

NO MAN'S LAND AWAITING CALL OF THE SEASON

Though we arranged an armistice for men, the warfare between forces and peoples goes on. Many of the wood folks dug themselves in, long before Christmas, and these rainy mornings are being well endured by a thousand forms of life that dwell, with less discomfort than in this far western state of ours.

Passing through the woods, where stray beams of sunshine gleam through the clouds and makes the scene fair, one sees the silent firs and cedars that have breathed into their beards, hold a wonder show of jewels—glistening raindrops. On the lower ground the young maple shoots that will be rods of fire when spring appears, grow thickly, and the marsh woods, dead, yet with moisture in them, have been contracted by the cold till the water has come forth and, on the almost zero days, has changed to frost upon their skeleton limbs. It is here that the trench system exists, wherein, as on a line in Flanders, the lesser creatures bid defiance to winter.

You may hear the chickadee, as he is cheerfully inspecting his wooden cupboards, but otherwise there is little apparent life in the stillness. But if you scrape away the moss above the marshy ground you will find, under dead grass, green growths. Under these are the dug-outs of the little peoples. Philosophic frogs have buttoned green coats under white chins and with gas masks of decaying vegetation are defying the bombardments of the winds and the rain.

Toads, fat old generals of many a winter campaign, arrayed according to custom in a muddy khaki, wait the victorious march of their allies, Spring and Sunshine. Until the spring floods shall roar their salutes they will wait in perfect peace—the triumph of light over darkness. Brahmins for months, they have attained Nirvana.

What other forms may be there one cannot tell. The lizards we met after last summer's rains, the patient snails, snakes green and striped, red legged turtles in the sloughs, and their cousins with yellow dots and splashes of red that indicate their divisions and honorable records their race has won by hard fighting, are somewhere comfortably waiting out the barrage of those booming guns of the air and the mist. Tonight the temperature may drop to any place it can, but there, under coverings of swamp grass, mud and water, wait the battalions that will move forth by millions when "proud, pious April" has "put a spirit of youth in everything."

As the man out with the steaming team for a load of wood, works in the drizzling rain, the chipmunk awakens and dozes again, dreaming of red apples. The man strikes a rotten stick with his axe and a wood worm, white and fat, has its coming-out party. With a pair of jaws, a digestive tract and nothing else, this citizen of a decaying republic has lived, Hooverizing upon sawdust. Scientists can find in it no brain, no hope of improvement. But had the axe not brought it into flight out of due season, it would have come forth after awhile into summer sunshine, with eyes, feelers, wings, eggs to lay and feathers to astonish mankind, and lived a happy season on the wings of the wind.

Perhaps the teamster who thus intruded is himself, is in the stage of life, as we all may be, waiting in the cold hall of an enclosed life until faculties and powers, and an existence we cannot comprehend, come to us after a chrysalis state that we must leave, as the wood worm leaves his, before the great adventure.

The woodman gets his load of wood and goes home, watched from hidden places under little cedars or among the briars by rabbits, that flop their long ears that hear so much from which the creatures learn so little. As he goes, the groaning wagon brushes the witch hazel blossoms that November brought to bloom. Soon the birds will be inspecting the ground where the woodpile was placed.

Tonight, as the thermometer drops again, some wood-mouse will sit upon a dry chip for a moment, see the morning moon through the waving boughs on the sloping hillside, seek some seed or edible root amid the

LIFTING OF THE BAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS

The Gresham grade school will reconvene on Monday, January 27. This is the fourth start we have made since the ban was first put on all the schools of the county on October 12. We hope that we may be able to make a go of it this time and that work will continue without another break until the close of the school year.

The school has been almost a complete failure as far as progress is concerned as the eight weeks' work we have done has been continued off and on, (mostly off) during a period of twenty weeks. The only consolation we have in the matter is the fact that the same conditions have prevailed in almost all the schools of the state. This, I think, is one time when the pupils are almost justifiable in saying, "I have done as well as the other fellow."

I wish to state that every effort will be made on the part of the teachers to safeguard the health of the pupils and to protect them from the "flu" malady. Children who have colds should be kept at home. Teachers will be asked to watch closely and children showing any symptoms of sickness will be sent home immediately.

There has, I think, been some complaint regarding the division made in the grades during the first month of school. A little thought on this matter will convince any one of the advantages of this plan. The object is to have two promotions instead of one during the year. This will enable us to advance an exceptionally strong pupil a half year who could not be advanced a whole year. Likewise a pupil who fails to make his grade will be retained only a half year where he would be retained a whole year under the former grouping of classes.

In making this division a few of the stronger pupils in each grade were selected for the advanced class. The plan was for this class to make two year's work in a year and a half by taking longer lessons than the average pupil is able to master. However the "flu" has defeated our plans. It is impossible for the average pupil to complete the work of the grade this after having lost so much time, for there has never yet been worked out a plan by which a lost day can be regained. Under these conditions the advanced class of each grade, that is the B class, will attempt to make this grade and another in two years on schedule time, while the A class will do only a half year's work this year.

This seems to be the most feasible plan to pursue according to the way things appear at present.

