

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

Published every Tuesday and Friday at Gresham, Oregon.

H. L. ST. CLAIR, Editor and Publ'r.

Our Subscription Rates One year, \$1.50; six month, 75 cts; three month's trial subscription, 50c.

Advertising Rates reasonable Our representative will call.

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Official paper of the Town of Gresham, Oregon. Official paper of the Town of Fairview, Oregon.

Entered as second-class matter March 3, 1911, at the Postoffice at Gresham, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

NOTHING FIT TO EAT.

In an editorial on Wednesday, the Oregonian in speaking of the opportunity of the country merchant, said:

"It is nothing short of a calamity that the arts of butter-making, curing bacon and the like should have been permitted to decay in rural communities. Both the farmers and the merchants suffer from the needless transfer of these crafts to the cities. All that is required to restore them where they properly belong is concentration of rural effort and capital."

The inference that there is a general idea that the country merchants are "controlled by large central combinations" is one that is gaining ground in the rural communities; and the statement concerning the farmers that "their butter is often rancid or worse, their eggs unsightly and occasionally addled, and their bacon unskillfully cured and wrapped" is unfortunately true in many cases.

But there is another side to the story which has not been told. The city merchants, more so than the country storekeepers, have discriminated against the farmers' products to the extent that they are refusing to handle dairy butter, farm-cured meats, and often fresh eggs. They prefer to buy from the wholesaler.

No matter how pure and sweet the farmer's dairy butter may be he can scarcely sell it now-a-days anywhere. One prominent restaurant proprietor of Portland was heard to say that nothing but creamery butter would satisfy his customers and that he used dairy butter only for cooking. Everyone knows that the best dairy butter is superior to creamery butter, but when it can't be sold the farmer is forced to sell his milk and buy butter for his own use. That is the situation here, as there is very little dairy butter to be had, the best butter makers having joined the milk seller's contingent.

The same situation prevails in the matter of country cured meats; and as to eggs—the people who can afford to pay for the best will order from the reliable stores and the farmer is forced to trade them to his local merchant in exchange for goods.

The city methods are to blame for the situation. The public markets have not helped the farmer in the three commodities named, and the buying public has acquired a prejudice against the plain products of the farmer through being educated by such statements as given above to believe that the producer is not capable of producing anything fit to eat.

TOO MUCH LAW.

The state legislature is ready to adjourn and the dear people will have a rest for another 2 years. There were over 300 measures submitted for consideration in new laws, changes, appropriations, etc. One legislature meets to undo the acts passed by the previous one. We have too many laws for a peaceful and justice-loving people. The laws come so thick and fast that even lawyers who make them their business and study cannot keep track of them and the common people are informed that ignorance of the law excuses none. The Portland commissioners meet every week and sometimes twice a week to grind out the grist and they have so many ordinances and rules that it is hard even for the city auditor to keep track of them.

Then the United States congress that is in session most all of the time is working at changes which tends to keep business unsettled and we hardly know where we are going to land.

Eastern Oregon, an undeveloped section of the state, may enjoy the luxury of representation on the railroad commission and that body may see the value of doing something to encourage railroad construction.

The Pacific-Panama Exposition will open at San Francisco tomorrow. The Oregon legislature will adjourn tomorrow. It's just one darn thing after another.

"Most fellers who are known as 'mean pups' lead a dog's life," sez Pete Hilger.

UNEXPLAINABLE.

The remarkable achievements of Klug Hans, a horse with a memory, is attracting attention just at this time although the horse has been dead several years. The animal exhibited almost human feats of memory, and now the scientists and some newspapers are trying to explain the phenomena.

So far it has not occurred to any of them that the East Indian theory of reincarnation may be the solution. Perhaps Hans Klug had a human soul that had done duty for a man in some other period of existence. There are many persons who believe in the transmigration of souls and that explanation is just as good as any other.

His Rules of Conduct.

Next Monday will be the 183d anniversary of George Washington, America's greatest son. He was noted for his civility and politeness, as well as for those other qualities which made him great.

When thirteen years of age he drew up for his future conduct a series of maxims which he called "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company." There are fifty of them and they are worthy the consideration of all young people of today. Here are a few of them:

"Every action in company ought to be some sign of respect to those present."

"When a man does all he can, though it succeeds not well, blame not him that did it."

"Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any one."

"In your apparel be modest, and endeavor to accommodate nature rather than procure admiration. Keep to the fashion of your equals, such as are civil and orderly with respect to time and place."

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

"Speak not injurious words neither in jest nor earnest, scoff at none, although they give occasion."

"Speak not of doleful things in time of mirth nor at the table; speak not of melancholy things as wounds or death; and if others mention them, change, if you can the discourse."

Crime in London.

London has a population of about seven and one-half million people, and the commissioner of police has just given out figures which show that in one year the total number of murders in the greatest city in the world was only twenty-three. As compared with the large cities of the United States, this is simply astonishing. New York, with half the population, has as many murders in a fortnight. Of the murderers, nine committed suicide, anticipating a fate which they knew to be inevitable. Of the fourteen remaining ten were put on trial and convicted. Of these five were found insane; the other five were sentenced to death, leaving only four unaccounted for at the time of the report. It is added that "there was no case of the murder of a person above one year old in which the perpetrator was not discovered." It is an extraordinary record for so great a city, composed of so many elements, and the conclusion of the Springfield Republican is undoubtedly correct that, while the certainty and promptness of justice have much to do with it, so small a number of murders shows a civilized, peaceable and law-abiding people. The total number of arrests for the year, 128,604 was the highest on record, but the majority of the arrests were for trivial causes, and offenses against property were fewer. In only eighteen cases was property stolen which was worth more than \$5,000. London affords a splendid field for the fertile imagination of Dr. Doyle, but evidently there would be little opportunity there for Sherlock Holmes.

