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ATHENA, ORE., SEP. 12 1913

Oregon products appeal prosperity this year, for they were never worth so much money nor was production more diversified. Irrigated districts have no "copper" or diversification of production. The wheat districts, too, are turning from the one-crop propaganda. Rows of corn are beginning to cover many acres of summer fallow, silos have made their appearance—even here in Umatilla county,—and the hog and dairy cow is at last an item for consideration at "shore time." In some localities where the diversified movement is slower than in others, banks have imported standard bred cows and hogs, sold them to the farmers on time and while he went about his work, and the girls have paid the interest and set down the principal on the notes at the bank, and found time besides for the general house work. The hog shaved off the other end of the principal and left enough surplus to buy an automobile, besides paying for the fence bought to corral him in the stubblefield where he fattened himself on grain that otherwise would have been dead waste. It is estimated that the grand total for crops in old Oregon this year will be \$245,597,900, or more than \$20,000,000 in excess of last year's returns. "Live" summer fallow land and stable fields fenced with hog tight wire is responsible for one half of this vast increase. Go, then, and do likewise.

A circular just issued by the forest service calls attention to the various laws under which more than a third of all national forest receipts go to the benefit of the states in which the forests are situated, for schools and roads. In 1912 the amount of money available for state purposes totaled about \$70,000. The report does not show the amounts due from the receipts of the fiscal year which closed July 30, 1913. Including these, the state share of national forest funds since the laws were passed has aggregated over \$3,000,000.

To beef or not to beef: that's the question now uppermost with a great many of us. The price continues to go up, the supply to decrease and the consumption to increase. The American is a beef eater, while but few of his brothers are beef raisers. There's the rub. Our beef used to come largely from the vast plains, but now it comes mostly from the farm. More recently the beef for large cities has come from Argentina and Australia, but it is fast becoming scarce in those countries.

The Portland Oregonian announces that Charley Fulton has aspirations to become United States Senator. Now the Oregonian is almost, if not quite, as old as Charley is, and we would like to ask it if it ever were cognizant of the time when Charley did not have said aspirations in full bloom. Chamberlain may have a successor, but his toga won't fit the Astoria lawyer.

"By his baggage, ye shall know him,"—Col. Wood's typewriter has arrived at Weston from Portland. The Colonel is following 'er up. Weston is pleased at the editor's return; but no more so than we're. Here's our 27 old boy, and the steak is ready for you any time you come over.

Maine is a long way off—but we have heard from her. Bull Moose and Democratic Donkeys do not range well together there, anyway. Thank heaven, it's not so bad as though it had happened in Oregon; the nation does not follow in the political footsteps of Maine!

Walla Walla will have a Scotch Highlander band during her Frontier Days. The Athena band is entertaining the crowds at the Pendleton Round Up; so, there you are.

Moral conditions in this country are greatly reflected by baseball. If the umpire's decisions favor the home team, they are all right, although entirely wrong.

There's but one Round Up. It's at Pendleton and everybody is there.

Exposing a Mystery.
"It has always been my idea," remarked the man in the car, "that something had been done with the wheat seed, putting the seeds into the water—" Toledo Blade.

FAST SWIMMING.

Strokes to Use and Methods to Follow to Acquire Speed.

The general rule may be set down that no swimmer should attempt speed—until he can cover a quarter of a mile with a good stroke. It matters not whether one aims at becoming an all around competitor or a specialist at the sprints, the same rule obtains. Once the stroke has been perfected, the chosen events may be taken up, but even then it is the best policy to alternate fast swimming with easy stretches, at moderate pace, under the watchful eye of the coach. It is always advisable to limit the number of time trials.

There are but two strokes which can be recommended to the racing man for free style swimming, the crawl for distances not exceeding 200 yards and both go down to history in verse and prose as having been annihilated.

At Gettysburg the Second Wisconsin lost 233 out of 302, the Nineteenth Indiana lost 210 out of 288 and the One Hundred and Fiftieth Pennsylvania volunteers out of 380 men and 17 officers brought back about eighty men and only one officer not wounded. The One Hundred and Twenty-first, the One Hundred and Forty-second, the One Hundred and Forty-third, the One Hundred and Forty-ninth and the One Hundred and Fifty-first Pennsylvania lost quite as heavily.

Among the First corps officers wounded in the first day's fight were Generals Doubleday, Meredith and Paul and Colonels Morrow, Stone, Wistar, Fairchild, Dudley, Biddle, Tilden, Leonard, Coulter and McFarland. The disasters of the afternoon to the Second division were lessened by its capture of much of Iverson's brigade, of Ewell's corps, out at the Mummasburg road, near Oak Hill.—General H. S. Hildekooper in National Magazine.

SLAUGHTER IN BATTLE.

Gettysburg Losses Eclipsed Those at Balaklava and Inkerman.

