

## Editorial Page of Home and Farm Magazine Section

Timely, Pertinent Comment Upon Men and Affairs, Following the Trend of World News;  
Suggestions of Interest to Readers; Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

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Advertisers in this locality who wish to fully cover all sections of Oregon and Washington and a portion of Idaho will apply to local publishers for rates.

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### TO READERS.

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer, Oregonian Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, livestock and poultry interests of the Northwest, and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited, for the Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer proclaims neutrality on these matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your livestock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

### THE LURE OF THE MOVIES.

THE PROBLEM of keeping the young man on the farm is not the same today as it was 50, or even 10 years ago. And one reason why it is not so great as it formerly was is the "movie." The motion picture fills a "long-felt want" in the rural districts of the Nation.

Not so long ago living in the country meant putting up with hardships that did not come the way of the city dweller; it meant less luxury, less amusement, less life. Today the attractions of the country rank level with those of the city and the choice lies with the differences in temperament. It is no longer a sacrifice to seek rural life, for the farm community of today has many things to offer that even the city did not years ago. And the amusements it offers are usually cleaner and healthier.

Are there any who do not remember the terrible theatrical abortions that were once offered to the rural playgoer, while his more favored cousin in the city had the choice of Booth, Forrest, Barrett and Jefferson? With the exception of the one day that the "greatest show on earth" camped on its outskirts, the year held little to the farm community in the shape of theatrical amusement but the annual tour of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" or "Way Down South," with "Sallie, the Sewing-Machine Girl" as an occasional relief.

Today Maude Adams plays before the patrons of the moving picture shows in the small towns as well as in the large cities. Sarah Bernhardt has deigned to be a "movie" star. Dustin Farnum, Max Figman and many stars of the "legitimate" stage have harkened to the call of the movie, while a splendid array of real talent developed by the motion-picture industry itself is at the command of the patron of the flickering screen.

The dweller in the country town where there is a single motion picture show often has as great a range and choice, if the house is well enough patronized to allow the manager to pay the high price demanded by the more famous films, as the dweller among the brick walls of the city.

The conveniences of city life are fast becoming a part of rural life and what inconveniences remain in the country are more than offset by the pleasure of living where there is room to stretch and breathe, where shams fail and where "a man is a man for a' that."

Little Charley McDonald, of Oklahoma, started something when he told his grand-

mother that he wanted to send an ear of corn to help feed some starving little Belgian boy. The corn clubs of the state have taken up the matter and thousands of little fellows in the state are giving their ears of corn, which are being ground into meal for the starving Belgians.

### RIGHT AND WRONG WAYS.

A BRIDEGROOM of less than six months, out of work and out of provisions, says an editorial in the Eugene Daily Guard, is now a prisoner in the County Jail, charged with burglary. He is charged with breaking a window and entering a grocery store in Fairmount, where he was captured by the police. That a man is out of work and hungry is no justification for crime. There are worse things than poverty and there is no defense of the man who takes what belongs to his neighbor because he is too proud to beg.

There is a right and wrong way of doing everything and in the end the right way pays. The man who undertakes to live by his wits, to get money or its equivalent without working for it, is foreordained to failure. And yet there are always men starting on that road. The end of their folly will be years and years of hard work, hard living, lonesomeness and heart-breaking monotony in prison.

A few weeks ago a man walked into The Guard office and stated that he was without work and had a family and seven children to support. He did not seek charity, but asked if the paper would aid in procuring employment. An appeal was made to the people of Eugene and before the paper was scarcely off the press a place for that man to work, temporarily at least, was found.

What a difference between these two men when confronted by adversity! One, with an even greater burden than the other, was willing to go to the extreme so far as proclaiming his poverty was concerned, provided he might retain his good name, while the second entered a grocery store, a half block from his home, and helped himself to provisions, destroying his citizenship and bringing disgrace upon his bride of a few months. The one man will remain and be respected in the community, the other may go to prison; one home will be happy, the other sad; prosperity may come to the family of the honest father, while poverty, so far as the wayward husband is concerned, will be the lot of the young wife who was to have eaten the stolen food.

Honesty in the face of poverty is to be admired. Men, though poor, who turn to crime are not to be excused. Their state of mind may contribute provocation, but the man who in youth learned the lesson of industry and whose idea is not to get on with as little effort as possible will not take the path which leads to the criminal courts. There are things more humiliating than asking for alms.

### HEALTH AND THE FARM.

DON'T get the mistaken idea, altogether too prevalent, that farm life is healthiest because it is farm life. Farm life gives ample opportunity for an abundance of health, but neglect that opportunity and your chance for health is not so great as it would be in the city.

In a recent address in Chicago, Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, chief of the United States Bureau of Chemistry, declared that the city is

healthier than the farm. He substantiated that statement by statistics.

"The largest cities," he said, "need Federal protection far less than the small towns or rural communities. In many states the large cities are the only points which have any real sanitary protection.

"Our rural population of 49,000,000 persons, including the 30,000,000 that live on farms, receive little state health protection, and maintain no local protective system of their own. They are not safeguarded from polluted water supply or sewage disposal, nor against contaminated milk, meats and other foods."

And Dr. Carl Alsberg ought to know.

There can be no disputing the fact that precautionary measures reduce the death rate in the city, and lack of precautionary methods increases the death rate in the country.

### AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING.

EVERY one will be pleased to learn that the Panama Canal, which required years and millions of money to construct, is already on the way to a self-sustaining basis. From August 15 to October 1 the earnings of the new waterway amounted to more than \$700,000. The increase in October was 40 per cent over the preceding month, the receipts totaling \$377,086. When it is taken into consideration that the canal has been open only a few months, and that the European war has stagnated commerce, this is indeed a satisfactory showing.

The first consignment of cotton to go through the canal left Galveston on the steamer Penrith Castle for Yokohama, with 3270 bales. Other ships with this commodity will soon fall in line, because by using the canal the vessels will save between those ports 5280 nautical miles, 22 days' time, or \$5000 on the outward voyage alone. Here is only a straw, but it is an excellent example of what the canal is to do for our commerce.

With lines of steamships between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans soon to be inaugurated, the Panama route will be the favored one for Easterners who visit the big exposition at San Francisco next year, particularly for those who have plenty of time at their disposal and who desire to acquaint themselves with the big waterway about which they have read so much in recent years.

Norway and Sweden combined would be a hard nut for either Russia or Germany to crack. There are few more hardy or brave fighters than the descendants of Eric the Red, et al., though their numbers may be small.

It is still mighty hard to get more than 100 cents' worth of anything for a dollar, in spite of the fact that the Federal bank reserve system is in operation.

No favors are to be shown by equal suffrage, lament the women who are older than they look, but must register their correct age. Wonder if they all will?

Pictures of the Kaiser, King George and the President of France, with the motto "Peace on earth, good will toward men," make a fine Christmas card.

There is this to be said in favor of the spiked helmet worn by the German soldiers—there is no danger of them blowing off.