

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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OUTLOOK IS GOOD

The writer has been a resident of Linn county for more than forty years and, from present indications, the progress in development in Linn, during the present year, promises to far surpass any one of those forty. This progress is not limited to one locality; but every portion of the county is moving forward at a rate almost phenomenal. Nor is the progress confined alone to the cities and towns. The country districts east, west, north and south are showing the spirit of improvement hitherto unknown. In the cities and towns palatial residences and brick business blocks are reported under contemplation. In many cases, contracts have been let, in the cities and new residences, new barns and miles of wire fencing will be characteristic of every country neighborhood. And public improvements are destined to keep pace with private development. Paved streets and cement walks for the cities and improved roads for the country.

Albany, our county seat, expects to make the most substantial progress this year of her history. The splendid high school building will be finished in time for the opening of the school next fall. The new armory, new city hall and new federal postoffice buildings will all probably be under construction before the close of the year. Several new business blocks are under contemplation and the contract for a splendid hotel building near the depot, has been let. New and substantial residences are either under construction or soon will be, in every part of town. Street paving will again be a feature during the summer. Albany is not having a boom, but simply a substantial development, which the general growth and flourishing condition of the country, warrants.

Lebanon, also, is making rapid strides in development. Probably the best school building in the county is now under construction. The building is located on the old academy grounds, is of cement and brick, will have 16 rooms and is of handsome architectural appearance. The building will be ready for occupancy next fall. A new city hall and a sewerage system will probably be undertaken during the season. There is also, considerable talk of paving main streets through the business section. Handsome residences are springing up like magic all over the town. Lebanon is already the second city of importance of the county and should the present rapid growth continue, will, sometime, rival Albany in size.

With the building of our railroad, Scio is bound to take her place in development with the other towns of the county. With the extending of the line to the timber belts up Thomas and Crabtree creeks, an ideal location for a big sawmill would be at Scio. And such favorable location will not be long neglected. Our condensed milk factory is, also, destined to grow into a large concern; as soon as the means of obtaining a sufficient milk supply is furnished and the proposed railway lines into the Jordan and Lacombe countries, will furnish the means of transportation for the large sections of ideal dairy country up both creeks. Also the rich sandy bottom lands of both sections will be taxed in the production of food products for the consumption of the people less fortunately situated, as never before.

What is true of Albany, Lebanon and Scio, is true of all other portions of the county, or of all other portions of the state, for that matter. Oregon is taking on the greatest period of development, of her history. The transition of a mere wheat growing valley and state is rapidly under way. The people have found that Oregon soil is capable of producing numerous crops other than grain and which are far more profitable. The other states have heard of our splendid climate and the wonderful productiveness of our soil. They have heard of the astonishing returns of the orchards of Hood River and Southern Oregon. They are, also, ascertaining that the thousands of acres of the western Cascade slopes and the entire Coast range of mountains, are just as productive and desirable fruit lands as Hood or Rogue rivers. The fabulous prices at which lands are valued in those sections are responsible, in a great measure, for orchardists turning their attention to other portions of Western Oregon. Millard O. Lonsdale is one of these and he has demonstrated that either the east or west hill slopes of the Willamette valley are just as valuable apple lands as are the hill lands of Hood river.

So the outlook for development in Western Oregon was never better than to-day and in no part of the valley is there a better nor more varied section than Eastern Linn county. With the best bodies of timber awaiting the lumberman, the thousands of acres of ideal apple lands awaiting the orchardist, the rich valleys and hill land for the dairyman, truck gardener and small fruiterer, why should we not be optimistic in our expectations? The trend is to subdivide the large pioneer farms into small tracts and as rapidly as this is being done, is the productiveness increased. Even as low as our valley lands now are, our farmers are ascertaining that

wheat-growing for market is unprofitable. So, in almost all cases, the dairy is being added and the monthly pay check is a convincing fact that the day of the exclusive wheat grower has passed. Consequently, farmers are ascertaining that large tracts of land, half-way cultivated, are unprofitable and the subdividing process is immediately commenced.

All that is required for the rapid development of Eastern Linn county, is convenient railway connection with the market. This deficiency will be removed with the completion of the railway project now in its preliminary stage. When completed, lands well up Thomas and Crabtree creeks, now rated at \$25 and \$30 per acre will double and triple. Railways do this for other sections and will do so for us. All that is required is for all of our citizens to aid the enterprise. A few farmers and business men, unless they are rich, cannot build a railroad; but a great many who are simply good farmers as all of our farmers are, can. All will derive benefit. Therefore all should contribute to the enterprise. So the future outlook is promising. All the people of Eastern Linn county have to do, is to grasp the opportunity at hand. "There is a time in the affairs of men, if grasped, lead on to fortune." That time is now crowding upon us. Let us embrace it.

