

AMONG THE PINES.

My last communication to you was from Southern Oregon. But as I have found new fields I will pen you a few lines from my present stopping place at Sisson, Calif. As I have been in this vicinity for a little over a year, except a short visit home, I have become quite well acquainted with the climate. No doubt you, as well as many others, have been wonderfully misinformed about this country, but I shall try without prejudice to tell you about this part of California (the same being the northern part) as I see it. It is a mountainous country—no farming to amount to anything north of Sacramento Valley except in Shasta Valley and Fall River Valley, which is 50 miles east of the railroad, their nearest shipping point is Sisson. But it is a lovely valley, the soil being very rich and one of the finest of grazing countries in all northern California. The streams are filled almost to an overflow with the finest of trout which can be caught by fly fishing all winter which would seem strange to many of the anglers of Washington county. Fall River Valley is also a great winter quarter for ducks and many thousands of them are marketed there during the winter season. Another great production of that country is abundant crop of apples, for they raise them by the wholesale.

Not aiming to slight Shasta Valley, I must frankly acknowledge it is a lovely scope of country of good land and all the farmers seem to be prosperous and doing fairly well. Most of them have a bunch of cattle that they drive to the mountains in the summer and take them to their homes in the valley and feed them during the winter. The advance in prices have caused these owners to reap quite a harvest. But these two valleys include all the farming of this country.

The people here are mostly men used to working in the timber and mills, as there are many saw mills in the vicinity of Sisson. But, generally speaking, you will find most of them good, quiet citizens, and the most able-bodied men of any country. A great many come here to work through the season and go to the city or some little town and lay around for the winter then return in the spring for another season's work.

Around the small railroad towns one will find many idlers that don't want to work but they manage to live by some way, but the true way I will not try to tell you. There is a wonderful sight of gambling going on here and there are lots of them that are that class of men.

This country is blessed with abundance of timber, especially sugar and yellow pine, which is very valuable when manufactured into lumber, but lots of the lumber is manufactured into boxes here and shipped to various parts of the Pacific coast, though they are not nailed together before shipping.

The timber of this country furnishes an abundant employment as there are numerous mills and box factories. If some of my Washington county friends could see Sisson on a Sunday they would say, by what men come to town, that there must be a mill or factory on every five acres of ground in this country, but such is not the case, but it requires lots of men to run a big mill where they cut from eighty to one hundred and twenty thousand feet a day and stack it all up separate to dry.

Wood-cutting is quite an industry here. There is one contract near here for 30,000 cords of railroad wood at \$1.25 per cord, which is no small job of itself, but the price of hauling is not quoted, for I never heard any one say. The climate here is very changeable, as some term it. Snow, rain and sunshine all in one hour is almost right but we had one of our nice March's as the world could ask for, and furthermore a nice open winter.

The mills all shut down on or about the first of November, except the big mill at Sisson, where I have been working ever since I came here.

One bad thing, however, I will say for the weather's being so changeable. It causes much sickness. There is lots of malaria here which surprised me for so high an elevation, but in many places this country seems to be a bog underneath, which helps to contribute to the malaria and different kinds of fever.

There are many kinds of sport here as there are many summer resorts. Along the Sacramento river there are a number of fine mineral springs that people visit by hundreds and they create all sorts of sport. Some are dancing, some singing, while others are preaching and praying, so there must be a lively time in some old town to be sure.

Deer afford much sport for hunters for they are quite plentiful, besides quail, ducks and geese as well as a very large silver grey squirrel, which afford much sport on account of their never setting still long enough to get to shoot one with a rifle.

There is a fish hatchery here at Sisson that is something nice to visit; they have trout of all sizes and several different varieties. The choicest is the Rainbow trout a kind I never saw in the streams of Oregon. If possible, on my return home I will take 500 or 1000 of them and turn them in some stream up near my farm house. They grow to weigh from 3 to 8 pounds which makes fine sport for the fishermen.

I almost forgot to tell you we are

not much troubled with Chinese here though there are lots of dagos and it is common to hear every day some one say that they wish Italy (meaning the laboring class) would join with Spain so they would have a good excuse to wage a civil war on the dagos of this country. They would not hesitate one moment. There would not be one of them left in a month—not a single can on the dump. The fever of war runs very high here, much higher than one would suppose. But the majority of the people endorse McKinley's action until the last but all express themselves as thinking he is entirely too slow in acting.

