

THE HATCHET.

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AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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The HATCHET has the Largest Circulation of any newspaper in Washington County.

'Tis our Thanksgiving Day, when from East and from West, From North and from South come the pilgrim and guest.

FLAX IN OREGON.

Mrs. W. P. Lord, wife of Governor Lord, untiring in her efforts to promote the flax industry in Oregon, held a conference in Portland yesterday with Dr. Thornton, of Washington, and Henry L. Deniel, relative to the project.

It is quite probable that this is an initiatory step that will lead to the consummation of Mrs. Lord's long-cherished hopes of having Oregon recognized as a flax-producing state.

Dr. Thornton is engaged in flax culture in Washington, and is convinced that it can be produced with profit in Oregon. He is the man who had a flax exhibit at the last state fair, and also at the Northwest industrial exposition in Portland.

The conference yesterday was the result of long correspondence among interested parties. The plan, as given by one of the conferees is to organize a stock company, of \$100,000 capital. The next contemplated step is to contract with farmers to furnish a specified quantity of flax per year, the contract to be based upon a reasonable estimate of the amount Oregon soil will produce per acre.

Then will come the location of the factory. Salem stands a good chance to be selected as the site. The purchase of the old Scotch mills is under consideration. This is owned by Messrs. Bush, Ladd and Wilcox. The property includes 14 acres of land, water power, and a large brick structure that is considered suitable for the purpose.

Flaxseed will be one of the expensive items in starting the new industry in Oregon, and to make it easy on the farmers, and secure the necessary acreage without delay, it is proposed that the company

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supply the seed. Seed for fine-textured flax is expensive and will have to be shipped from Europe. The plan is to have the flax crop started next year, and to do so requires seed to be sown in March or April so it is necessary to place the order pretty soon.—Sunday Oregonian.

Mrs. Lord has already done good work in the introduction of Eastern oysters to Oregon waters which is now in progress.

It has been demonstrated beyond the question of a doubt that flax can be raised in this region, and successfully. Clinton Roos, of Fir, is now raising it. The seed is well developed and the fibre all that can be asked. As Mr. Roos formerly ran a woolen mill in Minnesota he certainly should be a judge of fibre. He also understands working flax and has arranged a rude machine for that purpose.

THE GRANGE.

Forest Grove now numbers among its fraternal societies one which every good citizen should encourage as the surest safeguard to popular government. No one now disputes that upon the welfare of the farmer depends the general prosperity. Equally clear is it that thrift and industry bring this desired prosperity, and result from intelligence and contentment.

If farming is to be a dull round of sowing, and harvesting, then sowing again, all work and no rest, each year the tiresome repetition of the preceding one, with no change, no improvement, then no wonder farmers become discouraged, farms unprofitable, homes unattractive and children unwilling to follow in their parents' footsteps. Such a condition would lead to a new farming class and the disappearing of that class which is now the mainstay of society.

To relieve farm life of its humdrum character by bringing neighbors together socially and by developing an interest in the events of history and of today, to make farming more profitable by stimulating intelligent industry and leading to advantageous marketing of its products, indirectly through these to make farm life so profitable and so attractive that it will continue to draw and keep the best people, these are laudable objects and they are what the organization of Patrons of Husbandry has been and is seeking in its work all over the country.

The granges have stimulated literary culture and the intellectual growth of the people, they have (without restraining any one's political freedom) encouraged voters to investigate all economic questions which enter into politics, and above all they have fostered the habit of free, fair and good-natured discussion of important questions affecting the public welfare. Along with these have come the recognition of the equality of woman with man, the training of young men and young women who were afraid of their own voices into good speakers, ready debaters and pleasing entertainers, and an awakening of interest in farm topics leading to savings and profits which have cleared the indebtedness off many a home.

Washington county has several granges but others should be added until every community is able to enjoy their benefits, and those already established should receive general encouragement. They deserve it for the good they are doing.

THE NATIONAL FLOWER.

Politics over, the all-absorbing question of "what shall be the national flower?" recurs. New England with her pride of ancestry has long wanted the May-flower, but arbutus has too "cultured" a name to be popular and then it is so likely to be mispronounced that one has to stop to think before venturing on its name. The pansy, lovely heart's ease, has admirers, but a national flower, like the president, must be native-born.

For the practical-minded the gaudy sunflower has attractions because of its commercial value, for, as the Kansan so ably argued, "if all domestic animals should become extinct, still the sunflower would produce a substance which would illuminate the world, lubricate machinery, fry every doughnut, and grease the wheels of time." The field daisy, a poor relation of the aristocratic chrysanthemum, modestly put in its claim but was promptly snubbed. The stately Indian corn, graceful, decorative and valuable, received but little more consideration.

