

The American

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

CAN WE CELEBRATE

Central Point showed the world that she is not as dead as some folks would like to have us believe. Last Saturday we put on an old fashioned jubilee over the opening of a new industry—one which is generally believed will bring added prosperity to the community.

This paper has always been in favor of more industries for our valley. We have long believed that prosperity for the farmer was of paramount importance. And it is our belief that the Rogue River valley is suffering today through want of more industries which bring more steady income to the farmer.

We have depended too much on fruit. Fruit growing is well enough in its place, but for the prosperity of Jackson County to depend entirely on the fruit industry seems to us too much like putting all our eggs in one basket. What this country needs is a more constant income.

And of all the means of such constant income we know of nothing which will beat the cow. And if the new cheese factory will bring more cows into the valley, we know we all will see improved condition.

So we welcome this new concern and hope that the fullest cooperation will be accorded them. We were proud of the fine lot of people who came over to call on us Saturday. And we also admit that the glorious response to the invitation of our merchants and business men was as balm to our souls. We believe we can claim at least a part of the credit for the success of the affair. We worked long and hard for it. But the major part of the honor goes to Mr. John Anderson and his helpers. His hard work was mostly responsible for the successful day.

And we must by no means overlook the Grange ladies who worked so nobly that the luncheon might be a success. It has long been our hope possible without the aid of the Grange ladies.

We have been told there is some agitation to make these community get-togethers a regular thing about once a month. Why not? The idea has much appeal to us as a means of creating good will for our business people.

HAZEL NUTS

What has become of the hazel brush that used to line the roadsides and fill the fence corners, of the hazel nuts that used to cover the woodshed roof in late August or early September? Our experience of the countryside of late years has been confined chiefly to the paved highways, but such occasional divagation onto the dirt roads as we have indulged, has revealed nothing but masses of sweet clover by the wayside. It is thirty years and more since we have strolled our fingers gathering fresh hazelnuts and opening them with a jack knife to savor the fresh and succulent kernels.

Time was when every self respecting lad had a bushel or two of the brown bunches drying on the woodshed, to say nothing of butter-

nuts and black walnuts. Those were the days when mother covered all available roof space with sweet corn and crab apples a-drying, and put up quarts of wild grape jelly, more toothsome by far than any products of the preservers. Are there any black haw thickets left in the world? Do you remember the flavor of the scarlet thorn apple? The dark red variety was more common, but comparatively tasteless. But you knew where to find an occasional tree whose blossoms in May rivalled the fresh snow, and whose bright berries in autumn held a juicy succulence and a pungent sweetness to which nothing the fruiterers know can compare. Our grandchildren make a mock of our incurable browsing in the woods in spring and fall—basswood buds and sprouts, young shoots of grapevine and wild raspberry, wild onion and garlic, Indian turnip, slippery elm bark, wild artichoke, to say nothing of choke cherry and pin cherry and June berry, or of hard, sour, bitter wild crabs, for which we once carried a pocketful of salt! Their soda fountain palates make nothing of these wild flavors, which mock our toothless gums, yet bring back, as nothing else can.

Boyhood's time of June, Crowding years in one brief moon. Ehen fugaces! Does modern boyhood know aught of wild snufflower and mullein stalk spears? Of the flavor of prickly gooseberries and wild raspberries in early July? Does it know the delicate fragrance of Maytime hepaticas? Has it tasted the honey in the horns of the columbine? Has it filled its grimy hands with masses of sweet William? Can it catch small mouthed black bass with a dragon fly? Does it know the pungent scent of the river flats, or the thrill of spearing red horse on the riffles in June? Can it catch shiners with a pin hook? Has it ever made a bow of seasoned hickory, or a fish pole of ironwood? What's the use—Cork's own city and the blue sky above it, and the times that wuz, the times that wuz!