As for labor there is lots of work here but unless a man understands lumbering he could do as well in the log run up there as here, possibly not, but I should not advise anyone to come, go or stay.

Sincerely yours,
W. P. GRAHAM.

REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The following State Central Committee was appointed at the late republican convention the same being one member from each county in the state.

Baker—F. L. Moore.
Benton—J. Fred Yates.
Clatsop—Frank J. Taylor.
Columbia—Norman Merrill.
Coos—C. W. Orive.
Crook—C. M. Cartwright.
Curry—William Gamble.
Douglas—A. W. Reed.
Gilliam—W. W. Steiwer.
Grant—J. A. Powell.
Harney—J. J. Donegan.
Jackson—H. E. Ankeny.
Josephine—J. C. Campbell.
Klamath—Rufus S. Moore.
Lake—Eldon M. Brattain.
Lane—S. B. Eakin.
Lincoln—C. B. Crono.
Linn—M. H. Ellis.
Malheur—C. H. Brown.
Marion—McKinley Mitchell.
Morrow—G. W. Phelps.
Multnomah—O. F. Paxton.
Polk—Ira S. Smith.
Sherman—W. H. Moore.
Tillamook—T. B. Handley.
Umatilla—Lot Livermore.
Union—J. M. Church.
Wallowa—F. D. McCully.
Washington—W. D. Wood.
Yamhill—J. F. Calbreath.

The committee organized by selecting Geo. A. Steel of Multnomah chairman and empowering him to choose his own secretary.

WORK COMMENCED.

Mr. R. C. Judson, industrial agent of the O. R. & N., arrived in Walla Walla Wednesday to complete arrangements for the establishment of the O. R. & N. experimental farm, two miles west of that city.

Mr. Judson said that 15 acres of land short distance west of the Blackfoot fruit farm had been prepared for the reception of seeds, and during the season experiments in grasses, tobacco and other things will be prosecuted. The 15 acres of land will be blocked off into squares and upon each plot some experiment will be made. Dozens of grasses will be tried; the Japan clover tested in this climate, and English peas, which are very profitable, will be given space. A space will be devoted to Japanese hemp. This is said to be a very profitable article when climate conditions are favorable, the producer receiving not less than \$200 an acre therefrom where soil and other conditions are congenial. This hemp will also be tested on alkali soil as it is said to drive alkali out of the land. The Mercer corn, an early and heavy yielding variety, is to be cultivated. This variety is attracting much attention throughout the East. White Corn sweet corn and other varieties will find a place on the farm.

An experiment that will be watched with interest will be the growing of sugar cane. The amber cane will be thoroughly tried. Three different varieties of tobacco will be tried; 10,000 plants are now growing in hot beds in Pendleton, and as soon as all danger of frosts has passed, the plants will be transplanted. The seed for some of these was procured from the island of Sumatra. Havana tobacco plants, procured from a Cuban, will also be tested. A test will be made of 55,000 different plants procured from a successful tobacco grower of the South.

"We have come to Walla Walla to make these experiments," said Mr. Judson, "at the earnest solicitation of the leading farmers of the community, and I feel that the O. R. & N. industrial station is going to be productive of good."

"Will you look after the Walla Walla station yourself?"

"No, I have appointed Mr. Richard McGahey to have charge of the station near Walla Walla. He will be given seeds of grasses and other things with which we wish to make experiments, and will distribute the same to farmers who are anxious to make tests for themselves."

"Will Mr. McGahey keep track of what seeds he distributes?"

"Yes, he will visit the farmers occasionally and ascertain what success is being attained. In this way, too, he will be able to see who properly planted and took care of the seeds given them. The seeds will be distributed gratis."

Expecting that the publisher of the Tillamook Headlight proposes to publish a daily during the time the war lasts which he estimates at three months or less.

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SPANISH MARKSMANSHIP.

