

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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DANGER OF WILD CATS.

Oregon is threatened with an era of wild-cat orchards, the use of the name and fame won by Oregon fruit by unscrupulous speculators and exploiters to get rich quick at the unsuspecting public's expense.

Every successful legitimate proposition carries in its wake a train of speculative sharks who hope to profit by fleecing the investor. A producing mine is discovered and countless worthless prospects are placed upon the market.

A glance at Portland papers shows countless opportunities to buy Spitzbergen and other orchards in some hitherto unheard of "famous belt," at an absurdly low figure.

There is no way "wild-cating" in the orchards or other business can be prevented. The only protection the purchaser has is to investigate the merits of the proposition himself.

Wild-cats, in the long run, injure the community. Witness the conditions in Nevada where a meritorious mining proposition cannot even secure serious attention on account of the bogus ones that deluged the state.

PLANT SHADE TREES.

Ladies of the Greater Medford Club have received orders for 1100 shade trees to be planted along Medford streets. The number should be 11,000, and it is hoped everyone owning property will at once signify his intention to co-operate in the plans for a city beautiful by sending in to the club an order for shade trees along his or her premises.

The advantages to the property owner is so self-evident that it seems a waste of time to again set forth reasons why trees should be planted. It ought to be sufficient argument to know that property along a shaded avenue commands a higher price and is regarded as choicer for residence purposes.

The expense attached to tree planting and care is trifling in comparison with the results.

McMINNVILLE CLAIMS.

The McMinnville commercial club is advertising broadcast that Yamhill county boasts the largest apple orchard in the state and that its apples bring the highest prices in the world's markets.

The Rogue river district has an orchard of 1160 acres, and was under the impression that this was the largest orchard in the northwest. As a matter of information, we should like to know something of the Yamhill orchard, as the Rogue river does not want to sail under false colors.

We would like to know also in what markets and at what date Yamhill apples brought the highest prices. Rogue river and Hood River fruit bring a pretty fancy figure, and if their records have been beaten, the McMinnville commercial club should furnish the proof.

The residents of the west side of the valley have taken a step in the right direction by the organization of a good roads club. Their field of usefulness is a large one. May their example be followed by residents of the other sections of the valley, for good roads are vital to community welfare.

Mine owners of Cherry, Ills., have docked the few rescued from its depths for time lost while entombed. They are not contributing to the sustenance of the destitute and are fighting every case in court. Charity is called on from the public but in this case charity is a fraud for it is justice that is wanted.

A YEAR'S PROGRESS

In order that the people of Medford may know what has been accomplished by the city administration during the past year in the way of municipal improvements, the Mail Tribune asked Mayor Canon to submit a paper, which he has done. This article is to the people of Medford, while one to the world at large was published in the Home Seekers' Edition.

I have been asked to tell the readers of the Daily Mail Tribune something of the work that has been accomplished during the past year in the matter of city building from the standpoint of public improvements. It takes more than people and store buildings and residences to make a city. Without good sidewalks, good streets and adequate

Street Paving.

During the year Central avenue and d'Arjoux street from Sixth to Eighth streets, and Oakdale avenue from the south city limits to North Fourth street, were curbed and paved with hard surface paving. A contract was also let for paving West Seventh street from Laurel street west to the city limits, but owing to the delay of the contractors in getting started with the work, and the unusual heavy rains which set in early in November, this latter work was not completed. It will, however, be pushed to completion as early in the spring as the weather will permit.

The city succeeded in getting the paving work done this year at prices which were from 10 to 20 per cent lower than that paid for paving the business section of West Main street. But an earnest effort is to be made during the coming year to secure substantially lower prices still. Street paving is an absolute necessity. Within the next five years at least 20 miles of street paving should be laid. At the very best it will cost a great deal of money, and no effort should be spared to get the price to the very lowest point possible without sacrificing quality.

We hope to make the year 1910 a banner year for Medford in the matter of street paving. Our plan is to lay out a full season's work, which we hope will be not less than five miles of paving, and by letting all the work in one contract, to get a substantially lower price on the work. We want competition. And it is the intention of the council to send a committee to examine the pavements which have been secured by California cities, to learn something of their experience with their pavements, and to interview the companies which have been doing the work down there, with a view to getting them to make bids on our work here. Every member of the city government is anxious for all of the information and assistance that he can get, and we invite suggestions from every one who knows anything about this matter.