At Balaklava the light brigade lost 37 per cent of its men, and at Inkerman the guards lost 45 per cent, and both go down to history in verse and prose as having been annihilated.

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Puzzled Jurymen.

At a recent sessions a prisoner was indicted for pocketpicking, and to most people in court the clearest possible case was made out by the prosecution.

"Have you anything you would like to tell the jury before they retire?" said the judge.

"Well, all I want to say is, I hope as 'ow they'll give me the benefit of the doubt," replied the prisoner despondently.

The jury considered their verdict. They were no little time over it.

"Can I assist you in any way, gentlemen?" said the judge, as last becoming impatient.

"We are almost agreed, me lud," said the foreman, "but we can't quite understand what the doubt is the prisoner wishes us to give him the benefit of."—London Answers.

Curious Marriage Custom.

Among the islanders of Jersey there is a very curious but pretty marriage custom. As soon as the ceremony is over and when the happy couple are entering into occupation of their house the large granite slab over the porch is inscribed with the initials of the bride and bridegroom, and between the two a rough representation of two hearts is entwined, the whole thus forming a marriage certificate for all the world to see. It is said that should the couple by any chance be one day divorced the hearts are pierced through by an arrow, which is cut into them.

Witty Retort.

A lady of great beauty and attractiveness who was an ardent admirer of Ireland once crowned her praise of it at a party by saying:

"I think I was meant for an Irishwoman."

"Madam," rejoined a witty son of Erin who happened to be present, "thousands would back me in saying that you were meant for an Irishman."—London Tatler.

Persuasion.

"I can't marry you," she said. "You are old enough to be my father."

"Don't hesitate on that account. Ten years from now nobody will suspect it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Imitative.

Mother—Whatever are you doing to poor dolly, child? Child—I'm just going to put her to bed, mummy. I've taken off her hair, but I can't get her teeth out.—London Tit-Bits.

Soul System.

"Atty writes to seven girls," "It's a wonder he doesn't get his love affairs mixed."

"He keeps a card index."—Washington Herald.

The Nature of the Creature.

"Your cook?" "Oh, she is so careless that I don't believe she could drop a remark without breaking her word."—Smart Set.

He not simply good; he good for something.—Thoreau.

New Land Scrip.

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THEY SAW THE LAKE FLY.

An African Phenomenon That Looked Like a Waterspout.

Crossing Victoria Nyanza, Messrs. F. H. Belland and R. H. Cholmely, the authors of "Through the Heart of Africa," saw a phenomenon which, although common on the lakes of central Africa, seems rare enough.

The chief engineer on coming down late to luncheon told us that he had seen a waterspout near by. As we had finished our meal we hurried up on deck to get a glimpse of it. We saw near the southern horizon a gray smoke-like column arising from the surface of the lake and expanding into what looked like a cloud above. Thinking that it must be the engineer's waterspout we approached Captain Gray and Mr. Akley, who were also intently observing it, and asked them if we were right in our conjecture.

"Waterspout!" said the skipper, with a smile. "Flies."

"Flies?" we repeated and turned to Mr. Akley in the hope of getting from him a more intelligible explanation.

"Quite true," he said. "Flies. You've seen the lake fly before?"

"No," we retorted, "we haven't, and we didn't know that it flew."

Assuring us that neither he nor the skipper had any intention of deceiving us, Mr. Akley explained that he referred to the insect known as the "lake fly" and not to any spasmodic frolic on the part of the waters of Victoria Nyanza. The apparent waterspout was nothing more or less than a huge cloud composed of myriads of tiny flies. They sometimes rise from the surface of the lake in such dense columns as to obscure the light of the sun like a pillar of smoke.

TRICKS OF LIGHT.

Why People Sometimes Feel Dull or Uncomfortable at Table.

How few people realize that they are actually suffering from snow blindness in miniature every time they read or work over a white surface on which a brilliant light shines directly. Half the paper, for instance, which is the common medium for the majority of books we read, will throw a blinding glare into the eye of the reader if the light strikes it at the wrong angle, and it forms an excellent test for the selection of proper lighting for a room and for the placing of the lighting fixtures, for lighting diffusion should be such as to allow comfortable reading from half tone paper in any position.

A dome hanging above a dining table on which is white cloth causes the light to reflect into the eyes of those around the table at an angle that produces muscular strain. This has a peculiar effect upon the sense, and drowsiness and mental inertia are apt to result. People are apt to complain of a feeling of dullness at table or that they have indigestion when it is, in reality, the effect of the light.

A too brilliant light shining directly into the eye plays many curious psychological tricks. Deaf people, for instance, cannot hear so well if they are facing a brilliantly lighted room, and, as for being able to see better by a bright light than by a dim one, exactly the reverse is the case, for detail of objects become practically lost to the eye when too much light enters it.—Suburban Life Magazine.

Agnes—What foolish things a young man will do when he's in love.

Ethel—Oh, Agnes, I'll bet Jack's proposed.—London Answers.

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