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Land in the Willamette valley will probably show about as poor results under a poor system of cultivation, owing to the dry season through the latter part of June and July, as any country, and on the other hand the results that may be obtained by good cultivation are something wonderful. In farming the soil in the valley it is doubly true that what is worth doing is worth doing well. There is no profit for the tiller of the soil in any other course.

It is generally conceded by those who are well acquainted with conditions that Oregon is the most prosperous section of the country at the present time. The postal receipts serve as an excellent index to financial conditions and Postal Inspector E. C. Clement, who was in town Monday, said the rapid increase in the receipts at the various postoffices throughout the Willamette valley during the past year was away beyond anything ever before shown. Many valley towns have been slow to respond to the new conditions but practically all of them are now showing an awakening that is bringing results.

The impression is out that visitors to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition to be held at Seattle, are going to be held up for exorbitant prices for living expenses. If the Seattle people are making arrangements to fleece the people in this way they will be badly left, for it will very soon react against the Exposition and the attendance will be cut correspondingly short. It may be all talk, and we sincerely hope that this is the case, for a successful fair at Seattle will greatly benefit the whole north-west country. During the Lewis and Clark fair, Portland kept charges down to a satisfactory basis, thus keeping the good will of the people and the reward came in the way of a large attendance of visitors who went away feeling well pleased with the treatment they received. It always pays to give your visitors a square deal. A good word from them said in your favor when they return home is a valuable asset.

Show Us, Mr. Oliver.

On the question of municipal ownership of utilities there is always room for a difference of opinion among people, and A. P. Oliver is entitled to his views, as expressed in an article in the Enterprise last week, yet there is grave suspicion that had the Graphic first spoken in favor of the city buying and operating the electric light plant, Mr. Oliver would have seen his way clear to take the other side of the argument.

He warms up to the subject however and in his enthusiasm he closes with this optimistic suggestion: "Think of it a moment. Two systems, both bringing a profit to the city, and the revenue, a part could be applied on city parks, city hall and in various ways beautify our city."

This sounds well we must admit, and doubtless there will be few who will oppose the proposition, if they can be shown how it can be made to work out as he suggests. But since it is known that our water system is being operated at a very low cost, and that while it has been in operation eleven years, only about \$4,500. has been paid on the original cost of the plant, and that there is now no surplus

on hand to liquidate the same, and further that our city council saw it necessary to levy an eight mill tax this year to meet running expenses, we are not quite able to see how our friend, Oliver is going to build parks and erect a new city hall from the savings of a water and light system.

Anybody knows that in the matter of operating expenses there is no comparison to be made between a gravity water system and a lighting system. In the former the water simply runs down hill and furnishes its own power, while in the latter the matter of fuel, engines, dynamos and skilled men to operate them must be taken into account.

Of course it must be admitted that Mr. Oliver is one of our shrewd business men and if he can show us how he can make his "ideal" work we must stand from under, but in his suggestion that now is the time to take a vote on the question, it would appear that he is hasty, since the franchise of the Yamhill Electric Co. has three years yet to run.

Stop Marathon Running.

The sad death of a little Spokane boy, as the result of an effort to emulate the Marathon runners who have recently attracted attention by their exhibitions of endurance, again emphasizes the danger of this kind of sport, says the Spokane Review.

The original Marathon run had a patriotic purpose and will always have romantic and historic interest, but the modern endurance tests have nothing to commend them, and it is very likely that they will be eliminated from the Olympic games.

Many of the contestants fall exhausted and others finish the run in a delirious state. Fatalities are inevitable if the contests are kept up, and the performances are hardly elevating. The strain of long-distance is extremely severe for young boys and for anyone who has not fortified himself by strict training.

According to an old idea, an athlete contended for a prize in contests of strength, but the barbarous spirit has been gradually disappearing from sports, and athletics now has a boarder meaning. It stands for something of great value and general usefulness to humanity. Its purposes are healthful and symmetrical development of the body and pleasant recreation, without overexertion and injurious exhaustion.

Bad for the Future of the Farm.

According to the Ladies Home Journal, a bachelor girl in a certain town in the United States decided to do something in behalf of the wives and daughters on the farm. To ascertain the condition of farm life and the feeling of farm women 1100 letters were sent out and the 956 that answered the queries revealed the following facts:

"Three-fourths of the girls said they did not want a farmer for a husband, because—and this answer was general—they had seen how their mothers slaved from dawn, and before dawn, to night; and they had seen—and this was significant—they had seen all too plainly how their fathers think of nothing but their cattle and crops, to the sacrifice of their wives. 'The cattle must have everything; Mother nothing.' A positive dread of the farm, 'farmophobia,' possessed these farmers' daughters, of a marriageable age, to an alarming extent.

