

REX

W. G. Wardack, of Portland, was in Rex a few hours last week looking after his acreage.

Mrs. Mary Johnson, Miss Marjorie Johnson, Frank Nelson, James Hess and Miss Etta Hess were over from Chehalis Center last Saturday evening to take in the special program of the Rural Improvement Club.

Needmore Mill, the old landmark for many years, has been torn down by J. W. Moore and Elmer Wright.

Paul Lewis is home from the O. A. C., and is spending his vacation with his father at Rex.

Lee Rennie was a Rex visitor last week and stayed over for the special program.

Mrs. Wallace, of Portland, who has been with her daughter, Mrs. A. H. Dean, for some weeks, the latter having broken her wrist, left for her home last Saturday.

Albert Ridgway, of Portland, was in Rex last week looking after the Polsky Orchard Tracts.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. West left last Monday for Seattle to visit their son who lives in that city. Mr. West will also visit Puyallup, Washington, and inspect the cannery at that place. Inasmuch as he is one of the newly elected directors of the Newberg Cannery, Mr. West is interested in looking over this model cannery of Washington.

Mrs. S. Sanpolis entertained at a Valentine luncheon Tuesday last.

The water system installed for Moore Bros. duck ranch by J. P. Sawyer last season, is proving very satisfactory. A concrete reservoir underground with holding capacity of 100 barrels catches the water from several springs leading into it, which springs furnish between one and two hundred barrels every 24 hours. The reservoir is connected with the duck plant by half a mile of 1½ inch service pipe which gives 60 pounds pressure over the entire plant.

Sixteen dollars was realized from the special program given by the Rex Rural Improvement Club last Saturday evening, and the program committee feel well repayed for their efforts.

The program given last Saturday evening by the Rural Improvement Club of Rex was in every way a success. The schoolhouse was filled to overflowing with an appreciative and enthusiastic audience, and the entire program met with their hearty approval. The comedy, "Too Much Married" carried the listeners along in a gale of laughter, and Robert Odell in the

role of Jerry Finnigan, the gardener, was the hit of the evening, although all of the characters took their parts admirably. After the program, lunch was served to the hungry crowd, and in doing this a clever little plan was observed. On each plate was fastened a rhyme beginning with a letter of the alphabet. The three drawing the plates with the letters R-E-X on them were entitled to come to the next program free, and Henry Seidel, Louis Young and Ross Wiley have that honor. At the short business meeting preceding the program, J. W. Moore, president, gave a short talk, and his remarks were so well selected, so appropriate, and met with such hearty applause, that we think them well worth giving below: "What I am about to say is not on the program so there is no charge for this. Some of you know, and I want the rest of you to know that they took advantage of my absence from the last meeting and elected me president of the Rex Rural Improvement Club, and since the scheme fathered by Mr. Dean, and aided and abetted in the carrying out by those present at that meeting has been accomplished, I will accept on condition that I am backed by the members, and with the hope that the organization will be supported by the community in order that we may accomplish something worth while. I understand from one of the retiring officers that complaint has been made that a charge of admission is made for this evening's entertainment. I want to go on record here and now as decidedly opposed to giving everything free when we are in need of funds for so many things, some of which may be hinted at later. While we will give as before occasional free programs, there are times when more time, trouble and expense is put forth in getting up an evening's entertainment, and we hold that our friends from either mountain, Fernwood Valley or our own people will enjoy it more and feel better if we relieve them of some of their surplus change so long as the proceeds are used for some commendable purpose. Some of us not long ago had the pleasure of attending an entertainment at the Gibb's school which was finished in every way and a credit to everyone taking part, but were disappointed in that no admission was charged.

Now one or two suggestions as to what we will try to do. I would like to be empowered or instructed to appoint a committee of one or more to take up with Wells, Fargo Express Co. the appointment of an express