Sidewalks.

In the matter of sidewalks Medford certainly has occasion to be proud of the record of the past year. Everyone in Medford who knows how to lay a good cement walk, and we fear that some who do not know the secrets of this trade, has been busy laying walks during the past year. That more walks were not laid was due only to the fact that there were not more contractors here to lay them. Since February 17, when the present administration took charge of this matter, grades have been established for no less than seven miles of cement sidewalk and two of plank sidewalk. This means more than 50 feet of five foot walk for every man of voting age in the whole city. The work of transforming a village into a city is not the work of a day, but another year or two like the past year will see Medford, with respect to sidewalks at least, in as good shape as any city of similar size in the whole country.

Water Mains.

In the matter of water mains also, Medford has made a great record during the past year. The present administration found the work under way of the construction of a gravity water system which will supply the city with not less than four million gallons of pure, mountain water every twenty-four hours. But what to do with this water when it reached the city was a problem which had to be met. A large part of the city was without water mains, and hence, in no position to take advantage of the city's water supply. We were in a good deal the same position as the merchant whose shelves are full of merchandise but has no clerks or delivery wagons to sell or deliver to his prospective customers. Moreover, the city treasury was empty, and the credit of the city had been heavily taxed to meet the expense of constructing the gravity water system. At this juncture the following plan was devised: The charter was amended so as to permit the assessing of property for the cost of laying water mains in the streets on which it fronted. In order to make the burden as light as possible it was arranged to have the assessments payable in ten annual installments, and finally it was decided to give each person paying an installment of an assessment for a water main a certificate, which the city will receive at any time in payment for water at its regular rates. This places, as nearly as possible, the property in front of which new water mains are laid on an equality with the property in front of which mains were originally laid and paid for out of the city treasury, and means that ultimately all the cost of these mains will be paid by the surplus water of the city. In laying these mains in order to give the city a circulating system, it has been necessary to place mains on some streets on which they would not otherwise have been laid at this time, and doubtless some property owners feel that unnecessary burdens have been placed upon them in

this respect. But it has been the earnest aim and endeavor of those in charge of this matter to confer the most benefit with the least possible burdens, and it is earnestly hoped that every property owner will cheerfully co-operate with those in charge of this work, especially when it is remembered that in the end the money paid out will all come back in water at the same prices that every other property owner pays.

The city succeeded in getting these mains laid at a very moderate price, and the cost on the average to the man owning a hundred foot lot will not exceed \$7.50 per year, and if he be a water user the cost in reality will be nothing, for he will be able to apply this \$7.50 towards the payment of his water rentals.

During the year more than fifteen miles of these water mains were ordered in. The early rains prevented the completion of all this work but it will all be finished in the early spring. What this means in a city the size of Medford will be apparent when we remember that this amounts to seventy-five feet of water main for every man of voting age in the city, and all in one year.

Sewers.

Another thing that is vital to the health and convenience of a modern city is a good sewerage system. During the year between six and seven miles of lateral sewers were ordered laid, the city's septic tank was completed, and a new trunk sewer was laid out and ordered laid to accommodate that portion of the city lying east of Bear creek. It will be necessary for this trunk sewer to cross Bear creek, and it has been thought advisable to make the construction necessary for this crossing of such a character that it can be used as the foundation and beginning of a new bridge across Bear creek, which will be sorely needed in the near future. It has been found possible to do this without greatly increasing the cost of the work, and it will mean a large saving when the city comes to build the new bridge.

In General.

Much more might be told of the work that's been accomplished during the past year, but I feel that I have already tried the patience of the reader. I cannot close, however, without calling attention to the fact that a complete system of house numbering has been laid out and carried into effect during the past year, and that as a result Medford now has a free mail delivery. This went into effect about September 1, and is a milestone on the journey of Medford from the position of a village to that of a city.

I ought not to leave off too without mentioning the miles of street grading, for which grades and inspection have been furnished. Altogether it has been a busy year, and those entrusted with the city's affairs have given to the work a very large part of their time and energy.

