The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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T. L. DUGGER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

In this the last issue of the NEWS for the year 1906, a brief review of what the year has been to Scio will be in order. Upon the whole, 1906 has been a prosperous year to the Forks of the Santiam and to Scio. Nevertheless, the most disastrous fire in the history of Scio, which caused the loss of more than $30,000, and the death of one of our best citizens, is one of the events of the year. Scio may be said to be, in these closing days, prosperous and with a bright outlook ahead.

This prosperity is attributable entirely to the prosperous condition of our farmers, dairymen, and stockmen. Scio is dependent upon the prosperity of the community that surrounds it. Give the farmers a good crop and a fair price for it; our dairymen a good price for their output; our lumber mills a good demand at remunerative prices for lumber, and plenty of work for the mechanics and laborers, and prosperity must necessarily be our portion. All of these blessings have been given to Scio and vicinity this year, and they are appreciated the more because they follow two years of short crops. Another source that has contributed to considerable extent to the prosperity of our farmers is the high prices that have ruled during the year for eggs and poultry. The farmer whose eggs and poultry keeps the family expense at the stores even, and who has his grain crop, fat cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats, clear at the end of the year, is certainly getting on in the world and can of a truth write the word "Prosperous" before his name. There are many of this class of farmers in the "Forks," and their number is increasing yearly.

Land values also are looking up. There are not nearly so many farms for sale as there were one year ago. While farms change hands frequently, as a rule they are purchased for homes. Farm lands are destined to still increase in value. People from the Eastern states are continually coming to Oregon for homes, and the Forks of the Santiam, being about the best part of Oregon and have the cheapest farm and stock lands in the whole Willamette Valley, is bound to get her portion of them.

The outlook for next and future years for Scio and vicinity is bright. This section has ever been short on railroad facilities. The immediate future promises to see this shortage remedied and the NEWS opines that before two years passes away there will be one if not two roads passing directly through Scio. At the present time there are three prospects, and when we consider that Scio is directly upon the best and most natural route for a railroad across the "Forks," it certainly is not optimistic to predict that one or more of these roads will pass through town.

In addition to our railroad prospects, the lumber business for next year promises to be better than ever before. High prices will rule for all classes of lumber and in addition to the railroad tie mills, the Gaines, Cameron, Clark, and Landon mills, which are now idle, will probably be put to work. These four mills, with the Hall and Monks' mills, will have a capacity of over 100,000 feet daily. With a railroad running up into the Crabtree country, which the C. & E. proposes to build, the lumber business will undoubtedly assume a magnitude never before known in this section.

So with the railroad and lumber prospect in view the demand for labor will be large. Every man who will work, and every farmer who can spare a team, will get all the employment desired. With the usual amount of farming and dairying carried on, why should we not take a rosy view of the future? At the present time there is not an empty tenantable house in Scio. Last year at this time there were more than one dozen empty. To the departing year we can say, "While you have visited some of us with sorrow and financial loss, still upon the whole you have treated us well. May your successor be equally as kind and may the hopes that now are budding be brought forth with full fruition before we must necessarily write 'Finis' for 1907."

When the next session of the Legislature adjourns the people can "take stock" and see how much there is left.

THE BLACKSMITH TRUST.

If it is true that any combination of business men who combine for the purpose of raising prices, form a sort of commercial trust, then one was organized over at the County Seat last week. There are trusts and trusts. President Roosevelt says some of them are good and some are bad. Let us hope that this Blacksmith Trust is one of the good kind.

No doubt the increased price of iron and steel is somewhat binding upon the blacksmiths, so long as the old, hard-time prices maintained. But the increase has not been more than 25 per cent., while the Blacksmith Trust rate increases prices fully 40 per cent. Even at this advanced price, the NEWS does not think that blacksmithing, as compared with other businesses, is inordinately high in price. Nor is the advance in price out of keeping with the advance in price of other commodities, if we except wheat and cattle.

But what the NEWS objects to in the matter is the formation of an iron-bound trust, the members of which are subjected to a penalty for violating its rules. Every trust, in a measure, is the enemy of the consumer. Every combine that boosts prices does so at the expense of the consumer. Unless the consumer in turn can recoup through advanced prices for something he has to sell, he is irreparably injured. Last year the farmer-consumer, with the proceeds of the sale of 2 1-2 bushels of wheat, could get his horse shod. Under the new scale of prices, 4 to 4 1-2 bushels will be required.

The blacksmiths, however, made one most excellent rule. The man who neglects to pay his blacksmith bill is blacklisted, after which he can get no more work done until he has squared up the unpaid account. If this blacklist could be extended into every branch of business, deadbeats would not be so plentiful.

Wherein the blacksmiths are inconsistent, many, if not all of them, condemn the Steel trust, the Sugar trust, and every other trust whose product the blacksmiths consume in part. The trusts to which the blacksmiths object were formed for the same purpose the blacksmiths' trust is formed—to boost prices. If one is wrong in principle, all are wrong.

No one desires the blacksmith to work at unremunerative prices; yet the consuming public would rather that each smith should regulate his own charges.

We condemn railway mergers because such mergers prevent competition in the public-carrier business. This blacksmith combine, providing all the blacksmiths enter the combination, kills off competition. The NEWS fails to see any difference in the two mergers, except in degree. If the one acts as a restraint to trade, the other is certainly tarred with the same stick. Yet as towards trusts or combinations seems to be the trend of business in every department, the blacksmiths are probably justified in falling into line. Even the farmers of the Middle West are endeavoring to form a wheat trust.

Heretofore competition has been our only price-regulator. If trusts and combines are to destroy competition, as now seems to be the probable result, what means will be left to us to control the greed and selfishness of our fellow-men? In order to control the railroads, the Sugar, and Coal Oil trusts, we call to aid Congress and the state legislatures. Will it become necessary for Congress and the legislatures to regulate prices in all lines of business, even to the extent of fixing a price for the shoeing of a horse?

President Roosevelt's advocacy of a ship subsidy is a cause of grief and consternation to his friends. His position on the Japanese problem, unless modified or explained away, will cause every Pacific Coast state to vote Democratic in 1908. The President is loved and admired greatly, but the ship subsidy and the setting aside of the last vestige of a state to regulate its internal affairs, is too awfully awful. We admire and respect the President for a long step towards restoring the government to the people, but for all that we will not allow him to obliterate state lines in order to please the little brown men.

A war is on between President Roosevelt and the United States Senate because of the summary discharge of a battalion of colored troops at Brownsville, Texas. The President will not recede from his order and will risk impeachment by disregarding the action of the Senate, should that body by official action countermand his order.

Unless a man or woman is endowed by nature in a more or less degree with the faculty to impart instruction, all the Normal training in all four of our Normals will not make a teacher of him or her. Normal training will aid the teacher, no doubt; but without native ability Normal training is a waste of energy.

Education, in this modern intensive finance age, is absolutely necessary for the citizen to protect his rights and get on in the world. The State, therefore, should not expend a cent of public moneys for other than the public schools, which can be enjoyed alike by all.

A Bold Step.

To overcome the well-grounded and reasonable objections of the more intelligent to the use of secret, nostrum medicinal compounds, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., some time ago, decided to make a bold departure from the usual course pursued by the makers of put-up medicines for domestic use, and so has published broadcast and openly to the whole world, a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his widely celebrated medicines. Thus he has taken his numerous patrons and patients into his full confidence. Thus too he has removed his medicines from among secret nostrums of doubtful merits, and made them *Medicines of Known Composition.*

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