

THE HERMISTON HERALD

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE VALLEY

The editor of The Herald has just returned from a trip to Portland, Corvallis and other Willamette valley points. Some of our observations on the outlook in that part of the state may be of interest here, for when one part of the state prospers all prosper and when one faces difficulties it nearly always happens that all are in trouble.

It is with pleasure that we report things much more favorable than expected. A change for the better since June was much in evidence. A good deal of building is going on in the valley towns. Especially is this true of Corvallis where the growth of the Oregon Agricultural College is causing a real building boom.

A great many new business enterprises have opened there during the past year. On the college campus the same conditions prevail. A fine new commerce building is nearly complete. A new women's dormitory has been erected and so have additions to the home economics building

and the men's gymnasium. Building is not confined to the "heart of the valley," city however, for it was seen in other valley towns visited.

It was enlightening to hear comments of business men and to note the increased optimism since the early summer. The fruit season was better than was expected and most of the good crop was sold at fair prices. Some of the prune growers say they do not want prune prices to rise because it is a good thing now and if prices go any higher more trees will be set out and there will be more grown than can be sold.

Unemployment is still a serious matter but it did not seem as bad as one would be led to expect. In some towns there has been work for everyone who really wanted it.

These observations are the result of a short trip and are not given as conclusive. They are of significance for they show a steady improvement and better yet a belief that improvement will continue. In the summer the outlook there was bad and now it is quite favorable.

Despite the complaint about conditions here it is the prevailing opinion that we have been better off than most any other section of the north west and it is encouraging to note that the western part of the state which was really hard hit a few months ago is making a recovery. Better conditions for the whole state seem a wise prediction for the near future.

BRUMFIELD TO GET JUSTICE

Most people will approve of the jury verdict in the Brumfield case. The Roseburg dentist seemed guilty of murder beyond any question or doubt but a clever insanity plea was thought to give him a chance to escape the gallows by working on the sympathy of the jury. That this ruse failed is shown by the verdict of guilty on the first degree murder charge without a recommendation of leniency. This makes it incumbent upon the presiding judge to inflict the death sentence.

This paper has said that it does not believe in capital punishment. It believes that life imprisonment were it really enforced, which it never has been in this state, would be a sufficient deterrent to murder. Nevertheless this paper wants to see capital punishment inflicted in clearly proved murder cases as long as it is the law. There are already too many murders and the victims, not the murderers, are entitled to what sympathy the public has to distribute.

The Brumfield jury is to be congratulated because it waved aside the sentimental bunk of the defense and found in accord with the facts and the law. More of this kind of verdicts properly carried out will mean a new respect for law in Oregon.

THE PEACEFUL (?) COUNTRY-SIDE

Boston Transcript
It is becoming increasingly difficult in Massachusetts to find a rural retreat "far from the maddening crowd's ignoble strife." Gone are the days when "The plowman homeward plods his weary way

And leaves the world to darkness." The plowman is likely to finish his eight-hour day by riding home on the tractor, and borrowing the fliwver to go to the "movies," while the darkness is intermittent, coming in moments of blackness, in the midst of the glare of lights on automobiles that tear by country churchyards at express-train speed. The lowing herd may still wind "slowly o'er the lea," but it is imminent danger if it betakes itself to the highway. Times have changed. "The cool, sequestered vale of life" may be sought in vain in regions within motoring distance of the cities. It is suggestive of irony to speak of "the noiseless tenor" of anybody's way either in city or country.

The invasion of the countryside by the army of automobile riders who have succeeded to the handful who once rode in chaises, would not be a thing to be deplored were all the invaders law-abiding folk. The great majority, of course, are good citizens, but the minority are showing the ability to cause much loss and trouble in the rural regions, and among them are persons guilty of very serious crimes.

Oregon Press Comment

Glorious autumn weather experienced nowhere else on earth but here in Baker county is the joy of this land.—Baker Democrat.

It depends on where you live. The man in town regards his boy at a certain age as a liability; the rancher regards his as an asset.—Crane American.

Most of the thankless jobs in a community, are handled by some man who thinks it an honor to be chairman or something or other.—Medford Mail-Tribune.

The world is running over with men who are always starting some place and stopping to watch somebody demonstrate something in a show window.—Roseburg News-Review.

When Judge Denny brought the Mongolian pheasant to Oregon from China he performed a great service for the sportsmen—likewise the shotgun industry.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Out of more than 500 high school graduates who registered as university freshmen, only 66 were able to pass the examination in English. What do they teach in our public schools, anyway?—Eugene Guard.

A Canadian telephone girl offered testimony at Roseburg to the effect that Dr. Brumfield acted like a normal person while under her observation. Meaning, we take it, that when informed that the line was busy he grunted and slammed the receiver up.—Eugene Register.

Brief and to the Point

Soviet Russia is figuring how to save its face and feed it, too.—Brooklyn Eagle.

In reply to "What is the world coming to?" we say "America."—Wichita Beacon.

One good way to curtail armament would be to hire plumbers to build the battleships.—Tacoma Ledger.

John Barleycorn has had more obituaries written about him than any other living person.—Columbia Record.

If the Ku Kluxers wish to prove their Americanism, they might try stamping out race prejudice.—Baltimore Sun.

The International Court would have brighter prospects if there was also an international sheriff.—Roanoke World News.

There is something peculiarly touching about a bald-headed man's condemnation of bobbed hair.—Akron Beacon-Journal.

The U. S. A. is dry land surrounded by three miles of dry water.—Nashville Tennessean.

A judge can make his meaning clearer to bootleggers if he will only use long sentences.—Asheville Times.

The record of the present Congress suggests that reaction equals inaction.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.



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