The Big Woods have fallen before the settler's axe. The timber wolves no longer howl along the Minnesota and the Blue Earth. It is fifty years since we saw deer within six miles of Mankato—it is thirty since we shot a young buck within the city limits of Duluth, since our eldest was frightened with the blood of a bear on the sidewalk, as he walked to kindergarten. The Frontier is no more. Shingibis, our one time guide, is dead. Old Man Shigley, who fought with Taylor in Mexico, who could trail the woods as silently as any Sioux, who could find a bee tree anywhere within ten miles of civilization, who could make roses and tobacco and sweet potatoes grow out of dry sand, is gone these thirty years.

Great God! I'd rather be A pagan, suckled in a creed outworn.
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn,
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea
Or hear old Triton blow his wreath-ed horn!

The American is in receipt of some clippings and several copies of old papers published during the Spanish-American war. Next week we are going to print some extracts from the story of the sinking of the Maine as it appeared the next day following the explosion.

Mr. B. F. Peart, who says he is the "vanishing village blacksmith", brought in these interesting articles. We will be glad to have more of such things. We wish some of you oldtimers would bring in stories of the early days of Jackson County. We will be only too glad to give space to such stories.

CAN WE EXIST ALONE?

In a world where space has been annihilated by fast transportation and instantaneous communication, can any nation exist alone, remote from others?

Most economists answer with a decisive No to this. They point out that the problems of all peoples are much the same, that a brotherhood of purpose is more necessary than ever before, that world cooperation is vital not only to economic recovery but to the future maintenance of international prosperity. They believe that good and liberalized foreign relations, acting as the basis for stimulated trade between countries, holds the hope of the future.

There are sound grounds for believing that. The collapse of American export trade—which was caused as much by tariff wars and embargoes as by hard times—has closed hundreds of factories. It has thrown thousands of men out of work. It has caused bond defaults and lost dividends. It has made itself felt in every business and retarded purchasing power and industrial expansion.

We cannot sell to other lands unless they can sell to us. The entire world wants the products of American factories, the automobiles, typewriters, tractors and similar machine products we make. They can buy them if we buy products of theirs that we need. This does not mean that we should subject American factories to cheap-labor foreign competition—but it does mean that all the phases of the problem of foreign trade need overhauling and readjustment.

THE VANISHING BLACKSMITH

The town of George's Mills, N. H., needs a blacksmith so badly that it has advertised for one. The former smith felt that his business was being ruined by automobiles and left the community without the services of a forge mechanic for the first time in half a century.

The village smith appears to be on his last legs everywhere. Nearly all the young men who would once have elected to swing hammers over anvils have become automobile mechanics. Longfellow's village blacksmith must be recarawed, standing under the eaves of a garage instead of a chestnut tree. A cartoonist might depict this mechanical age as a steel giant with an enormous broom sweeping old picturesque occupations into a dusty, spider-webbed corner.

In England various county councils recently announced plans for turning village smithies into up-to-date shops, with welding plants, lathes, power drills, and oil engines. Even if these plans should prove successful, the new establishments will bear little resemblance to the old smithies that we remember. Middle-aged men may often be seen standing rather wistfully outside a smithy incongruously placed in the downtown business section of New York, as if taking a farewell of a scene associated with their childhood.

Dickens' character Joe Gargery had a song suggesting that one Old Clem was the patron saint of blacksmiths, while another time-worn English ditty sets up Old King Cole as a rival to Old Clem. One thing is certain; Old Clem and Old King Cole put together cannot save the smithy much longer.

New York Herald-Tribune

Start Day With Good Breakfast Advises Expert

Starting the day with a good, substantial breakfast is an important factor in healthful living, according to nutrition specialists. That such a breakfast need not be expensive is a point made by Miss Lucy A. Case, nutrition specialist in the extension service, who has prepared for free distribution a leaflet giving suggestions for inexpensive breakfast dishes. In addition to general suggestions and all recipes, two sets of menus are included, one for the outdoor workers and one for indoor workers.

Cereals such as rolled oats, corn meal and coarse graham can be purchased in large quantities, in cloth sacks at a considerable saving, says Miss Case. Wheat and corn in condition as harvested, can be taken to the nearest mill to be cleaned and ground for a small charge. Un-ground whole wheat has a variety of uses in the home, many of which are noted in the extension bulletin No. 459 "Uses of whole wheat in the home."