The real contest lies between two, the Columbine, of red, white and blue whose very name speaks of Columbia, while the flowers are perfect imitations of the liberty cap which she wears as she appears on the standard dollar, and the magnificent golden rod, an American which in its over forty varieties is found all over the land. Ever-living, a true E Pluribus Unum flower for it is made up of little flowers, each perfect in itself, but only in full beauty when all are united. Here then are gold and silver again in conflict.

AN OLD, OLD QUESTION.

The coinage question agitated Ireland one hundred and seventy years ago. Silver had become dear money, and to relieve the money market the government gave to one William Wood the right to coin brass half pence. So far from relieving the scarcity of silver, it caused every coin of that metal to disappear from circulation. The magazines of that day were filled with articles on the money question, epigrams and verses. Satires on loose sheets were distributed broadcast and the whole country was as interested as were our own people during the past fall. One poem makes an application from classical mythology of the story of how the world depends from a word of gold fastened to the throne of Jove, King of Gods. Daring Prometheus stole the precious cord and substituted for it one of brass. Dire confusion came on all the earth and chaos reigned until the god-king discovered the cheat and replaced the golden chain when tranquility was restored. All of which history goes to prove that the fight over the gold standard is no modern contest but one that goes back beyond the beginning of history into the time of tradition and legend.

THE GREAT DESTROYER.

No other disease strikes such terror to the human heart as does consumption and yet civilized mankind, usually active to combat evils, quietly awaits its coming, without resistance yielding to it one person in every eight as tribute to a master. Year after year with awful regularity this decimation continues and thousands in whose families the scourge has run deem themselves foreordained by "heredity" to also become victims, and after a life of dreading anticipation at last die, not of inherited taint but through disregarding sanitary precautions. That consumption is hereditary must join the notions

that some one cause cancer and that spiders cause cramps. Science now takes no stock in any of them.

Inherited consumption does not exist but conditions favorable to its contraction are naturally more often found in families where the disease has been and the results of this have seemed to bear out the popular idea. No one has been safe from it and yet when we consider the thousands of consumptives who every hour of the day are expectorating along our streets, on the floors of public buildings, churches, hotels, railroad cars and street cars, when we think how these germs are being carried into the air by every passing breeze, by every sweeping, and how they are capable of producing the disease six months after drying; when we remember the close, unventilated sleeping car with hangings and curtains so well adapted to catching the germs; when we think of the hundreds whose work keeps them in close rooms, breathing the dust which must contain tubercular bacilli, the wonder to us seems not that one in eight dies but that the other seven manage to live.

The chairman of the republican county central committee in a note of thanks to various earnest workers in McKinley's cause speaks of having been "the recipient of a number of congratulations from Republicans and from the County Press." It is to be hoped that he has not numbered the HATCHET among the latter. Rather than disparage, the HATCHET has avoided the subject. In truth the head of the committee, the unhappy accident of last June's convention, has seemed rather a drag. Prominent Republicans have said that a visit to county headquarters gave them the blues and the feeling that the party was going to the dogs. Senator Patterson to our mind deserves credit for the magnificent showing of the party along with the county league, next to the rank and file. Had it not been for the gross self-sufficiency of the Doctor's letter the HATCHET would not have broken its silence.

The cost of public schools in Oregon according to a comparison recently made in the Bulletin of the University of Oregon, is considerably lower to the average taxpayer than it is in other states. Better than this, ignorance is less prevalent than in most others and in the few where it is not, the advantage was obtained at a increase in cost out of all proportion. In other words Oregon gets the most good for the least money of any of the states.

An unobtrusive drop-a-nickel-in-the-slot substitute for the noisy newsboy is one of the latest boons conferred by inventive genius.

County School Notes.

Report of district No. 1 for month ending November 20. No. pupils enrolled 27. Average daily attendance 21. No. of visitors 3. No. of pupils belonging at close of month 25. Names of pupils who have been neither absent nor tardy during the month are: Charlie Hesse, Hattie Holcomb, Freddie Kunz and Alfred Holcomb.—Carrie Hanson, teacher.

Report of Arcade school district No. 59 for the month ending November 20. No. days taught 19. No. girls enrolled 11. No. boys enrolled 17. Total No. enrolled 28. Average attendance 23. No. cases of tardiness 7. Those neither absent nor tardy during the month were: Ellie Miller, Elsie Jones, Belle Jones, Marven Jones, Claude Davis, Walter Lynn, Earl Luther, Emma Schaefer and Henry Cypher.—Carrie Frutchey, teacher.

