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 GEORGE F. N. AAL, Editor and Manager

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TIME FOR THE "COME-BACK"

MANY falsehoods have been circulated about Medford in other communities, originating in petty enmity and jealousy.

It is a mistake to suppose that any community can build itself up by attacks on another. Knocking inevitably injures not only the object knocked, but reacts upon the knocker. As the individual who knocks his neighbor's property is unconsciously knocking his, so with the community that depreciates other communities.

The prosperity and growth of any one section of Oregon helps indirectly all other sections. The entire state, indeed, the entire northwest, is knit in a community of interest, and each locality should speak in praise of other localities.

People are going to form their own opinion and judge for themselves anyway, and base the judgment upon facts and observations. The knocker in the long run injures only himself.

The Corvallis Gazette in a recent issue contained the following editorial:

There are those who tell us that Medford has gone to pot, that it has been over-boomed, and that things generally are about as bad as they can be. And there is no denying the fact that there has been a slump in business conditions throughout Southern Oregon, but with all that, Medford has the advantage of many communities less ambitious and not now suffering a slump; and while others are still wallowing in their conservatism, Medford will have come back and forged on to the greater glory dreamed of but seldom or never attained by those communities whose vision is bounded by the dollar cash in hand, and the fear of taxation for legitimate improvement.

According to the Pacific Coast Architect the total value of new buildings erected in Medford during 1913 will equal \$197,000. Civic improvements in the past four years cost \$1,854,000. The city now has 20 miles of paved streets, valued at \$1,000,000; 30 miles of water mains, worth \$250,000; 27 miles of sewers, worth \$204,000; two miles of storm sewers worth \$25,000; 27 miles of concrete walks, worth \$10,000; a 25-mile mountain water gravity system, costing \$275,000.

If Medford is going to pot, she is going in a blaze of glory. The Willamette Valley is never likely to have as glorious a burial. The valley towns are making some fair strides these days, but no one need fear that this section will hit the pace that killed Medford so gloriously. And perhaps 'tis well.

About the same date the Eugene Guard said editorially:

Medford is one of Oregon's best cities, and if all reports are true it is coming to the front rapidly. This year's fruit crop is said to be the best in the history of the Rogue river valley, and the hustlers of Medford are taking advantage of every opportunity to advance the interests of that section. We hope that in the no distant future we will be able to reach our enterprising neighbor via an electric line.

Medford is not "going to pot." No one need worry about that.

Instead of "going to pot," Medford, with all its splendid record of achievement, is just getting ready to do things.

Any community that is so united in public spirit that it will vote 1563 to 156 for highway bonds that will benefit the balance of the county is not "going to pot."

In unity there is strength. Medford's greatest asset is the progressive spirit of her citizenship and the way Medfordites pull together for the common good—a strength possessed by few communities.

The brains, the energy, the perseverance that transformed in a few brief years an unkept and straggling village into the best improved and most metropolitan city of its size to be found in the northwest, are still here, with an added capacity gained from experience. And their ranks are reinforced with ability attracted from all parts of the nation.

The new field to be developed is the utilization of forest and mineral wealth nature has so lavishly scattered over this region. It is up to Medford enterprise to do as much in these lines as has been done in utilization of horticultural resources and city building.

First and foremost in the list of achievements must come a large lumber mill that will supply the valley with its own lumber and fruit boxes, manufactured from Jackson county timber by Jackson county men.

The annual lumber consumption of the valley will furnish steady employment for 250 men. It will stop the present drain of \$1000 a day for every day in the year of money paid to run mills in other sections. Such a mill has a market already created for its output that will insure its payroll, and a profit on the investment.

Medford can secure such a mill if we all "get busy" and help build it. When built it will do more to create permanent prosperity than anything that we can turn our attention to.

The time is ripe for action. It will be a "come-back" in earnest.

Why the Hog Is the Greatest Money-Maker on the Farm

A subscriber writes in and asks why it is that we claim that the hog is the greatest money-maker of all farm animals?

This statement is not often questioned. It is acknowledged by most people who have given it any consideration.

The hog is an economical cog in the farm operation. He is a conservator of waste, a gleaner in the fields, a helper of the farmer in adding to his bank balance.

Because of his saving qualities he has been designated as "the gentleman that pays the rent for the householder, the mortgage lifter for the farmer."

In the past he was adopted by the farmers of the corn and hog belt as the only feasible way of marketing the corn crop. Being turned into the field and fattened, this was known as "hogging the corn," thus saving all of the labor of gathering, storing and feeding out again.

At times, when the wheat crop was an overproduction and the prices were down below the 50-cent mark at the farm, the hog was used to market wheat.

He has done his part in converting the by-product of the dairy and creamery into a marketable article through his stomach. The feeder of a bunch of steers follows

them with a drove of hogs that are fattened off the undigested corn fed the steers. Hogs take care of the by-product of distilleries, beet sugar plants, of the garbage of the cities and of many other factories where food products for human beings are manufactured.

In Texas and several southern states they inform us that they can make pork at two cents a pound or less, and more pounds per acre than they can with a crop of corn, letting the pigs do their own picking or digging, as you please to call it. The hogs can convert kaffir corn, milo maize, cow peas and soy beans into choice pork that can be cashed every day in the year.