If the American navy were not in its present condition immeasurably superior to the Spanish navy in numbers, tonnage and character, even no doubt exists that victory is assured. With their ships outnumbered two to one, the American sailors and crews could still win in any battle that occurs. The American gunners are still up to their former marksmen, and the Spanish gunners are so ill-trained that I can quote countless instances where Spanish men-of-war have fired from 20 to 60 shots at a large object on the Cuban coast and failed to touch it. On the coast of Camagney, three months ago, the cruiser Reina Mercedes was lying outside at a distance of two miles and a horse was grazing very close to the shore. The Reina Mercedes fired 60 shells at that horse, just to give her gunners practice and the horse a little exercise. The gunners got the practice, but the horse was not even interested. The indifferent animal went on eating, and the only sign of activity it gave was to switch off some flies with his tail. I've always felt sorry for the vanity of these gunners.

Discipline and skill of crews on the American ships are proverbial. With Spanish sailors things are different. I have had many Spanish men-of-war under me on recent pleasure trips I took to Cuba in order to renew my acquaintance with General Gomez, Diaz and others, who really could not get along without me. These Spanish sailors were no doubt good enough stokers, but they could not row a boat in a teapot.

The world will be surprised at the ease with which Spain's navy will be dispersed; that is, if Spain consents to fight at all. My opinion all along has been that at the last moment Spain will concede everything. That opinion has not changed one jot.

BRYAN'S STATE DOING WELL.

If William J. Bryan still has his face turned toward 1900 he should take steps forthwith to abolish the Nebraska bureau of industrial statistics. For what shall it profit a calamity wailer to go up and down in the land preaching of industrial depression if the official statisticians of his own state saw broadcast the glad tidings of returning prosperity? According to a statement just issued by the Nebraska state bureau, covering the last six months of 1897, there were 5,678 farm mortgages filed in Nebraska, aggregating \$5,576,733 of indebtedness, and during the same period 8,235 farm mortgages were released, representing a total debt cancellation of \$7,557,395. There were also 2,252 city mortgages filed, representing \$1,890,930, and 3,969 city mortgages released, representing \$4,245,918. The gold standard is still in full effect and the Nebraska farmers actually are paying their debts and getting rich under it. Something should be done about this at once.—Chicago Times-Herald.

YAMHILL FUSIONISTS.

The tripple headers in Yamhill county will hold their conventions on the 25th. But all is not serene with the reform forces in Yamhill. A news report of a few days ago states that when the populist party met in county convention here a short time ago they did not perfect permanent organization or elect a county chairman. In the call now issued there is no provision for this. This, populists say, is due wholly to Chairman Kirkwood's neglect. The rank and file are "warm." The party has been, they say, virtually turned over to the union bosses. Your correspondent learns that there is a movement on the part of the middle-of-the-roads to call a county convention to reorganize the populist party.

Just what the outcome of this middle will be, cannot be told at this time.

The importation of wool in the past six months under the Dingley tariff law was only 51,786,000 pounds against 73,195,000 in the corresponding six months of the preceding year, under the Wilson law, while in the six months just prior to the enactment of the new law the total importations of wool were five times as great as those of the past six months, being 280,000,000 pounds in round numbers. There was also a large reduction in the importation of sugar in the first six months of the Dingley law against 1,553,000,000 pounds in the corresponding six months of the preceding year under the Wilson law, as was also the case in fruits, vegetables, hay, clover and other articles of farm production.

"A word to the wise is sufficient" and a word from the wise should be sufficient, but you ask, who are the wise? Those who know. The oft repeated experience of trustworthy persons may be taken for knowledge. Mr. W. M. Terry says Chamberlain's Cough Remedy gives better satisfaction than any other in the market. He has been in the drug business at Elkton, Ky., for twelve years; has sold hundreds of bottles of this remedy and nearly all other cough medicines manufactured, which shows conclusively that Chamberlain's is the most satisfactory to the people, and is the best. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

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Forest Grove, Or. April 17, 1898.
Owing to the fact that there will be county political conventions held at Hillsboro on May 13, and that many veterans may be in attendance at each of these, it has been decided, after due deliberation and counsel to change the order calling on the semi-annual meeting of the Washington County Veterans Association at Forest Grove Thursday May 20th, to read "Saturday May 21st. Comrades and non-comrades will please govern themselves accordingly."
R. W. McVitt, Secy.
H. F. GORDON, Pres.

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100 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.

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8:30 A.M.	7:00 P.M.	4:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	4:00 P.M.

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