It Wasn't Like Sargent After All. Once when John S. Sargent, the famous painter, was at a banquet, a young lady whom he knew very well said to him: "Oh, Mr. Sargent, I saw your latest painting and kissed it because it was so much like you."

"And did it kiss you in return?" "Why, no."

"Then," said Mr. Sargent, "it was not like me."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Grammar Class Recites.

"The grammar class will please stand up," said the teacher of the "seventh grade the other day. "Ann, you may give the degrees of the verb 'be' " "Positive, be; comparative, be; superlative, be," answered Ann.

"Right, now John you are good at the declension of personal pronouns, will you decline 'me'?" "You just bet I'll decline you; I won't have any old school marm in mine," replied John.

"School is dismissed," said the teacher, and as she walked home alone she pondered over the possibilities of next year.

"If I was a microbe," sez Bud Miller, "I couldn't ask a pleasanter home than a powder rag a girl had been usin' about six months."

TAX LEVIES AND OTHER MEASURES

Appropriations of the present session of the Legislature, according to estimates, will approximate \$6,036,913.73.

The total appropriations of the 1913 session were \$6,733,462.08; and of the 1911 session \$4,744,336.36.

The apparent saving of the present session over that of two years ago, therefore, is nearly \$2,000,000. While the foregoing estimate is not the precise amount of appropriations that the Legislature will authorize, it is believed that this figure is nearly correct.

Some members still insist on trimming the recommendations of the ways and means committee to fit the economy program, but the ways and means committee, it is generally conceded, has been more than economical and the consensus of opinion is that the two houses will have to accept the committee's report and pass the appropriation bills put up to them by the ways and means members. In that event the total appropriations will be precisely \$6,036,913.73, distributed as follows:

Continuing millage tax appropriations: University of Oregon, three-tenths mill, \$570,000; Oregon Agricultural College, four-tenths mill, \$760,000; Monmouth Normal School, one-twenty-fifth mill, \$78,000; county fairs, \$95,000; roads and highways, quarter mill, \$480,000; total, \$1,983,000.

In addition to this there has been appropriated \$128,000 for special agricultural experiment work.

A compromise tax measure was passed by the Senate yesterday, which, while not satisfactory to all interests, is believed to be far superior to the one now on the statute books. The objectionable feature of the present law making it impossible to divide payments without being subject to an interest charge is eliminated. It is the bill passed by the House with an amendment providing a penalty of two per cent in addition to interest of one per cent a month if the first half of the year's taxes are not paid when due.

The bill provides for two taxpaying periods. The first half shall be due, April 5 and the second half October 5. After October 5 all unpaid taxes become delinquent and bear interest at 1 per cent a month. If not paid before November 5, five per cent penalty is added. Under the existing law all taxes are due April 1, and if not paid then, 1 per cent interest monthly attaches until October 1. There is no penalty, but after October 1 for all unpaid taxes there is a penalty of 10 per cent. Because all taxes became due April 1 many persons who made only a half payment at that time objected to paying the interest of 1 per cent a month on the remainder.

The House has refused to concur in the 2 per cent amendment of the Senate. It will probably become a law with a 1 per cent penalty.

Senator Moser's bill to prohibit compulsory vaccination went down to defeat, 19 to 11, in the Senate today after one of the gamiest fights by the author ever made on the Senate floor. The Multnomah senator fought for his measure before the committee on medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, to which it was referred, and when the majority report against it was filed and it became evident it was doomed, he again took up the gage of battle with renewed vigor.

Oregon's entire public accountancy system now has been abolished by the Legislature. The House yesterday morning passed the Marion county delegation's bill introduced in the Senate providing for abolition of the system as provided by the 1913 session. The Senate bill had lain on the table pending action by the Senate on the House bill, which would have compromised the situation.

Unless either the House or the Senate recedes in its position on the compensation bill it is probable that no compensation legislation will be obtained at this session and that the present law, which, it is admitted, needs amendment, will remain in effect for the next two years.

Multnomah county is not to have an additional circuit judge. The House voted to postpone indefinitely the Senate bill providing for such an office.

Changes in the game laws will make the deer season from August 15 to October 31. A limit of two female Chinese pheasants is allowed in a bag of five, but not more than four

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may be killed in any seven consecutive days. Only in Klamath county may quail be killed, and only for the first ten days in October there. The duck season has been extended to April 1. The State Highway commission asked for the resignation of Major Bowly, state engineer in charge of the Columbia River Highway work. The governor consented and Major Bowly has offered to quit. Department funds may hereafter be paid out of the state general fund, thereby saving about \$30,000 a year interest when special funds have run out. The good news comes from Salem that the millage appropriation for county fairs was not molested in the destruction of the continuing appropriations. A new effort will be made to have a half-mill road levy passed to cover the entire state, a former measure having been defeated. The legislature refused an appropriation of \$10,000 to send the Portland police band to the San Francisco fair. Investigators have reported that the Cello project is not advisable from a commercial standpoint. Lease of the Sumner and Albert mineral lakes to Jason C. Moore was ratified on Wednesday. Commission form of government for the state lost out by a decisive vote in the Senate. Fourteen appropriation bills introduced on Wednesday call for \$778,706. The two houses have failed to agree upon the new compensation act.

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