Of course, the greater part of the cost of all this work has been borne by the property owners benefited, but it must be remembered that the doing of work of this kind always involves a great deal of expense in the way of engineering, inspecting, printing of notices and clerical work, which must be paid out of the public funds, and those who have managed the city's affairs feel that they can point with some pride to the fact that the work has been carried on so economically that the tax levy for the ensuing year is actually lower than it was for the year 1908, and this too in the face of the fact that there was a reduction made by the county assessor in the assessed values of the city upon which taxes must be levied.

For several years past a dispute has existed with the Electric Light company. The company's franchise requires it to pay the city five per cent of its gross receipts. These have been held back by the company under a claim that it was entitled to a much higher rate for electricity furnished the city for pumping than the city was willing to concede. This matter was taken up by the present administration in a quiet but business like manner, and the result has been that the company has acceded to the claims of the city in every particular, has received in full for all the city's bill for electricity and has paid into the treasury of the city almost a thousand dollars. It will also mean a revenue to the city hereafter, of from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars per year and as the city grows an even larger amount.

In speaking of the present administration, I do not mean to claim any credit for the present mayor, which is not equally shared by every member of the council. All have worked together in perfect harmony and without dissension, and as I believe, with a single eye to the best interests of the city.

W. H. CANON, Mayor.

FAMOUS AVIATOR IS KILLED IN PARIS

BORDEAUX, France, Jan. 4.—Leon DeLaGrande, the famous aviator, was killed here today when his aeroplane collapsed while he was making a flight.

MORE THAN ONE BATTLE PROMISED

Estrada Will Not Risk Fate of Revolution on One Battle With Government Troops.

BLUEFIELDS, Nicaragua, Jan. 4.—(By Wireless to Colon.)—General Estrada has determined not to stake the fate of his revolution upon one battle with the government troops at Acopyapa, if the manner of the advance he has begun upon Managua may be taken to indicate his plans.

The insurgents are moving toward the capital by different routes. Their troops have been divided, evidently displaying Estrada's determination not to risk his entire command in a decisive engagement.

One division is sailing up the San Juan river. It is believed that insurgent commander plans to send this detachment upon the capital by way of Lake Managua.

A second rebel force is marching by way of Acopyapa. To avoid a clash with the government troops in that vicinity, if such is Estrada's intention, it will be necessary for this body to make a detour either to the north or to the south of the city.

Estrada now has under his command about 5,000 men. Although many of these are recruits, the entire force is said to be well equipped and far superior in this respect to the government troops.

20,000 MEN MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS

Miners May Decide to Continue to Aid Switchmen—If They Do, They Will All Be Turned Out.

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 4.—Upon the decision tonight of the Butte miners as to whether they will continue to support the striking switchmen, depends the employment of 20,000 men.

The Amalgamated Copper Company announced today that if the miners vote to continue to lend their aid to the striking switchmen, it will stop down all of its plants in Montana and Wyoming, throwing miners, smelters, lumbermen and quarrymen out of work.

TEAMSTERS WANT MORE OF WHAT THEY PRODUCE

To the Editor: After reading your valuable paper for some time, I haven't seen anything in it in regard to wages paid for team work and manual labor. While Medford and the surrounding country is prosperous as the eastern part of this state, Malheur, Union, Harney and other counties, also Idaho and Washington pay for team work from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per day and \$2.50 to \$4.00 for men on the county work of 8 hours per day, and the cost of feeding a team is only one-half of what it is here. The teamster wants more of what his own labor produces.

CONGRESS AGAIN AT WORK AFTER A REST

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—Congress convened today after its two weeks' of holiday recess, both houses going into session exactly at noon.

Only brief sessions were held in each house on account of the death of Senator McLaurin, of Mississippi, during the holidays. The senate adjourned at 12:40 o'clock.

THE OREGONIAN'S BANEFUL INFLUENCE.