T. J. SKIRVIN, Principal.

A monument to Jefferson Davis 371 feet high is being erected in Kentucky. It is well that we should have it as a permanent reminder of the way in which democratic leadership stands by a national administration controlled by the opposition, in war time.

A good deal of good luck is a matter of habit, same as bad luck. Either one may be increased by the proper kind of publicity.

rubbish and dodge back to safety. Across the night will move the swift shadow of the noiseless owl. The No-Man's Land of nature's warfare will be at peace.

COUNTY COUNCIL MERGES INTO FARM BUREAU WITH NEWSPAPER

County Agent S. B. Hall has announced that the publication of the Exchange List, together with the Agricultural Council of members of the grange have both been superseded and their places taken by another publication and a new organization. The paper will be known as The Farm Bureau News, and will be the mouthpiece of the Multnomah County Farm Bureau. The first issue of the News has already been sent out. It contains this announcement:

At the regular annual meeting of the Council in December the reorganization took place. The Farm Bureau will perform the same functions as the Council did but will differ some in its organization. It will be made up of committees from each community in the county which will act as leaders for the different lines of project work taken up. The completion of the organization will be taken up as soon as the "flu" situation clears up so it will be safe to hold meetings again.

Officers.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: H. A. Lewis, President; J. E. Stansbury, Vice-President; and C. M. Walker, Secretary-Treasurer. The executive committee has not been named as yet but will be selected as soon as the community committees are organized to handle the projects which were determined upon as the most important for work during 1919.

Projects.

The projects selected are as follows:

1. Crop Improvement, including better seeds, potato certification and alfalfa growing.
2. Lime and Fertilizers.
3. Livestock Improvement.
4. Drainage and Soil Improvement.
5. Farm Records.
6. Poultry Flock Improvement.
7. Organization.

These being the special projects to work upon aside from the regular miscellaneous work which comes up from day to day.

The general plan of the development work under each of the different projects are as follows:

Crop Improvement.

In the locating and distribution of better strains of seeds of the various crops, whenever a good strain of a particular kind, such as Hanchen barley is located, some of the seed is secured and placed in different parts of the county where it can be tested thoroughly with the already grown varieties, and where it proves to be better it is distributed to replace the poorer yielding kinds.

A number of alfalfa trials which have been conducted along the northern slope of the county have proven alfalfa to be a very profitable crop for that section, and especially where some of the harder varieties have been planted. This year the Agent will cooperate with farmers in that section who wish to prepare their ground and plant small acreages of alfalfa. Several varieties will be used to fully determine the best kinds to plant in this section.

The certification of potatoes is a new work which is starting in this state. It is a system of inspection

carried on by the state to determine the quality so that those that have potatoes true to variety and fairly free from disease can get a certificate of quality issued by the State Department. The past two years the potatoes which were certified in this state sold readily at a good advance over the market price and were all bought for seed.

Lime and Fertilizer.

The lime work will take up the work of testing soils for acidity to determine whether they need lime, and assisting in the pooling of carload orders of lime which can now be secured from the state lime plant at a very reasonable figure. Then the checking the returns of the crops to determine the increase by the use of the lime.

Fertilizer demonstrations on such crops as corn, grain, potatoes, etc., have been conducted the past three years with good results. In most communities these demonstrations will be continued.

Livestock Improvement.

The chief ways will be by the replacement of the scrub bulls by good purebreds which are from producing strains, testing cows for production by means of a Cow Testing Association and the assisting in the selection of purebred foundation stock of cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses.

Drainage.

The laying out of drainage systems on private farms has been a very beneficial line of work and has materially increased production. This phase will be continued and the assisting in the organization of drainage districts, such as the Multnomah Drainage District No. 1, will increase the agricultural area of the county.

Farm Records.

The assisting in the keeping of Farm Records will be one of the important lines. A simple but complete record book has been published by the State Department and will be sold for the cost of printing which is 25 cents. Assistance will be given each person in the taking of the inventory to start with and at any time during the year when help is needed. Several of the local banks will cooperate in this work.

Poultry Flock Improvement.

The management of several farm flocks of poultry under the supervision of the poultry specialist at the College who will personally assist in the culling, making and selection of feeds, is the general plan of this project. About five or six flocks will be wanted to conduct this work. Culling demonstrations will be held during the fall and better stock distributed.

Organization.

This will consist of the completion of the organization of the Farm Bureau as adopted by the old Council members.

The "flu" situation will materially handicap the work at present and especially in being able to meet with the farmers in groups to talk over the project work. To overcome this, if you are interested in any of the projects mentioned we would be glad to hear from you at an early date and I will try and call upon you and make plans for starting the demonstrations. If interested write or phone now.

TAXPAYERS' MEETING CALLED IN PROTEST

Superintendent Alderson's bill to consolidate all country school districts, a synopsis of which was given in the Outlook last week, has been presented to the legislature by State Senator Moser, and is known as Senate Bill 45. It has been printed and may be had by writing to any member. It may be seen at the Outlook office, but does not vary much from the published story, except that it is more complete and in detail.