Then, again, he is a forager; he can grow on alfalfa and clover and several other kinds of pastures, but especially he is adapted to converting alfalfa into lean pork and when balanced properly makes one of the ideal feeds for pork production at the cheapest possible cost.

Then, again, while the sheep, cows and horses will increase from 60 to 100 per cent annually, the hog will increase from 500 to 2000 per cent annually. He can be turned into the market as quick as a crop of grain.

Cover Crops and Commercial Fertilizers

Fruit growers who have been busy harvesting their crops should not forget that cover crops should be put in before it is too late. The best result are always obtained when the cover crop is put in not later than the first week in September. If the seed is drilled, with sufficient moisture, a good stand and considerable fall growth will result.

We have now done enough of work on cover crops for the orchardists of this district to feel that we are beyond the experimental stage. Some of the first cover cropping done in this valley dates fully seven years ago. The results were not so satisfactory as they might have been because at that time growers did not know what crop to use or how to plant it. It was tried with very poor success, especially so in dry years. The proper proportions of spring vetch and winter oats, as given in bulletin No. 8 of this office, were determined after a series of tests, all of which dates back more than two years. A recent article in the Mail Tribune would indicate that the growers of this valley have just found out during the past two years just what cover crops to use. The past two seasons with their great excess precipitation do not necessarily permit one to form definite conclusions. The past two seasons would have permitted almost anything in the way of a cover crop; even dry eye-straw could have been plowed under without much endangering the soil moisture supply. This would not have been true in most of the years previous.

The greatest need of our orchard soils today is humus, and naturally in the growing of a vetch and oats cover crop we not only get the humus but nitrogen as well. When our soil needs phosphate or potash fertilizer, the most economical way out of the fertilizer question is to supply the humus first and the commercial fertilizer last. Where humus is lacking the application of commercial fertilizer is expensive; for the very reason that soils poor in humus readily lose by leaching such fertilizers as are readily available. The man who sells commercial fertilizers does not object to a plentiful supply of humus, simply because he knows that the fertilizer will show up best in such soils as contain plenty of humus. Furthermore, with sufficient humus, less expensive and more slowly available fertilizer may be used, because the humus provides food for a large bacterial flora which is so necessary to the production of plant food. For instance, the use of the more expensive superphosphate is really necessary in a humus-free soil, while the untreated ground phosphate rock, much less expensive, may be used with good effect in soils well supplied with humus. Furthermore, as pointed out above, a soil supplied with humus will prevent the leaching out of the fertilizer.

Of course, if there are any soils in this district which are so poor that they will grow nothing without fertilizer, naturally commercial fertilizer should be used to "start something" on them. I do not know of any such soils under cultivation today. But this fertilizer should be used in connection with manures or cover crops so as to put the soil in good physical condition, remember that commercial fertilizers of themselves do not change the physical character of the soil.

No part of the United States has suffered so much from the excess use of commercial fertilizer and the lack of a sufficient supply of humus, through failure to grow cover crops or make use of stable manure, as have the southern states. South Carolina has the reputation of paying the running expenses of the various state institutions through the fertilizer tax imposed upon those manufacturing or selling fertilizer within the state. Naturally, this tax is paid by the farmer indirectly. Many of the states of the old south are little better than South Carolina. Most of the stations contented themselves with making fertilizer analysis

and fertilizer tests, forgetting that rotation in crops, green manuring, etc., were most necessary as a basis for rational agriculture. It can be said that the cotton boll weevil was a blessing in disguise to the south. In districts where the weevil caused most damage, the people learned to rotate in crops and to give their soils rational treatment. The U. S. department of agriculture has also been a great force through Dr. S. A. Knapp, (now deceased) in teaching the southern farmer how to farm intelligently. Personally, I have seen thousands of acres which would not grow a stalk of cotton if fertilizer were not drilled with the seed, and this an every year occurrence. The fact that the soils lacked humus meant that practically all the fertilizer in excess of that used by the growing crop was lost during the winter months by leaching. The soils instead of being full of life, that is, having a working bacterial flora, were dead, and practically as inert as pure sand.

Of course, the proper use of commercial fertilizer is advised, but some may like to know what is meant by proper use. It is doubtful whether young trees just planted on virgin soil should receive applications of commercial fertilizer. As a rule, young trees grow very vigorously without it, unless placed very disadvantageously, and might be forced into too late growth or too vigorous growth by the use of fertilizer. Some time ago I had occasion to see some trees that had been fertilized as an experiment by one who considers himself an expert. Two year old trees received as high as two pounds of nitrate of soda each; two pounds of nitrate of soda and two pounds of muriate of potash each, and two pounds of nitrate of soda, two pounds of muriate of potash and four pounds of superphosphate each. This quantity of commercial fertilizer was put around the trees over an area covering a little more than four square feet. The concentration of fertilizer was such as to decidedly injure the trees, some of them being killed. At this rate of fertilizing, it would take fully ten tons of nitrate of soda and potash each, together with twenty tons of superphosphate per acre. This is costly fertilizing—in more ways than one. Apparently, it would seem that if seventy trees (the number per acre) were given two pounds of nitrate of soda each there would be no excess use of fertilizer. But, the fertilizer was literally placed in heaps, and applying it in this way shows as much intelligence as would be shown by dumping a wagonload of hay and manure in one spot without scattering it. In using commercial fertilizers in orchards, great care must be used to properly distribute it and not pile it around the trees.