Up in the northern part of Oregon and near the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers is situated a city called Portland. Ten short years ago Portland was an overgrown village, but even then, as now, the largest center of population in Oregon. And travelers passing through Portland en route from Seattle to San Francisco would marvel that a town so advantageously located should be so devoid of the influences that make for civic greatness. As they came on down through the rich Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue river valleys and realized the potentiality of those districts, their wonder grew. The line of travel was dotted with sleepy little towns—miniatures of the state's metropolis. It was then that it became evident that the progress-retarding cause of Portland's backwardness was exerting the same influence over all of western Oregon. At that time the book-worm had not been discovered, or the natural conclusion would have been that the entire coast side of the state had been infected by the parasite. The situation presented an interesting problem that many out of pure curiosity investigated and what they learned demonstrated in a startling manner the power of the press.

It seems that back in the early eighties an embodied human grouch by the name of Harvey Scott secured control of a newspaper known as the Oregonian and published in Portland. Scott was the product of a sectarian college situated in the very heart of Oregon's mossback section, and, we believe, the only product of that institution whose name is known outside of his home town. However, he emerged from the college equipped with an abundance of gray matter, a thorough knowledge of the classics and "the king's English," which had been employed along right lines, would have made him a national—yes, a world character.

But like those of "Jim, the Penman," his God-given talents were turned in the wrong direction. Conscious of his superior attainments, it was not strange that political ambitions filled his bosom; but somehow—probably because of his growing pusillanimity—he was repeatedly doomed to disappointment. For years he gazed with longing eyes upon the senatorial toga, but it was not for him. As the years rolled on, opportunity to exploit the advantages of Portland and the great undeveloped wealth of his state were ignored entirely. As his grouch grew upon him his indifference to the growth of his city and state took a turn for the worse, and the editorial columns of the Oregonian were filled with criticism of almost every forward movement, with abuse of every effort to promote civic righteousness, with de-

nunciations of the anti-liquor movement, with misrepresentations regarding the state's normal school system, and with various fulminations against institutions of higher education.

It must be remembered that until eight short years ago the Oregonian and its echo, the Evening Telegram, were Portland's only dailies—a fact that gave them peculiar powers in the shaping of public opinion, for there was no paper to say them nay. It became necessary for the people of the entire state to read the Oregonian to get the world's news and what was for years a necessity grew as they took their exalted, and sometimes, no doubt, with much the same effect. But, as unpleasant as the dose was at times, there was no alternative.

In the nature of things this could not continue always, and eventually Portland began to feel the influence of newsmen—men who saw at a glance what Scott had not seen in a lifetime—and for the past ten years Portland and every other town in Oregon have been alive to their possibilities, and are now on a par with the cities in states which have never been cursed by newspapers of the Oregonian's class.

The Oregonian continues to grind out its grit of "knocks," but the various communities throughout the state no longer fear it. Scott's outbursts are looked upon as manifestations of peevishness incident to a disappointed life. Indeed, many feel a genuine sympathy for him and readily forgive the damage he has done to the state. This much by way of explanation of Oregon's position in the procession states.

The Oregonian is still a barnacle on Oregon's ship of state, but the good old bulk has new machinery in her now and is ploughing ahead at gratifying speed. Meanwhile Scott is growing old. He has reached the "beard and prayer book age" but still prefers to play with a hammer, and even his friends are beginning to despair of his reformation.

We cannot help but feel that Harvey's case must be eagerly watched by those who have "gone before," for it is a clench that should be taken his present disposition with him when he crosses the great divide rents will either drop in the New Jerusalem or double in the other place.

MRS. EDDY PLEADS TO NEW YEAR FOR TRUTH

BOSTON, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, discoverer and head of Christian Science, today wrote the following poem, which is published in the "Christian Science Monitor":

Blessings infinite,
O, glad New Year.
Sweet sign and substance
Of God's presence here.

Give us not only Angels' sounds,
But Science vast to which belongs
The tongue of angels
And the song of songs.

Savoy Theatre TONIGHT

A MILLION DOLLAR MIXUP (A Million Laughs.)
INDIAN WIFE DEVOTION (Animated Western Drama)
THROUGH THE BREAKERS (Biograph Drama)

ONE DIME DOORS OPEN 7 P. M.

K. of P.'s NOTICE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS TONIGHT

LARGE ATTENDANCE IS DESIRED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET GRAND OFFICERS JANUARY 12, 1910.

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