

LETTERS FROM OUR COUNTRY CORRESPONDENTS

Thomas Topics

The farmers of this vicinity are busy plowing. The snow that covered the ground Sunday morning was a surprise to most of them, but the fine weather we are now having seems as if spring has come.

Chas Frestag was transacting business at Albany Friday, returning home on the Saturday morning train.

Smith B Holt made a business trip to Mill City Saturday.

Mrs J N Jones is on the sick list this week.

Mrs Fred Mespelt and Mrs Lester Holt were Scio visitors Saturday.

Oscar Pomeroy of Independence passed through Thomas recently, moving to his farm on Beaver creek.

Mr McCrorey and son Noe, were Albany visitors Monday.

Ernest Kelly was unable to attend school last week on account of the grippe, but we are glad to see him back this week.

Mrs Haake and daughter Kate were visiting relatives in Albany over Sunday.

Rev S A D Hamilton passed through Thomas Saturday enroute to Albany to attend the moving picture shows.

Mrs J G Holt spent last week at Stayton with her daughter, Mrs F J Jones.

Miss Elsie Bartnik left Tuesday for Portland where she has work.

George Clark of Lacombe was a Sunday visitor at Mrs J N Jones.

F A Mikulka spent Friday at Albany.

S A Schieman was a Sunday visitor at S M Farnish's.

Miss Vada Holt, one of our most popular young ladies, was visiting Albany friends Friday.

Miss Minnie Merritt who has been staying at R H F Struckmeier's the past month has returned home and Margaret Brock is now taking her place.

L A Whited and wife left Tuesday morning on a business trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

C H Wain, proprietor of the Maple Spring Farm, the home of pure bred Lincoln sheep, was an Albany visitor Thursday.

Wm Baum of Albany visited at J H Kelly's Monday evening.

B. R. L. C.

Santiam Farm Topics

Thomas Haley of Lebanon, a former resident of this section came down Friday on a social visit among old time neighbors and called on the Santiam Farm for dinner Saturday, and a good old fashioned chat was enjoyed by the proprietor.

Newton Crabtree and wife of Scio were out visiting the last of the week with the latter's sister, Mrs G W Griffin.

Douglas Ellison of Albany who is traveling salesman for aluminum kitchen ware was through our parts last week and called over night with the Pie Eater.

Oscar Hilpot came near getting seriously hurt one day last week while grubbing out some fir trees. After cutting all the roots he was pulling on a limb when all of a sudden it fell, catching him under two big limbs. Cliff Griffin had to cut them off so he could get out.

M C Gaines is economizing on saving the slaughter of calves for veal as he buys up all that people wish to dispose of, and puts two calves with each cow he does not care to milk. He raised 50 head in this way last year, which he claims pays better than milking for the cream, and is much less trouble.

Mrs Dave Bilyeu has had a severe attack of poison oak on her face which swelled her eyes shut. She learned of a sure cure, by scalding a chicken in a small amount of water, leaving the feathers in the hot water for ten minutes and wash them thoroughly to get all the strength out, then strain the water through a cloth and bathe the affected parts freely with a little cotton rag several times a day. The relief is like magic and seldom if ever fails to effect a cure.

Grandma Pruitt of Scio is sick at the home of her son Frank with typhoid fever. Owing to her age it is doubtful if she pulls out again, still we all hope for her recovery to health.

We were somewhat surprised Sunday morning to step out and see old mother earth with her Sunday clothes on, or rather, an inch of snow to remind us that winter was not all over, after some two weeks of nice warm sunshiny weather which indicated spring was at hand.

PIE EATER.



We have been compelled by Uncle Sam to cut all those off our mailing list who are more than one year in arrears for subscription.



Harry in and pay up your back subscription to the News and we'll all feel better.

ROMANCE OF RHODESIA.

Story of the Missionary, the Explorer and the Prospector.

The story of the taking and making of Rhodesia forms one of the most picturesque and thrilling chapters in the history of England's colonial expansion. About the time that the nineteenth century had reached its turning point a strange tale, passing by word of mouth from native kraal to native kraal, came at last to the ears of a Scotch worker in the mission field of Bechuana-land. It was a tale of a waterfall somewhere in the jungles of the distant north—a waterfall so mighty, declared the natives, that the spray from it looked like a storm cloud on the horizon, and the thunder of its waters could be heard four days' trek away.

So the missionary, wearied with the tedium of proselyting amid a peaceful people and restless with the curiosity of the born explorer, set out on a long and lonely march to the northward, through a country which no white man's eyes had ever seen. It took him three years to reach the falls for which he started, but when at last he stood upon the brink of the canyon and looked down upon the waters of the Zambesi as they hurtled over 400 feet of sheer cliff, he was so awed by

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their majesty and their beauty that he named them after Victoria, the young English queen. Before he left the missionary explorer carved his name on the trunk of a tree, where it can be seen today; the name is David Livingstone.

For a quarter of a century the regions adjacent to the Zambesi were disturbed only by migratory bands of natives and marauding animals. Then Stanley came with his mile long caravan of porters, halting long enough to explore and map the region, on his historic march from coast to coast.

In the middle of the eighties a bulky thickset, shabbily clad prospector, trekking through the country with a single wagon, found that for

which he was seeking—gold. He saw, too, that its verdure clad prairies would support many cattle and that its virgin soil was adapted for many kinds of crops; that it was, in short, a white man's country. Unarmed and unaccompanied, he penetrated to the kraal of Lobengula, the chief of the warlike Matabele, who occupied the region, and induced him to sign a treaty placing his country under British protection.

The price paid him was £100 a month and a thousand antiquated rifles—cheap enough, surely, for a territory three times the size of Texas and as rich in natural resources as California. A year later the British South Africa company, a corporation capitalized at £6,000,

000, under a contract granted by the imperial government, began the work of exploiting the concession, naming it, properly enough, after Cecil John Rhodes, the lone prospector, who, with the vision of a prophet, had foreseen its possibilities and by whose unaided efforts it had been obtained.

Such was the first step in Rhodes' policy of British expansion northward, a policy so successful that in his own lifetime he saw the frontiers of British Africa pushed from the Orange river to the Nile.—E. Alexander Powell, F. R. G. S., in Scribner's.

The Word "Chores."

The word "chores," generally used in the plural, is not slang, but an English word of highly respectable lineage. In this form it is found only in America, in England the spelling and pronunciation being "char," though this is rarely used except in combination with "woman"—"charwoman." But in some of the provincial dialects, that of Cornwall for example, the word "chores" is used precisely as we use "chores." All these forms come down to us from the Anglo-Saxon word "corr" or "cerran," to turn over.

Misplaced Boast.

"Pretty nice land around here," said the stranger as his dusty rig stopped in front of the gate.

"Certainly is," replied the eager farmer. "Finest in the state."

"I reckon it is too high priced for a poor man," sighed the stranger.

"Well," replied the farmer; "it is worth every cent of \$1,200 an acre. That's the way I value it. Were you thinking of buying?"

"No," replied the stranger as he jotted something into a book. "I'm the new county assessor."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

His Choice of Charity.

"Economy is all very well," said a speaker, "but some of the latter day, scientific management economy you hear about reminds you of the skindint millionaire whose only charity was foreign missions."

"You see," the man explained, "I choose foreign missions because I want to make my money go as far as possible."—Washington Post.

You Can't Lose It.

"Of course," said the optimist. "If a man gets into the habit of hunting trouble he's sure to find it."

"Yes," replied the pessimist, "and if he's so lazy that he always tries to avoid it it will find him. So what's the difference?"—Catholic Standard and Times.

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