"Not that we are afraid of work; God knows we work hard enough," said they. "But," said one, "look at the day: from two to ten hired men to feed." Said another: "Not a horse on our farm works so hard or so long as Father lets Mother work." And wrote another. "See where Mother and the average farmer's wife have to

work: mostly in one room, always facing the chicken-yard, hog-pen or worse." Wrote still another: "Not a convenience has Mother in her kitchen; but Father has every new contrivance in his barn, and he has plenty of means: land all paid for; money in bank, yet not a hired girl."

All this from the daughters! And what did the overworked wives themselves say? The same thing.

In nearly every letter from a farmer's wife was the cry raised of lack of consideration on the part of the "men-folks." One tired little woman—you could tell she was tired by the way she wrote—told of her six small children: of a farm of 360 acres entirely paid for, with sixty cows and three hired men, and money in the bank. No hired girl, although she had asked for one over and over again. She had no washing-machine, no sewing-machine, no facilities for baking and doing things, a wretched old cook-stove, and not enough pans or dishes. She had been saving her "egg-money" for five years to buy a nice rug for the sitting room, which needed it greatly, and her husband had taken the money to buy him a new gasoline engine for the barn! She had saved again to get a dummy-waiter made in the floor of her kitchen to let down things into the cellar, so as to save her the journey which she had made for eleven years six or ten times a day. But her husband had told her that the dummy wasn't necessary, and that a new sulky plow was.

Here is food for thought, but the difficulty is, it is almost impossible to get the "men-folks" who are responsible for such conditions, to stop and do the necessary thinking. Some may say the picture is overdrawn, but those familiar with conditions of farm life throughout the country are aware that it is no uncommon thing to see farmer's wives hard worked for fourteen to sixteen hours a day, with the commonest kind of conveniences lacking about the home, and as for luxuries they are entirely unknown to them.

It is about as often as otherwise, that you find such conditions existing where the husband is financially able to make it easier for his wife, if he cared as much for her comfort as he does for making and saving money. He is himself a slave to money making, and he thinks nothing of making a slave of the woman he has promised to love and cherish.

Portland Notes.

The steam threshermen of Oregon, some seven hundred strong, representing an investment of over two and a half million dollars, are to meet in convention in the Assembly Hall of the Portland Commercial Club May 6th and 7th. It will be the first meeting of the State Association since the organization was perfected last fall.

Secretary Philip S. Bates has the programme already well under way. Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, has appointed a special representative to discuss Good Roads; B. B. Clark, Editor of the American Thresherman and the best known authority in the entire country on threshing organization work, will address the meetings on Eastern Association methods. Prof. A. L. Rose, ranking equally high as a Traction Engine School man, will also be in attendance and talk. On the first evening of the convention a banquet will be served at the Commercial Club, and Secretary Bates is also arranging other entertainment.

After a spirited session of the State Editorial Association at Portland, the editors are at home again. Decision as to an advertising policy that should be uniform among the press of the entire state was one of the most important features of the convention. Special luncheons were tendered the delegates both Friday and Saturday at the Commercial Club.

Though the commercial bodies of the Coast were disappointed that the Chicago school children did not accept the invitation tendered them through the Chicago Association of Commerce, the invitation has borne fruit, and from June 2nd to June 19th a large party of Chicago business men will come to the Pacific North-west under the auspices of the Association, including various Oregon points in their itinerary.

Chehalis Center.

Mrs. French, sister of W. R. Carter is visiting with them at present. Mrs. H. C. Paulsen accompanied by Beth and Harold spent Easter in Portland. Mrs. Hattie Ellison and young son of Dayton visited, over Sunday, at the Atkinson home. Last Thursday evening Rev. Lindley Wells of Portland gave a missionary address which was well attended.

Mrs. Cyrene Palmer had the misfortune to fall in such a way as to break her wrist, but is getting along nicely. Rev. John F. Hanson of Portland delivered splendid sermons Sunday morning and evening on the subject of "Peace."

Dundee Items.

W. H. Taylor was buried Friday afternoon. Mrs. A. D. McEwan was a week end visitor to Portland. Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Bailey and family have moved to Newberg. Mrs. Shanahan's mother is visiting with her for some weeks. Mrs. Elwin A. McCornack entertained the ladies of the Red

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Hills Friday afternoon of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards returned home yesterday after a visit with their daughter, Mrs. Frank Keyes.

April 12 being Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Powells sixth anniversary the neighbors took well filled baskets and went over on Easter Sunday to help them celebrate the event. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Powell, Mrs. Van Woisky, Miss Ethelyn Adams of Portland, Mrs. Elwin McCornack, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Greer, Mr. W. F. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Hatch.

Card of Thanks.

To all the friends and neighbors who by their help and sympathy assisted us in our bereavement, we tender our sincere thanks.

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