

Sherman County.

[Essay written by Sherman Whiting which won half of the \$5.00 prize awarded at the Harvest Festival. The one winning the other half, written by Floodie Clodfelter, we expect to publish next week.]

Sherman is the smallest of the Eastern Oregon counties, it containing only 736 square miles. This county was formerly thought to be fit only for stock raising, but it is now second among the wheat growing counties.

This county is now a fine county; it used to be part of Wasco county. It has many products, the wheat being first in rank. In 1906 more than 100,000 acres of wheat were harvested, averaging 25 bushels to the acre. One year the county produced 3,000,000 bushels. Stock and sheep raising is still carried on to a considerable extent. The wool clip amounts to 300,000 pound annually and the value of its live stock \$100,000.

People in The Dalles used to have Wasco (then an Indian town or Indian name for grass) for a center for stock raising. They brought horses and cattle from The Dalles and surrounding country to pasture on the bunch grass or what they call in Missouri blue grass.

They made centers of different companies and called them ranches. Each ranch had its own branding irons with which it branded its cattle. Sheep herders and their flocks became too plentiful around the country because the sheep would eat the grass off so close that the horses and cattle could not get anything to eat off the neighboring ranges.

There were conflicts whenever a sheep herder and cow boy met with each other. The cow men would make fences of barb wire around their pastures but the sheep herders would cut the wire and drive their sheep through. When the county became settled with wheat farms it broke up the range and put an end to the fights among the sheep herders and cow boys.

One man made a failure on stock raising and thought he would try some wheat. It worked successfully and soon others had wheat farms. The farmers now began to get seeders, plows, headers, reapers and threshing machines to plant and harvest their grain with. Then up at Walla Walla there came a man from Holt Brothers' establishment who introduced the combined harvester, a cheaper and easier means to harvest the grain with. Wheat, barley oats and alfalfa are raised here. There are fine orchards in this county where all kinds of fruit grow. Large gardens and fruit farms are found along the John Day and Columbia rivers. Peaches, peaches, plums, prunes, apples, grapes and cherries are most commonly raised. Vegetables are found on these fruit farms where they can be irrigated. Large flocks of geese and ducks winter here in the rivers and wheat fields. Sportsmen come from the surrounding country and Portland and The Dalles to shoot these fowls for the markets.

Dry land alfalfa is in many places while other alfalfa is irrigated in different parts of the county. Alfalfa is good for milk cows and to fatten hogs on, therefore hogs are turned into alfalfa pastures and the hay is put in barns for cows through the winter. Corn also, can be grown here to a certain extent. The potato, water melons, onions, radishes and lettuce are raised in kitchen gardens and also in large gardens. The tomato does not grow unless watered well.

Sherman county supplies one-fourth of all the wheat shipped from Portland, which is a very large shipping point. Fruits, wool, cattle, horses, sheep and hides are exported. Wheat, hay, barley, alfalfa and oats are hauled in different parts and shipped in box cars to Portland and The Dalles. This county has very good schools. They have small country schools at places in the country, then they have large public schools in Wasco, Moro, Grass Valley and Kent. These are the principal towns. The roads are suitable for traveling, only when wheat wagons hit little chuck holes and the chuck holes are worn down into big holes where it may jolt a person off the seat.

The Columbia Southern railway runs through this county and is the chief means of transportation. A stage line runs from Condon in Gilliam county to Shaniko, the end of the line. This rail road is but a branch of the O. R. & N. The wild animals of Sherman county are small and numerous. They are the badgers, coyotes, wild cats, weasels, pole cats, sage rats, porcupines and jack rabbits, these are the principal ones.

SHERMAN WHITING.

Fifty Years a Blacksmith.

Samuel R. Worley of Hickburg, Va., has been shoeing horses for more than fifty years. He says "Chamberlain's Pain Balm has given me great relief from lame back and rheumatism. It is the best liniment ever used." For sale by MARSH & MEDLER.

THE WELSHERS.

How Absconding Bookmakers Are Treated in England.

One thing that deters people from wagering large sums at the tracks of England is the comparative frequency with which the bookie there departs with the stakes. This is a race which almost unknown at an American course, and in the very exceptional cases when it does happen the turf association always makes good all losses.

But if the cry of "welsher" goes up on an English track, prepare for trouble. Battle, murder and sudden death generally follow. As everybody knows a gambling debt is illegitimate, so the mob's only recourse is to take its money's worth out of the unfortunate man's person. They knock him off his box, tear his clothes to pieces, beat, kick and trample on him, and unless he is rescued in time by the police they are apt to finish him altogether. The authorities are on the alert to prevent such things, and as soon as there is a sign of trouble the terror stricken bookmaker is surrounded by a group of "bobbies," who fight their way through the dense mass and escort him beyond the reach of the fury of the mob.—From "The People and the Ponies," by C. F. Peters, in Bohemian.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

Whence It Comes and Whither It Goes No One Knows.

The solar system is well enough when picturesquely expounded, but when the solar system becomes a mere atom traveling some 400,000,000 of miles per annum toward some inconceivable goal, and when millions of similar systems have to be contemplated, all pursuing some similar course, the lay imagination is completely baffled.

Nor is it easy to believe that the most eager astronomer is not sometimes perplexed and dismayed by the vistas opened up before him. For everything he learns merely opens up vaster problems, and when he has extended his vision to stars from which light would take 2,000 years to reach this earth he is no nearer finality than the child who thinks the sky but a spectacle of revolving lights.

