

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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SCIO JOINS THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

In the organization of the agricultural association in this city last Saturday, Scio and vicinity has taken a very long step in the march of progress. Of course the scope of our society will be small in the beginning and our fair will, probably, be a small affair; though it is bound to increase in magnitude and interest with the years.

As a source of benefit to our stockbreeders, our dairymen and our agriculturalists in general, the fair will certainly be of great advantage. It will generate a spirit of rivalry in stock, dairy and agricultural pursuits, that is beneficial and desirable. It will lead to a better understanding of the various lines of business pertaining to the farm; better stock; better dairy cows; better care for the orchards; better methods in the dairy; more scientific care and feeding of the dairy cow, etc. With the improvement along all of these lines, as a sequence, the amount of clear profit will be greatly increased.

Primarily, our fair will be of direct benefit to farmers, at exhibitors, dairymen, orchardists, gardeners and indirectly beneficial to merchants, mechanics and the housewife. Whatever builds and makes better agricultural pursuits, will aid every business enterprise. Unless the farmer is prosperous, there is scant prosperity for the merchant, the banker or the professional man. In the end, our entire industrial system depends upon the products of the soil.

There is, also, a social feature that will be developed by our fair, that is most desirable. It is the purpose of the management to provide commodious camp grounds, so that those who so desire can make an outing of fair week to visit with their relatives, friends and neighbors. Former citizens of Scio will be sure to take advantage of the fair week to visit their old homes, relatives and neighbors.

Then, with the view of benefits to accrue to agriculture and the social enjoyments to be derived, why shouldn't we make our fair a splendid success? Why should not every citizen, who is at all public spirited, take hold and help push the enterprise along? Why should not every citizen of the Forks of the Santiam be sufficiently interested to subscribe for, at least one share of the fair stock? While it is true that the care of and direction of the fair must necessarily devolve upon a few people, even if these few are not to your liking, this is not sufficient excuse for you to refuse your aid. Perhaps, next year the management may be placed in hands of your favorites? At all events, just remember that the management will have to do a great deal of very hard work for absolutely no pay at all, nor without even a chance of graft; also, that the enterprise is not to aggrandize any individual or individuals, but for the purpose of developing the Forks of the Santiam.

As a means of advertising, the fair cannot hardly be overestimated. People will visit the fair and view our products who, otherwise, would never even hear about us. Homeseekers will see our beautiful hills and valleys, our magnificent homes and ideal locations for the dairy and stock farms and many of them will settle among us. The result will be the rapid advance in the value of your farms.

All of these results will not be brought about by one fair, but by a series of them year after year, or when the present one under contemplation is but the starter and groundwork of future successful exhibitions. All depends upon the people and how harmoniously they work together. The present board of directors and officers are to serve but one year; their successors will be elected next January. Any mistakes the present management may make, can be avoided by future boards, though the present it will make as few mistakes as possible. But it is your duty as a citizen to aid the enterprise in every way that you can. Bear in mind that the outside world will judge us largely by the success or failure of this our first endeavor. Therefore let us drop any petty jealousies or animosities we may have and work together harmoniously for the common good of the community. Let us compel the outside world to acknowledge our enterprise and that Scio and the Forks of the Santiam is justly entitled to a position on the map.

THE NORMALS SITUATION

Without doubt there is a spirit among the people and one that is growing, too, to settle in some definite way and in a manner that will be reasonably satisfactory, the normal school question. As the matter stands the state colleges are costing the people too much money for the amount of benefit derived, to say nothing about the debauching effect they are exerting upon state politics. The session of the legislature just adjourned utterly failed to settle the question, nevertheless each member knew that a vast majority of the people demanded that it should do so. Every member knew that a strong sentiment existed that, at least two of the four should be eliminated. Knowing this fact the members allowed themselves to become so entangled by normal lobbies, that complying with the people's demand became impossible. The people would have, probably, acquiesced, had two schools been dropped. Now that there will be a demand that the whole normal business be referred to the voters at the next general election, no one need be surprised if the people, in their justifiable indignation, decide to abandon all four of the schools. When the people decide the matter it will be decided rightly and for all time. When the voter goes into the booth, he will not have a bill pending for which he wishes to secure votes and which might cause him to vote for what he knows the people do not want. Oh, no. He will only consider his own and the interests of the thousands of other taxpayers. He will weigh the amount of benefit the people as a whole derive from the state colleges, on the one hand, as against the cost to the taxpayers on the other. If he thinks the people are not getting value for their money, rest assured the normals will go down, root and branch.

The fact of the matter is, college education, the leading feature of which seems to be playing football, at state expense, is costing the people entirely too dearly. We have built up, or have allowed to be built up, a state college system that has far outstripped the development of the state; a system that is sufficiently extensive for a state of ten times our population and wealth. It has resulted in building up an educational aristocracy that has undermined state politics. Nor are the normals alone responsible for this condition. The Eugene and Corvallis schools have participated in the college combine in order to secure large annual appropriations of the people's money. The entire six are beggars, mendicants and creatures depending upon public charity. Like the public franchise holder, once having fastened upon the public teat, it is difficult to make them break away.

As a matter of fact, the people are being compelled to support an expensive college system against their wills. If the question should be submitted to the voters "Do you favor maintaining free college institutions at public expense?" THE NEWS undertakes to say, would be overwhelmingly decided in the negative. That is to say, if the question should be submitted to the taxpaying voters. Now if the students at all of these colleges were required to pay a moderate tuition, then the people would look upon them more kindly. But to tax 90 per cent. of the people who cannot under any circumstances receive any benefit therefrom to maintain free colleges for the other 10 per cent., is not only unjust but is a mild form of robbery.

Therefore at no distant future, our entire free state college system is sure to come before the people for their assent or disapproval. The opinion is rapidly gaining ground, that public tax moneys expended for educational purposes, should apply to our public school system only. The people desire that our public school system shall be fostered and developed to the greatest degree of proficiency. But when the state has given to our boys and girls the best possible public school education free, it certainly has discharged its full duty.

Governor Chamberlain has wielded his veto prerogative with an abandon rarely characteristic of an executive. Nevertheless much of the work of the legislature has been annulled thereby saving about one-half million dollars for the people. The vetoes are very generally commended by the people. The governor can hardly be accused of attempting a grand stand play in any of his veto messages. True, he grilled the legislature and especially the speaker in his Monmouth-Drain veto, but as the grilling was richly merited in either instance, he can hardly be accused of playing to the galleries in administering the rebuke. At all events the governor's action is nearly universally applauded by the people. Most republican newspapers have little to say about the matter. While they mildly criticize the governor, very few of them have temerity to defend the legislature. They know the people justify the governor.

Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, has resigned his seat in the millionaire club at Washington, because he cannot afford the rapid pace of living that is becoming the established rule among the millionaire congressmen at the national capitol. Slowly but surely the fact is being established, that an honest congressman of moderate fortune can no longer afford to retain a seat among the nation's lawmakers because of the expensive method of living required. Jeffersonian simplicity is rapidly becoming a legend. No wonder the nation's money is lavishly expended, when its custody and care is intrusted to men who scarcely know the meaning of the word, economy.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of Claude W. Shelton, deceased, has filed in the County Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, his final account as such administrator of said estate, and the same, the first day of April, A. D. 1907, a 10-hour of one o'clock in the afternoon. Any objections to said final account and for the settlement thereof, must be filed with the administrator of the Estate of Claude W. Shelton, deceased, at Albany, Oregon.

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