Through R. W. Elden of Central Point some very good work has been done in the distribution of fertilizer, especially super-phosphate, among alfalfa growers. The fact that excellent results have been secured in most cases indicates that the use of superphosphate is profitable. Mr. Elden has been carrying on some very careful experiments and will be a very good man to advise with as to the amount to use, as well as the matter of purchasing fertilizer. While Mr. Elden is naturally interested in the filling of fertilizer orders, he will be very glad to give the results of his own experiments and his advice as to what best to use. He will agree that to get the best results in the orchard, humus should be supplied by the growing of cover crops, as he has advised with this office in the matter of fertilizers. Putting the orchard soils in the best physical condition by growing a cover crop first will lessen greatly the amount of commercial fertilizer needed, and will, therefore, reduce this item of expense. Orchardists should be cautious about experimenting with fertilizer on too broad a scale. Make haste slowly.

P. J. O'GARA,
Pathologist in Charge.

Wants Course in Citizenship in Public School Course

To the Editor:
It is to be hoped that the state board of education will adopt one more grade in the grammar school and, call it citizenship, and each principal and teacher be required to teach the little boys and girls what it takes to constitute a good citizen.

The laws of our country will fall into the hands of the little boys and girls in the near future and in learning what it takes to become a good citizen will enable them to so amend our emigration laws that we can turn back all the undesirable that may be landed here in the United States, a dumping ground for all European countries.

The vote of universal suffrage will surely purify the politics of this

country, which is so much needed. The greatest trouble with the American man is he does not vote so much as he is voted.

When boys and girls get to be 75 or 80 years of age they can look back with pride and tell their children and grandchildren how they were taught the principles of good citizenship and the benefits that have been derived from the practice of the same. L. N. GREGORY.

John A. Perl
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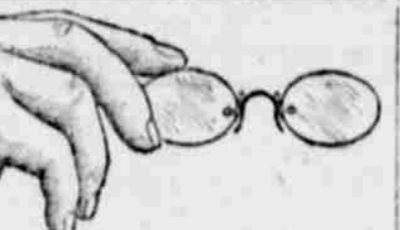
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HOWARD DEMANDS COUNCIL ACT ON PEOPLE'S PETITION

To the Editor:

"Vox Populi Vox Dei."

Under a democratic form of government like ours the voice of the people is supposed to be supreme. That voice is expressed in various ways, usually by ballot sometimes by resolutions passed by assembly bodies, but expression of the people's desires has been by petition, particularly from King George's time until the present time. Petition after petition was presented by the American colonies to King George and as often ignored until the patience of the American people reached the limit and our forefathers rose in their might and ignored the government of King George and after pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor and after a seven years of war established a free and independent government for and by the people and guaranteed to the people, certain rights among which was the right to petition, which also carried with it the right to have said petitions respectfully received and considered and from King George's time to the present day those who decided to treat with contempt petitions from the people have been visited with unwritten penalties which they could not escape.

The Medford charter enacted by the people provides that the government of the city shall be vested in a mayor and six councilmen. The office of mayor has been vacated by death. The charter provides for the appointment of the mayor following vacancy from any cause. It is incumbent on the council to appoint such presiding officer without delay.

A petition has been presented, signed by a majority of the heaviest taxpayers and by many other good citizens to appoint C. E. Gates who received the next largest vote at the last election and who is known as one of our best business men. That petition has been entirely ignored and it is reported in the newspapers that petitions will not be considered by the council, which amounts to saying "the people be damned." Evidently the council does not understand the temper of the American people. They probably will later on.

The action or non-action of the council reminds me of a certain council about 6000 years ago at a banquet presided over by Mr. Bolsbayer and whose government was delinquent in many ways and who was brought in a round turn that greatly troubled them—the incident is described in the Book of Daniel, fifth chapter, and reads as follows: "In that same hour came forth the figners of a man's hand and wrote over against the wall of the king's plaster and the king saw the part of the hand which wrote, and there was a rim heap of trouble on the old man's mind."

And the writing on the wall was this: "Mene Mene, Tekel Uparstn" and as interpreted by the Prophet Daniel means "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Now if the city council do not heed the petition presented by the people they will see the writer on the wall all round the room. When the master of weights and measures weighs any quantity, and finds it wanting he immediately puts it down and out. If the council by their acts say "the people be damned," somebody is going to be damned and it won't be the people.

J. S. HOWARD.

PLAN WORLD'S CONGRESS OF EDITORS AT EXPOSITION

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Sept. 16.—Editors from every nation in the world will be invited to attend a world's congress of editors in 1915 in San Francisco by the California State Press Association, of which State Printer Friend W. Richardson is president.