charter so as to allow us to vote on a bond issue of \$20,000, it should be \$30,000, so as to enable us to put in a water and light plant and also to pave streets when it becomes necessary.

An Astounded Parson.

Of a certain bishop, famous as being the plainest man in England, the following pleasing tale is told:

One day, as this homely parson sat in an omnibus, he was amazed by the persistent staring of a fellow passenger, who presently unburdened himself as follows:

"You're a parson, ain't you?"

"Well, yes, that is so."

"Look 'ere, parson, would you mind comin' 'ome with me to see my wife?"

Imagining the wife was sick and needing assistance, the clergyman, at great inconvenience to himself, went with the man. On arriving at the house the man shouted to his wife to come downstairs, and when she did so he pointed to the astonished parson and said, with a grin of delight:

"Look 'e 'ere, Sairy. Yer said this mornin' as I was the hugliest chap in England. Now, just look at this bloke!" — London Illustrated Bits.

The Signet Ring.

"The seal or signet ring," said a jeweler, "once had a very practical use. In the middle ages, when nobody but the priests could write, men stamped documents with their signet rings, as the illiterate now make their marks.

"The signet rings of noblemen bore the owner's crest or arms. The rings of merchants bore intricate monograms, trademarks or the like. There are certain old European firms that preserve in cabinets the seal rings worn by their founders, rings whose seals are inscribed with the trademarks still in use."

Announcement

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