Powdered skim milk is an inexpensive substitute for skim milk and can be used in such dishes as cocoa, junket, scalloped vegetables, pudding, ice cream and bread, Miss Case explains. With the addition of a half pound of butter to one pound of dry skim milk, one may obtain the equivalent of five quarts of

whole milk. Beet sugar costs slightly less per 100 pounds than cane sugar and has the same food value and uses. Manufacturers' sugar costs even less than beet sugar though it is somewhat coarser.

Where the homemaker's labor has low money value a large saving can be realized by making bread at home, suggests Miss Case. Another money saver is cooperative buying of large quantities of foods which may be handled without waste.

Copies of the leaflet "Suggestions for inexpensive breakfast dishes" may be obtained from the home economics extension service, Corvallis, or from any county extension office.

Fire Conviction In Federal Court

Convicted in the federal court at Portland of inducing Kenneth Olson to set a fire near Whiskey Creek in the Siskiyou national forest, Charles McNeil was recently sentenced by Judge John McNary to serve 13 months in the federal penitentiary at McNeil's Island, Washington, according to information just issued by the forest service.

Olson was apprehended when the fire was set, and later was paroled under a sentence of one year. He appeared as a witness for the government. Olson, who is 17 years old, made an affidavit admitting the setting of the fire, and stating that McNeil hired him to set it on the promise of paying him \$5 per day for each day McNeil's pack train was used by the government on any fires that Olson set on the national forest.

Commenting on the case, the forest service states that "the closing of the McNeil case by conviction to the federal penitentiary marks the success of a long drawn-out effort to show that a violation of federal laws on national forest land does not pay." Forest officials report that this is the third conviction recently obtained carrying sentence of one year or more for violation of the federal fire laws. They say they must prefer education and cooperation in preventing fires, but that in flagrant cases such as this one, drastic law enforcement seems to be the only remedy.

Deputy Collector Now in Medford To Aid Taxpayer

Deputy collectors of the Internal Revenue Department are now in Medford for the purpose of assisting taxpayers in filing federal tax returns. They will be there until February 15.

The collectors will return February 28 and will remain until March 15. They will be in Ashland from February 25 to 27, inclusive. Taxpayers who wish aid in making out their returns may call on these men at the Postoffice building on the above dates.

The Golden Link Bible class will hold their monthly class party at Mrs. Victor Bursell's home. We hope for a good attendance and know we will have an enjoyable time.

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When lamb prices are at such a low point as the have been for the past year or so, making the top grade in marketing is exceptionally important in getting returns that will approach cost of production. Investigation of the grade of Oregon lambs actually marketed at Portland, made by the animal husbandry department of the Oregon state college experiment station, revealed that only 34.5 per cent of those coming from western Oregon were fat enough to class as top lambs.

Of those falling in lower grades 47 per cent were too thin, 8 1/2 per cent were too heavy and 10 per cent were of inferior breeding or were not castrated or docked.

"Unquestionably the proper of feeding of lambs from birth to marketing could make a large part of the 47 per cent of thin lambs fat enough to bring the top prices," says O. M. Nelson, specialist in sheep in sheep at the station. "Pasture is the cheapest feed available, and while extensive feeding of grain will

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produce ideal market lambs, it materially increases the cost of production.

"Lambs sucking ewes on good pasture will often make an average daily gain of a half pound a day without grain, in fact college flocks have gained as much as three-fourths pound per day on rape pasture. Clover pasture is ideal for finishing lambs. A comparison made of clover with native pasture by the college showed that lambs being finished gained 39 per cent more than those on native sod."

"Another test made by the experiment station was with a bunch of thin lambs fed during the summer. Some were fed in the dry lot, some

were fed grain and sown-sod pasture and some were run on rape and received no grain. The lambs run on the rape with no grain for 60 days gained and were ready for market long before the other lambs. The fed grain in the dry lot made poorest gains," Nelson explained.

J. O. Isaacson has been in past week at his home.

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