As predicted, there is considerable opposition expressed and some protests will be made to the legislature. One such protest will come from a mass meeting to be held at the Rockwood schoolhouse tomorrow night, January 25, at 8:30. There will be delegations of taxpayers from several of the surrounding districts and a lengthy discussion is anticipated.

All persons interested in the matter are invited to be at the Rockwood meeting and express themselves on the subject. Other meetings may be held in the county, as it is deemed to be a measure of great importance.

Senate Bill, No. 45, for the consolidation of the country school districts, has been amended in some respects and has been unanimously endorsed by the Multnomah delegation in the legislature. The principal amendments are as follows:

The country districts are to be divided into five zones or voting districts of nearly equal strength, as shown by the last school census. One member of the county board of education is to be elected from each zone. There can be no change in any school district, nor can any consolidation of districts occur except on petition of a majority of the legal voters of such district.

The zone showing the largest vote will elect member of board for five years; the second for four years, and so on. County School Superintendent Alderson will attend the meeting at Rockwood tomorrow night and explain all features of the bill.

REASONS GIVEN FOR DELAYS IN SERVICE

Much complaint has come to the Outlook concerning the delays in the rural delivery service since the train schedule was changed. At the beginning the two rural carriers were ill and the substitutes were unable to work the mail on time. Under the rules of the department they were required to report such delays, but their excuses were accepted as unavoidable incidents owing to the prevailing conditions.

When the regular carriers returned to work a week ago they found that they must leave the office on the old schedules in effect for several years past, as no change has been authorized by the department. They are obliged to leave before it is possible to work the mail which has but just arrived, and the result is that nearly all of it is left over until the next day.

An effort has been made to get out the letter and the daily papers, but they are not always able to do this. A change in the carriers' leaving schedule is expected, and when it comes all mail will be delivered the same day, as usual.

The postmaster has no authority to change schedules without authority from the department even in such cases as this one, so the public will have to wait for better service until such authority is received.

FIGHT IS WON THAT STRANDS GREAT ORDER

The remnant of the once noted order of Good Templars might just as well go out of business, now that its great fight is won. It worked hard for fifty years without thinking that victory meant its death warrant. Several other temperance societies, not so well known in other years and not very prominent even now, are in the same condition—there is nothing left for them to do except to disband or change their constitutions, by-laws and rituals and enter some other line of fraternalism or become insurance orders.

The Good Templars was once a strong order in Oregon. Its lodges forty years ago were more numerous than the grange is today. Every hamlet had its lodge, and there were many lodges in every large city. Gresham had its Good Templar lodge long before it had a grange. In fact, it was probably the first lodge established here. But it fell by the wayside along with nearly all the others, and if there is a Good Templars lodge in Oregon today it is so obscure that very few know where to find it.

It seems strange, that with a growing sentiment for prohibition, dating for more than thirty years back, that the Good Templars should have declined. There are several reasons, one of which—and the most important—is that a majority of the members of each lodge failed to keep their obligations. Anybody could join, as it was an uplift order, and thousands joined just to get into the society for a good time or to gain some prominence. A former county clerk of Multnomah county was a member for awhile yet he never kept his vows and was finally killed in a drunken brawl.

Another factor that went a long way toward destroying the Good Templars was found in the present insurance orders. All of them teach temperance and morality even better than the Good Templars did. As they grew in membership and refused to take in the habitual liquor users their moral tone attracted those who refused to associate with hard drinkers in the lodge rooms, and the latter were abandoned to their social fate, if, indeed, they remained long enough to be abandoned—which few of them seldom did.

A long story of Good Templarism could be written. It was a prosperous order half a century ago and flourished for twenty years. Then it began to decline. Some very prominent men and women were members and it was considered a great honor to be chosen as one of the grand officers. Mrs. C. A. Coburn, a sister of H. W. Scott and Mrs. A. S. Duniway was grand secretary for a term. A prominent legislator named Dunbar, of Marion county, was for several years the grand chief Templar. But all its greatness fled a quarter of a century ago and now it is gasping its last breath—victorious in death.

The man who falls upon an icy sidewalk and neither orally nor mentally uses the strongest words he ever heard to express his feelings, need not worry about his chances of a bright hereafter.

From Imperialism to Wooden Shoes



TO OUR READERS

The Outlook began its career as a twice-a-week newspaper almost eight years ago.

Since that time and the present many important changes have taken place both local and national.

Among them is that of greatly advanced cost of production in all lines.

Paper costs just double what it did eight years ago and labor has about doubled.

All this time the Outlook has kept its yearly subscription price at \$1.50. Many of our subscribers have expected a rise in price. We have tried to avoid advancing the subscription price. But the advancing costs may make it necessary in the near future.

The only possible way to avoid it is by considerably increasing our subscription list. We should have two hundred more subscribers on our list within the next two or three months.

If you are not a subscriber you are invited to become one. If a subscriber you are asked to assist the Outlook to keep up its present standard, and improve—if possible, and keep its subscription price at the present rate, both for your benefit and the new subscribers we feel we must have within the next few months.

SEE THE SPECIAL TELEGRAM-OUTLOOK OFFER ON ANOTHER PAGE.

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