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The Farmer and Merchant Again.

Editor Courier: Having been asked by several for my views of the correspondence which has been published the past three weeks regarding the treatment of farmers, I beg to give you a few thoughts of the existing conditions from the standpoint of a merchant who, by the way, was raised on a farm in this county. As to a rest place for ladies I heartily agree with Mr. Lucke that it is one of the most essential necessities and for which I made ample calculations when I opened my business house by giving the most prominent part of my store room and fitting up same with suitable furniture so it would be comfortable for any one, and advertised it very extensively in all the local papers. This alone cost something like \$35, and, figuring on rental of place, as one should, would cost \$100 per year for maintenance, and then to have it ignored by some of the people as they seem to be doing, does not cause one to be in any too good way for lending a helping hand. But that is all right, for I am aware that some do appreciate it and I am sure there is plenty of room and a cordial welcome to any others who might wish to come. As to handling your produce, it might be well to go into details a little, so as to make it plainer for the farmer, who possibly does not take into consideration the cost of doing business. We all have to pay for rentals, insurance, clerkship and miscellaneous expenses such as light, water, etc., which amounts to about 12 per cent of the average grocery man's business. Now any one can get 8 per cent for his money loaned on good gilt edge security, and the 12 per cent of the cost of doing business, the amount you have to dig up every 30 days or be closed out, and 8 per cent which you are justly entitled to for accommodating the poor man, who is being robbed by us, would necessarily cause us to have to get 20 per cent for doing business, and there isn't a grocery man in the city of Grants Pass made that in the past five years.

Now as to the price paid for your produce. It has been the custom in this city to pay the farmer in merchandise the same for his produce as it was sold for and up to this summer I have done the same, but it isn't right. For instance, the heaviest demand for groceries from the farmers is sugar and flour. A sack of sugar today sells for \$6.75 a sack; a sack of the best flour sells for \$1.85. The flour costs \$1.75. Now, then we may say you brought us butter and eggs and traded for a sack of sugar or flour, as the case may be. We pay you whatever the butter and eggs are selling for and keep your butter on ice until sold and send your eggs out over town in wagons and take the risk of breakage for the small sum of 11 cents on \$6.81 invested, or 3 cents on \$1.75 invested, as the case may be. Who is getting robbed. Oh, well, you may say that we don't trade butter and eggs all the time. Quite true. Take for instance, on berries that we buy from you. I tried to sell at retail for 25 per cent advance this summer; that is, we made a difference of 25 cents per crate selling them out at a few boxes at a time; otherwise we sold them by the crate for the same as we paid for them, and if any were left over night they were closed out for about one-half price or carted out to the garbage. Who makes the profit on them? On your bunch vegetables we pay you 45 and 50 cents per dozen bunches. Same are retailed out at 5 cents per bunch, 6 bunches for 25 cents or 50 cents per dozen. We all lose from one to three or four bunches of some varieties every day, depending, of course, on the season and supply and demand for different kinds of vegetables. Where is our profit? On potatoes, onions, cabbage or such varieties that come in quantity we figure from a quarter to half a cent advance in selling at retail, depending, of course, on the supply and price, so that it will cover shrinkage, as all that class of produce necessarily has considerable loss. Now as to the farmer not getting cash for his produce. I am proud to be able to dispute this article. When I first started in business I always quoted a cash and trade price on all commodities brought to me, but it appears that all or most of them wanted the trade price as they only had a small amount and they needed the merchandise. Could use it to a better advantage than taking the discount which they claimed was as good as cash to them. At present there is scarcely a day passes that we don't pay out cash for produce to the farmers around here. Now, dear friends, you raise a good article, put it up in first-class shape and you can always sell it to a good advantage and at a cost price if you are willing to allow the

merchant a reasonable profit for handling the same; which should not be less than 25 per cent on all perishable produce. Now as to the Fruit Exchange handling everything. I believe it to be one of the best things that could happen to our city and would help to maintain prices for the farmers' produce. For example, there is no market price to go by. We are all afraid to buy any quantity of produce for fear our neighbor has bought a little cheaper, and consequently will undersell us and cause a loss to us. For example, suppose Mr. Jones comes in town with a load of potatoes, he stops at two or three stores and we are all loaded, or perhaps he might sell five to ten sacks at the market price and it begins to seem to him that he is going to have a hard time to dispose of his load so he drives on to the next man, who has all that he can use, and by this time Mr. Jones wants to go home—possibly is in a hurry—so he will say "If you will take what I have left, you can have them for (possibly) 1/2 cent under what I sold the rest for." What is the consequence? The man that bought last cuts the price and the other fellows have to compete or lose their customers, and the next man that comes along can't sell his unless every one is out, and more than likely has to take the price that Mr. Jones made in order to sell at all. Consequently where is our market gone to? There are conditions that come up every day and which can't be remedied unless there is some place here to dispose of your produce, so that we are all on a market basis. Respectfully yours,
J. O. GIBSON.

