

The Independence Enterprise

Published by HENRY E. BROWNE. Entered at the postoffice at Independence, Oregon, as second class matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Address all communications and make all bills payable to The Enterprise.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year in advance \$1.50, Six months in advance .75, Three months in advance .50, Single copies .05. Sample copies free on application.

JUST THE RIGHT THING

The Action of the goat raisers of this county in forming an association and entering into an agreement that their product shall be put out in merchantable shape and the sale price regulated by the association, is a good one. And, if some plan could be devised to compel every member to stick to his agreement, it would be better still.

Innumerable associations of this character have been formed by farmers all over the United States at different times, the majority being failures on account of their unwieldy character. When market time comes the buyer's John-y-on-the-spot hunting for weak-kneed members of the association, and they are generally found. The buyer plainly explains that the price fixed by the association is actually prohibitory and that if it is maintained no purchases will be made.

The disappointed producer seethes and the association goes up in smoke and profanity. This has not been true, however, with the Polk County Mohair Association. It is firm today and the members are getting a good price for the products.

The Enterprise is no advocate of violence, but it does believe that any member of an association of this character who violates his agreement should have his backbone kicked through the top of his hat and each member of the association should appoint himself a committee of one to see that the job is well done. Excuses are no part of the game. Nobody is compelled to join. If a man believes that he is so poverty-stricken that he will be forced to sell at any old price he can get, or if he feels that his social column is not firm enough to stay with his agreement, let him say away. Then let the association stand as one man, and the buyers will conclude that he was slightly mistaken and that the price is not exactly prohibitory.

The main reason why the hop market today are so unfavorable for the growers is because they have not yet been able to stand together in a time when the association is of such vital importance.

A PLAN FOR BETTERMENT

In the discussion of questions which involve the enlargement of the scope of work in our commercial club, it is vitally essential that we keep constantly in view the fundamental purposes of the organization. No addition to the real objects of the club should be attempted simply because it is an innovation or because it ministers to the wishes of any class of people who are peculiarly zealous in reference to the views naturally most strong with them.

The ultimate aim of every member, which is to be most fruitful of results for the general good of the city and community at large, should be a wise adjustment and apportionment of the multitudinous special claims made on the public. It is therefore important to take such actions in the development of independence and vicinity as shall be helpful to every class.

If there is one thing more than another which the organization may do for the greater good to the greatest number of people, it is to make a strenuous effort to have the city limits expanded. The day has passed when independence can be satisfied to remain dormant within the limits of a little seven by nine incorporation. It is not justice to the business interests of the city, to the citizens or to the farmers in this vicinity. Year after year the census has shown a population of but little more than one-half of its actual population, and all because the city limits are decidedly too small. Just now, with every business house represented in

the Commercial Club and with a large membership of farmers and of citizens in private life identified, in the time to begin action for a greater independence. It is needless to say that all independence will be richly benefited when the desired change has been effected.

Industries in this city cannot be solidly prosperous unless the farm is prosperous, and we deem it equally true that the farm cannot be solidly prosperous when other industrial branches. If the Independence Commercial Club, in its efforts for a better and greater independence, meets with success in behalf of the city people, the country is equally benefited. Farm property as well as city property will become enhanced in valuation, and there will be a general awakening throughout this section.

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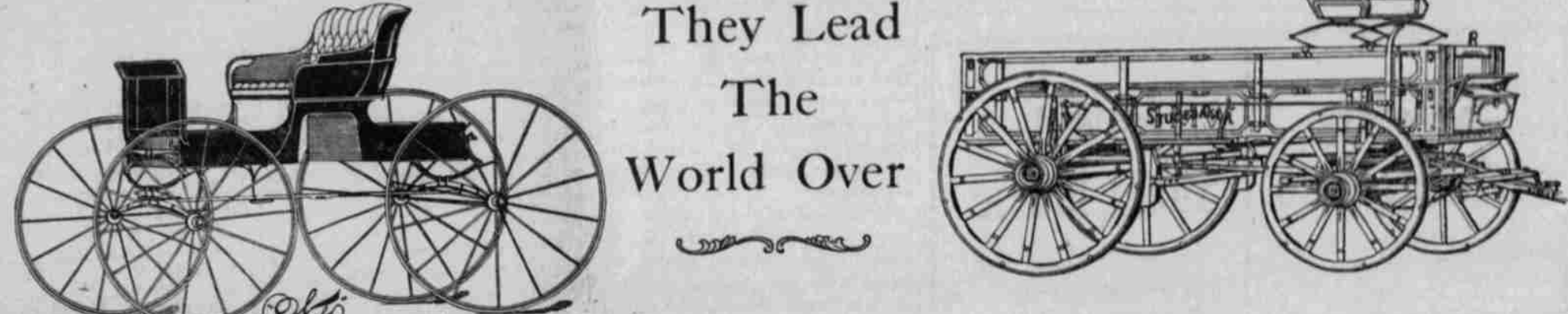
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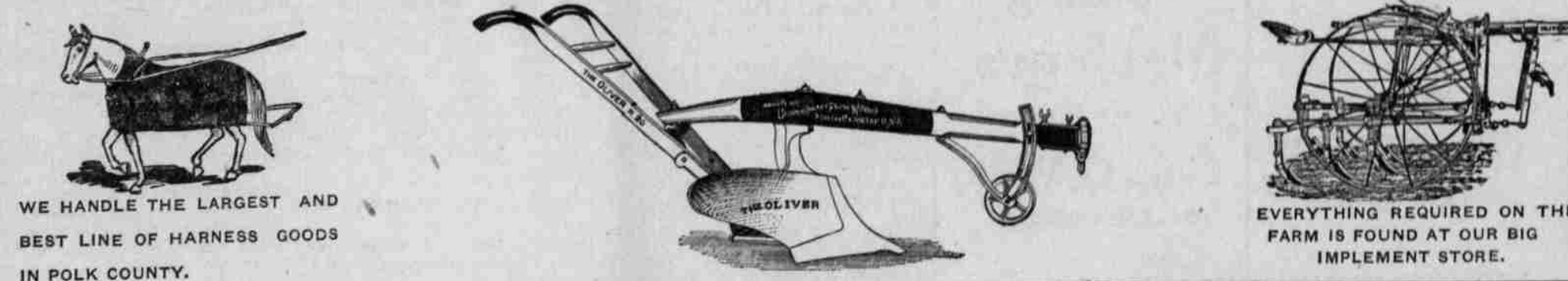
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