WILL HE WIDEN THE BREACH?

When Ex-President Roosevelt returns to his native land, there will probably be something of a political commotion. What may be denominated the Roosevelt republicans, are going to greet his arrival in New York with as much display as possible—something akin to the return of a conquering hero. This will be done for a two-fold purpose. They wish to show that Mr. Roosevelt's influence has not waned in the least, and that the only salvation of the Republican party is the nomination of their idol to succeed President Taft. If, when he returns, Mr. Roosevelt can restore harmony among Republican leaders and convince them that his nomination alone will prevent defeat in 1912, a quiet submission to the inevitable may be brought about. But to restore harmony among the leaders of his party, is something that cannot be done. The breach is too wide. The regulars desire and are determined to maintain the present order of things governmental and the insurgents are just as determined to bring about a change and, if it can be done in no other way, will align themselves with the Democrats to do so. Therefore, if Mr. Roosevelt undertakes to harmonize these conflicting elements, even with his acknowledged great influence, he will probably fail.

When Mr. Roosevelt retired from the presidency, only the nearness of its close prevented an open rupture between him and the moneyed interests, which had practical control of the government through congress. He had become too much of a people's man to suit the interests. Mr. Roosevelt secured the nomination of Mr. Taft as his successor, believing that Mr. Taft would carry on the so-called Roosevelt policies of government. The interests did not much like Mr. Taft. Had a Democrat, who would have been subservient to their wishes, been his opponent, Mr. Taft would have been defeated. But the interest knew that Mr. Bryan was a people's man from start to finish and that they could hope for no favors from him. So they gave their influence and support to Mr. Taft and they now know no mistake, from their viewpoint, was made.

But will not, has not Mr. Roosevelt concluded ere this, that he was mistaken in his estimate of his war secretary? Will he not, judging from his past history, be apt to do some insurging himself and become aligned with the insurgent wing of his party? Even in the last year of his presidency, he began to see that the Republican party must divorce itself from the domination of the moneyed interests, if it maintained supremacy in the politics of the country, and he is too good a politician and is too sagacious not to see that, during his year of absence, this condition has become intensified and that the chasm, between the interests as represented by Cannon and Aldrich, has become too deep and too wide to be bridged over. And too, he cannot help but see that President Taft has become allied with the Cannon-Aldrich crowd and that the great mass of his party is against it.

It is nonsense to suppose that Mr. Roosevelt will not soon become active in politics again. Silence and nonparticipation is foreign to his nature. He likes to talk and use his pen too well to become a mere private citizen. And he is too patriotic to not see that the people needs just such influential champions as he for their interests and too wise not to see that his party, to be saved from complete disruption, must be saved from the rocks and shoals, into which the men who have had charge of its destinies during his absence, have piloted it.

So the people, the rank and file of the Republican party and the insurgent congressmen will greet Mr. Roosevelt with the warmest possible feeling of friendship and hopefulness. The protected interests and the congressmen who have and are serving them so well, would be perfectly content if he had decided to spend the rest of his days in the African jungles; for there he was harmless to their interests and efforts and here he will be a source of great danger to them.

His return will, also, place President Taft in somewhat of a predicament. Mr. Taft was elected to carry out Roosevelt's policies. He acknowledged that such was the case, in a late public speech. But his acts, as president, in several particulars, are not in harmony with what Mr. Roosevelt would have done, had he been in Mr. Taft's place. It is safe to say that President Taft would not have done some of the things which he has, had Mr. Roosevelt been in his home land. He will almost have to apologize to his predecessor for several of his acts.

If Mr. Roosevelt will accept, there is no doubt but what he will be nominated to be Mr. Taft's successor. The magnificent reception which is being prepared for him, is intended to be the opening gun of the campaign. The News believes that he is the only Republican which can be elected and even he, may fall; because of the people being so badly unbalanced in the revision of the tariff. But should he rebuke congress for failing to live up to the promises made by his party in the last campaign, in spirit as well as in letter, he will have a popularity among the people unbounded.

Mr. Roosevelt's life history would lead one to think that when he fully understands the causes which lead to insurgency first and the curtailment of Speaker Cannon's power later on, that he will align himself with the insurgents. If so, with his large influence and his known qualities as a fighter, there is serious trouble ahead for the Cannon-Aldrich crowd. Instead of being a pacificator, he is liable to add fuel to the fire.

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