What Is Best for Indigestion?

M. A. Robinson, of Drumquinn, Ontario, has been troubled for years with indigestion, and recommends Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets as "the best medicine I ever used." If troubled with indigestion or constipation give them a trial. They are certain to prove beneficial. They are easy to take and pleasant in effect. Price 25 cents. Samples free at M. Clemens' drug store.

Runaway on Swede Basin Road.

An exciting runaway occurred last Sunday three miles the other side of Love's Station on the Swede Basin road, in which Mrs. C. C. Gilbert was severely bruised and the other occupants of the hack, C. C. Gilbert, his brother and the driver, James Flowers, were more or less shaken up. The accident occurred on a steep mountain road and was caused by the screw in the fumble end of the neck yoke working out, thereby letting the thimble slip off. This caused the tongue to drop down and the hack tipped up against the horses before the brake could stop the wagon and the team became frightened and ran down the steep decline. The tongue was broken and in this perilous condition the horses dashed around a sharp curve and an axle broke, the wheel going 1500 feet into the canyon below and the conveyance fell about 20 feet, lodging against a tree. C. C. Gilbert jumped out before the curve was reached, but his wife was thrown out and sustained injuries which, together with the fright, caused her to faint. After the horses had been caught, Mrs. Gilbert was found in an unconscious state and thinking she was dead, Mrs. Gilbert's brother went to Love's Station and telephoned to this city for a doctor, who on examination found her to be badly bruised and shaken up and injured to some extent which, however, is not considered serious. She was brought to this city and is now at the home of Mrs. L. E. Gilbert.

This rig was sent out for Mr. Gilbert and his wife and brother from the Burkhalter & Parker stables of this city and was in perfect condition when it left here, but in some unaccountable manner the screw worked loose in the neck yoke and caused the mischief. Burkhalter & Parker are always very particular about the rigs they send out and send none but those they know from personal inspection are in the best of condition. Since this accident they have had all the neck yokes in their stables removed and have riveted the thimbles in place in a manner which makes it impossible for similar accidents to occur. The driver, James Flowers, is considered one of the best in the county and had a poor driver been in his place the accident might have proven far more serious.

Baby Morphine Fiends

are made by all soothing syrups and baby medicines that contain opium and narcotics. McGee's Baby Balm contains no injurious or narcotic drugs of any kind. A sure and safe cure for disordered stomachs, bowels and fretfulness—splendid for teething infants. Sold by National Drug Store.

PROMINENT LADY DIES

FRUITDALE MOURNS

Mrs. Florence Breitmayer Died at the South Pacific Hospital Saturday Morning.

Another home has been entered by the fell destroyer and a young wife and mother taken from its sheltering influence. Mrs. Florenz Breitmayer died at the South Pacific hospital on Saturday after a severe illness of two weeks duration; which she bore with Christian fortitude from first to last. At a late hour on Thursday night, it having been decided to resort to a surgical operation, she was removed from her beautiful home at Fruitdale to the hospital at Grants Pass. The noted Portland surgeon, Dr. Coffey, came here to perform the operation, which took place at about noon Friday. But neither surgical skill or loving friends could save her. While she rallied from the shock of the operation she died at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning. It cannot be said that her death was unexpected, yet when the blow came her many friends in Fruitdale and this city were overcome with grief. The funeral and interment will be at the old home in Jacksonville, Mich., for which place the sorrowing husband and little son, William, accompanied the remains on the Saturday evening train.

Mrs. Breitmayer joined her husband here in October last; he having purchased property and built a home in Fruitdale preparatory to the coming of his wife and three-year-old son. From the very first she made strong friends of all she met and bound them to her with enduring cords of love. She was at the time of her death 39 years old, having been born in Germany in the month of June, 1870, from which country she came to the United States with her family while yet very young. In 1903 she was married to Florenz Breitmayer, a veteran of the Spanish and Philippine war. Last year they decided to seek a home in the Rogue River valley and finally, as stated above, they located at Fruitdale.

S. P. Passenger Schedule.

Northbound	
No. 20—No mail.....	8:42 a. m.
No. 12—Mail, limited.....	10:20 a. m.
No. 16—No mail.....	6:35 p. m.
No. 14—Mail.....	9:47 p. m.
Southbound	
No. 11—Mail, limited.....	4:50 a. m.
No. 15—No mail.....	9:10 a. m.
No. 13—Mail.....	2:04 p. m.
No. 19—No mail.....	9:47 p. m.

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