agent at Rex. If any of the directors are here, and I hope they are, when they hear what I am about to say, some of you nearest them may hear them say that Moore is peddling more of his hot air. I only have to say in reply that I have it in for Mr. Dean for being where I am tonight. Mr. Sanderman and I seldom agree on any subject and I will run my chances on Mr. Kane. I have in mind a new school building on our present school lot, with concrete basement, with kitchen, making it possible to serve suppers or meals with satisfaction to any gathering we may have. It could be used as a manual training work shop or playground in bad weather; four class rooms on first floor and an auditorium or hall on the second floor in which could be staged entertainments or a regulation basketball game, and if it is borne in mind when building, a trapeze or two, horizontal bars and a mat or two could be arranged for at a very small expense, making it possible for gymnastic work to be taken up in a limited way. I understand Mr. Sawyer is somewhat of a gymnast and has instructed in this branch in the city of Boise, Idaho. He has offered to take a class in gymnastics if it is so desired. Occasional educational conventions or rallies could be handled with satisfaction and advantage where several districts get together for a day or two session. This is a great educational feature and is becoming more and more popular as it reaches those of us who may have long since left the class room and furnishes the practical information to the scholar of today. This rally we are expecting here on the 13th, with speakers from the State College. I am ashamed to think we are not better fitted to take care of such a gathering. This is only one of many we might have if we can handle them. A room somewhere in the building could be used as a reading room; one of the free circulating libraries could be obtained and used to good advantage; many lines of work could be taken up that would be very helpful. A great deal is being done and said, and large amounts spent all over our country on this "Back to the Farm Movement," where if part of this effort was used in surrounding the young people of the rural districts with up-to-date educational and social advantages, it would go a long way toward solving the problem of overcrowded centers of population. Now there may be among those present tonight various opinions as to our need of such a building. Some may say we need it now, and I want to say I am one of that number; others may say a year or two, and still others may say it will be three years before we need this building. To be frank with you, if we do nothing in this direction for three years I think you will find you need it less then you do now. But granting we intend to build three years hence. From a business standpoint, in my judgment, the time to build would be this summer. Have things ready to go right at it as soon as the school term is over. Thousands of visitors and may be prospective settlers will be passing this way this year, either by automobile or on the Southern Pacific excursions around the loop, to or from the Exposition, and any building operations we may have on the way will be placed to our credit. You can get labor and material for a great deal less, for I believe there is a season of prosperity about to dawn on us that will surprise us. Now just a word as to what it will cost us individually, assuming we can put up such a building (by using the material in present building, and donated work to the extent of a few hundred dollars). For the sum of \$3,500, it will cost on the total valuation of the district about \$2.94 on each

\$1000 assessed value per year for eight years, when it would be paid off. Some of us go out for a day or evening, spend that much and say we have had a good time and come home with nothing to show for it. If the suggestion to build this summer, finds favor, the proceeds from this entertainment may start a building fund, and I will go further, I will be one of 15 to donate \$20 worth of work with man and team. Let us all be Irish in this, that the best is none too good for the Irish; reclaim for the Rex school the ninth and tenth grades, be willing to play second fiddle to none, have a modern school building, up-to-date equipment throughout, and make it in fact as well as name a community social center. Am I right?

FAMINE FOODS.

Strange Dishes Were Served in Paris During Siege of 1870.

In a letter by Henry Labouchere, which is quoted by Mr. A. L. Thorold in his life of the distinguished journalist, he describes, not without a characteristic touch of humor, the extremes to which the inhabitants of Paris were driven during the siege of 1870.

I went to see what was going on in the house of a friend of mine in the Avenue de l'Imperatrice, who has left Paris. The servant who was in charge told me they had not been able to obtain bread for three days and that the last time he had presented his ticket he had been given about half an inch of cheese.

"How do you live, then?" I asked. After looking mysteriously round to see that no one was watching us, he took me down into the cellar and pointed to some meat in a barrel. "It is half a horse," he said in the tone of a man who is showing some one the corpse of his murdered victim. "A neighboring coachman killed him, and we salted him down and divided him." Then he opened a closet in which sat a huge cat. "I am fattening her up for Christmas. We mean to serve her up surrounded with meelike sausages."

On Jan. 6 Labouchere notes: "Yesterday I had a slice of Pollux for dinner. Castor and his brother Pollux are two elephants that have been killed. The meat was tough, coarse and oily, and I do not recommend English families to eat elephant when they can get beef or mutton. Many of the restaurants are closed for lack of fuel. They use lamps, but even French cooks when they are called upon to cook an elephant with a spirit lamp find the thing almost beyond their ingenuity. Castor's and Pollux's trunks sold for 45 francs a pound; the other parts of the interesting twins fetched about 10 francs a pound."

Not all the strange foods eaten during the siege were as unalluring. On the subject of donkey Labouchere says: "Donkey is infinitely better eating than beef or mutton. Indeed, I do not know any meat that is better. Let any one who doubts the excellence of cold donkey slay one of these weak minded animals, cook him and eat him."

Bonner's Famous Advertisement.

When the New York Ledger was wavering on the brink of failure Robert Bonner, the proprietor, sent to the New York Herald a brief advertisement, to be set up in a single line. So Greeley's was Mr. Bonner's handwriting that the advertising manager interpreted the directions as ordering that the copy be run in full page, which instructions he obeyed, though marveling greatly. The Herald came out the next morning with one whole page devoted to the crisp adjuration to read the Ledger's new story. The effect upon Mr. Bonner was almost fatal, first from chagrin at the thought of the possible bill, then from amazement as subscriptions began to pour in and finally from satisfaction as they continued to flood the office until the fortune of the publication was made. The novel though accidental device had struck the public's fancy. Mr. Bonner was hailed as the pioneer of a new and daring theory of exploitation.

A Testamentary Puzzle.

An Englishman who died had three children, one son and two daughters, and he mentioned all of them in his will.

The first clause is, "I leave my piano to Mary Elizabeth when Arthur has done with it." The other clause is, "To Susan Jane—she may take whatever Arthur wishes to give to her."

There is no doubt of Arthur's standing in the document, but the pointed question is raised, Are Mary Elizabeth and Susan Jane beneficiaries under the will?

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