We are told that the heavens as we see them are occupied by two great streams of stars moving in opposite directions. That suggests at least two centers of revolution at some unimaginable distance and adds to our aching embarrassment. We ask, Whence? Whither? And with all our science there is no answer.—London Times.

At Sea on Maskat.

A funny scene occurred many years ago in congress. A present of Arabian horses, a sword, etc., arrived from the Imam of Maskat for President Adams. A western member with some heat moved that the gift should be sent back, with a letter from congress informing the ruler of Maskat that the president of the United States was no king, but the servant of the people, and was not permitted to give or receive presents.

Another member rose. "Such a letter, Mr. Speaker," he said, "can easily be written. But where is it to be sent? Where is Maskat?"

There was no response. Apparently not a member of the house was prepared to answer, nor could Maskat then be found in any atlas published in this country. It was found at last on a German map. A civil answer was returned, and the geographers made haste to insert Maskat in the next edition of their maps.

Humor of Animals.

Even a toad laughs when he has swallowed a large beetle and it begins to walk about inside. It does tickle so! Ducks laugh most when they come out of water. The ground feels so funny under their feet that they cannot help themselves. But they have much more humor than fowls at any time. A duck is born with a twinkle in his eye and a smile at the end of his tail. Tragedy does not suit him so well—one cannot be very tragic or very dignified with a waddle for a walk.—London Captain.

Didn't Interest Him.

A prominent Bostonian recently put up at his club a Chicago man bearing letters of introduction from a common friend.

After dinner the two were lounging in the club library when the Bostonian chanced to ask:

"By the way, what do you think of the 'Origin of Species'?"

"Never read it," was the reply of the man from Chicago. "In fact, old man, I'm not in the least interested in financial subjects."—Success Magazine.

Charity.

"I understand you refused to accept a gift from my daughter, Sam?"

"Yes, sah; I did, sah."

"You looked upon it as charity. I suppose, Sam?"

"Yes, sah, and I's ob de opinion dat no man has a right to accept charity when his wife's got work, sah!"—Yonkers Statesman.

THE HALL OF FAME.

Sidney Webster, the recipient of Mr. Harriman's letter, was the private secretary of President Franklin Pierce.

Maximilian Benedict von Goldschmidt Rothschild of Frankfurt has been given the title of baron by the kaiser.

M. Lepine, the prefect of police of Paris, has accepted the directorship of the Suez Canal company, made vacant by the death of the late M. Casimir-Perier.

Charles P. Taft, a former Ohio congressman, owner of the Cincinnati Times-Star and brother of the war secretary, is credited with a fortune of \$20,000,000.

Chauncey Dickinson was recently installed as father deacon at a Catskill (N. Y.) Baptist church. The office was created for him because in September he will be 100 years old.

William A. Flanders of Penacook, N. H., has quite a collection of old newspapers and almanacs, running back toward 1800, and old clocks that would make the searcher after antiques turn green with envy.

Francisco Jose, who was born in 1788, is still alive and at work and a good shot with the rifle at Oporto, Portugal. He served in the Portuguese army which in 1810 opposed the invasion of the French under Napoleon I.

Professor William Hallock of Columbia university is recognized as the leading meteorologist in this country and is the author of numerous books and treatises on weights and measures. Recently he was appointed official measurer to the New York Yacht club.

William Rhineland Stewart of New York is engaged in promoting the interests of organized charities. When he was president of the state board of charities he served without pay and is one of the few men in public life to spend his own money with a liberal hand to advance his purpose.

George Westinghouse fills more roles in the industrial life than any other American millionaire. This is proved by his achievements as an inventor, financier, organizer and industrial crusader. All of the twenty-six distinct Westinghouse companies in the United States and foreign countries practically are under his control.

General Anson Mills, owner of the Mills building and other valuable property in Washington and who retired from the army several years ago, is one of the wealthiest military men in the country, and his fortune is rapidly increasing. He made his wealth by inventing a machine which manufactures the cartridge belt that is now used by most of the armies throughout the world.

FOREIGN FACTS.

The coal yield of Great Britain is now about 236,000,000 tons a year.

Toys occupy sixteenth place in Germany's export, with a total value of \$15,000,000.

Paris cab horses work only every other day and are fed on the days they work, not on the days they "rest."

Germany has thirty-one agricultural colleges maintained by the state, and there are many agricultural schools of which half the cost is defrayed by the nation.

The wages paid both skilled and common laborers in France are very low, while the cost of living is relatively higher in France than in the United States, with the exception of house rent and servants' wages.

An endless chain made at Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, England, no less than two and a half miles long and twenty-five tons in weight, was recently forwarded to a Leicestershire colliery. The chain was taken from the forge to canal boats on wagons drawn by a traction engine.

THE COOKBOOK.

To keep lima beans from boiling over put a small piece of butter with them at the time they are put on the stove.

Delicious fritters can be made from stale cake by dipping the slices in cream, frying in butter and spreading a bit of preserve or fresh berries over the slices, served hot.

Spinach will be much improved in color if it is quickly boiled in salted water until nearly tender, then drained and dropped into cold water until chilled. It should then be thoroughly drained, after which it is ready for use.

Citron which has been in the house for some time will soon become hardened. A very good and easy way to soften it is to place it in boiling water and let it stand for about two minutes. When removed it will be softened and easily cut.

The Honor of Brave Men.

"You refuse to fight me?"

"Certainly."

"I believe you are a coward."

"Of course you do. Otherwise you never would have dared mention the matter."

Elephants are always drawn smaller than life, but a flea always larger.—Swift.

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REFERENCES: Oregon Trust and Savings Bank, Portland. The Bradstreet Company.

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