Report of Hazeldale school district No. 60 for month beginning Oct. 19 and ending Nov. 18. No. of days taught 19. No. of boys enrolled 11. No. of girls enrolled 12. Total No. enrolled 23. No. cases of tardiness 8. Average daily attendance 21. No. of visitors 3. Pupils neither absent nor tardy were: May Halderman, Anna Morton, Lillie Wilkins, Lillie Curtis, Lattie Curtis, James Pleck, Cora Hodges, Jimmie Curtis, Edd Ellerson and Fred Morton.—S. C. Rockafeller, teacher.

When I hear people talking of practical religion and practical education, I have come to understand pretty well what they mean. To such people a boy has a practical education when he can tell you the number of barrels of water a cistern will hold, or the amount of corn in a crib—things which any average boy,

J. C. Clark . . .

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brought face to face with the reality, will learn without ever having seen a school book. A practical education isn't cramming the pupil's mind with facts, but rather developing his mental muscle, that he may be able to delve for them himself.

Report of the Roy school district No. 14 for the month beginning October 26 and closing November 20. No. of days taught 19. No. of attendance 455. No. of days absence 61 1/2. No. times tardy 59. No. of girls enrolled 14. No. of boys enrolled 14. Total No. enrolled 28. Average daily attendance 24. Those neither absent nor tardy during the month were: Samuel Kuder, Clara Phillips and Clay Wilson. The visitors were: Mr. and Mrs. Alex Chalmers, Alex Chalmers, Willie Chalmers, Clara Chalmers, Mrs. Wm. Reiling, Misses Lottie and Theresa Reiling.—G. W. Tamiesie, teacher.

HOW TO READ.

Study is like a dinner. The viands must be well chosen and eaten slowly, not devoured; then well turned over in the mental stomach for a while until with ease and comfort they are perfectly digested and furnish further nutriment to the brain. Most study without thought, which is like eating without digesting. Others read merely as a fad and soon forget all they may have learned.

The most satisfactory method of study is the digestive. It is the thorough one; the one that gives strength to the brain. Take the subject you are studying. Read a few lines or a few pages, as the case may be, then put the book down and think on what you have read. Turn it about in your mind from every standpoint. Do not accept it immediately. Argue for and against it in your mind. In other words, masticate it. You need not be at your leisure to do this. Do it in your walks, in your idle moments, at any time. When you have satisfied yourself on the subject go on with a little more in the same way. In a short time you will find yourself more a thorough student than if you had read all at a sitting. The best educated man in the end is the man who learns slowly but surely.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Country schools are seldom so large that the earnest, painstaking teacher may not only become thoroughly acquainted with the disposition of each child, but also to a large extent with the parents and the surroundings, which have had much to do with forming his habits and disposition. The school becomes as a well-regulated family, perfect confidence existing in all relations between teacher and pupils. Are there bright, ambitious boys and girls? There is nothing to hamper them, however rapidly they may climb the hill of knowledge. Are there those whose minds move more slowly? There is no forcing. The teacher, disdaining set rules and regulations, descends to the child's level and leads him carefully upward.

He is fairly well educated who leaves the common school with a thorough knowledge of all branches taught there; educated, mark, only to the degree that he can apply his knowledge to his needs, for although it is said that knowledge is power, it is easy to discern that it is not power except when combined with action. A farmer may be the owner of the finest reaper manufactured, but if he has no team to move it, its mere possession confers no power and in this particular he is like the man of much knowledge and no action. "Knowing" and "doing" should be taught together, and where there is greater opportunity to make the combination habitual than in the country school, where in field and forest, hill and valley, may be found practical lessons in "doing" after the "knowing" has been learned? Nature is largely responsible for the sciences of arithmetic and geography, and she stands ready at any minute to furnish the wherewithal for real instruction in the four fundamental rules, in fractions, in measurements, proportion, and in the practical application of square and cube root. In the environments of nearly every country school building there exists, in miniature, the whole world of physical geography as exemplified in continent, peninsula, island, cape, isthmus, mountain, valley and plain; in ocean, sea, gulf, bay, strait, lake and river, to say nothing of the phenomena of the atmosphere and the moving panoramas of the clouds. Here too is the very best of matter for lessons in language and composition, based on what the pupils have actually seen and heard.

There are many topics where objects are unavailable, the teaching of which must necessarily be left to the use of text-books and the skill of the teacher. On these, the teacher should place no dependence on the text-book other than as a mere guide and work of reference, drawing upon his own stock of common sense and individuality to place the subject within the grasp of all.

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