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**The Tillamook Headlight.**

Fred C. Baker, Publisher.  
Well Water and Typhoid Fever.

The State Board of Health has been inquiring into the cause of so much typhoid fever in the towns of the Willamette river, and has come to the conclusion that it is the impure water that is the cause. Part of a letter by Dr. Hutchinson, or that relating to well water and privies may be interesting to the people of Tillamook, especially as the ground in this county is much more porous than that of the Willamette valley. He says: "The soil upon which Salem is built is for the most part a deposit of sand and coarse gravel interspersed with layers of clay or concrete, some of these layers being more or less waterproof, but not until a considerable depth is reached. Consequently a well dug in Salem simply becomes a settling basin into which will percolate through the highly porous soil all the water which falls or is thrown upon the surface within an area of from 60 to 150 or even 300 ft. from its mouth. Imagine a case of typhoid fever occurring in the middle of a block, the discharge from that case being thrown upon the ground, or what amounts to the same thing, emptied into the vault of some privy. It is only a simple question of arithmetic how long it will be before that well will become infected with typhoid germs. So that any surface well in a city having such an enormous number of typhoid fever patients as have occurred in Salem for the last two years, and, as far as I can gather, for 10 or 12 years past, must certainly be regarded as an unsafe and dangerous source of supply. Dictates of the commonest prudence would, it seems to us, indicate that surface well water in a city in which typhoid fever is at all prevalent should be boiled, or filtered, or, if possible, abstained from altogether. In fact, it is the undisputed principles of sanitarians now the world over that wells in cities of more than 2000 population are to be regarded as an unsafe source of water supply. The average privy vault and the average well are simply a deep pit and a shallow pit dug side by side in a porous soil, and it is simply a problem of gravitation where the contents of the shallow pit are certain to turn up sooner or later. As an illustration of the porosity of the soil in Salem, when the state sewer was dug wells 300 feet away, that had never failed in 20 years, went dry."

**Studies in Watered Stock.**

Get-rich-quick schemes catch investors with large capital as well as persons of small means. The bait spread is different, but the result is practically the same. Promoters are fond of enterprises on paper in which the stock of a corporation is largely increased on the strength merely of consolidation or some form of reorganization. In such operations the stock is handed around a long way below par, while dividends are apt at first to be exceptionally liberal. What the stock is worth in cash and its true earning capacity remain to be determined by the slower progress of events. Actual eventual losses are not an easy matter to fix, though no doubt they are often heavy, especially with the rash or inexperienced. The Philadelphia Ledger prints a carefully prepared article, in which it is estimated that the shrinkage in the stock held in that city of fifty-three "boom" companies started since 1898 is \$225,000,000. As Philadelphia is notably conservative and thrifty, the figures are a striking commentary on the fascinating features of stock watering jobbery.

Philadelphians were deeply interested in the Consolidated Lake Superior company, whose collapse occurred a few days ago. No less than \$48,000,000 of the stock of that exploit in water was held in Philadelphia. In the same city the losses on the asphalt bubble are placed at \$31,000,000; on various electric companies an equal amount, and many millions disappeared in industries that are undigested and indigestible. Electric vehicle projects were a favorite in Philadelphia and the stock was accordingly placed at \$5, with the remainder payable in installments. At one time electric vehicle stock sold at from 133 to 150. The present quotation is from 4 to 6. In one group of promoted schemes there was a scramble to get in on the "ground floor," and those who sold out early made money. Official lists of the Philadelphia stock exchange show that in 1899 nearly fifty companies were floated in that city. The shrinkage in their stock has been \$74,000,000. In sixteen companies organized before that year the shrinkage is placed at \$80,000,000, and in nine started within four years the shrinkage is \$69,000,000.

The Alaskan boundary commission has verbally agreed to grant all the American contentions except that of the Portland Canal, which goes to Canada.

American prosperity is not based on water nor on the speculative antics of those who deal in the atmospheric effects of promoters.

**Postal Service Reform.**

The nearest department of the government of the people is the postal service. It meets them every day in their homes and while as a rule they do not and never have seriously considered what its cost is to the nation, it is still not to be doubted that the more intelligent of our people are interested in the question of expense, albeit not at all worried by the fact that every year shows a deficiency in the postal revenues.

There is no doubt as to the desirability of making the postal service self-supporting, nor is there any question that it is practicable to do this. The essential thing seems to be to introduce into the service more careful and prudent methods and recent disclosures appear to leave no doubt that this can be done. The government, it is pretty conclusively shown, has been persistently robbed for a good many years, just how much nobody knows and probably will never be ascertained. What is obviously necessary is that there shall be introduced in the department such a thorough system of reform as to eliminate all the manifold free opportunities which have hitherto existed for the practice of wrongdoing by unscrupulous officials.

There is assurance that this will be done. The statement is made that Postmaster General Payne has already taken steps to institute certain administrative reforms which the developments of the past six months have made necessary. It is stated that he has called on the chiefs of the divisions of his department in whose ability and integrity he has confidence to submit recommendations as to needed improvements and changes. Accepting this statement as true, it is a very proper policy on the part of the postmaster general and there can be no doubt will result to the very great advantage of the service. There is absolutely no good reason why the Postoffice department should not be self-sustaining and the present head of the department, who is a man of recognized business ability, has an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that the United States can have a self-supporting postal service.

The investigations of the Federal grand jury into the timber land frauds promise to stir up a hornets' nest of gigantic proportions. The bee of justice threatens to get busy in a good many bonnets, and it is intimated that not a few of those numbered in the circle of prominent people of this city and state will be stung. In fact one of the largest and most extensive sensations in the history of public land cases in the state is promised. It is asserted that counts sufficient to fill a large-sized book and enough to keep some men in the penitentiary for life if they lived a century have been found by the inspectors. However, as the purpose of the law is to make an example of miscreants and not to prosecute, only a few of the counts in each case will be prosecuted.—Oregonian.

The farmer who thinks he will be able to compel higher prices for his products by some sort of combination while private monopoly still exists will do well to compare his own situation with that of the coal operators in the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania—the object lesson may aid him to get a correct view of the matter. Down in Pennsylvania the mines are closing down, at least partially, and hundreds of men and women and children are suffering in consequence. The reason is that the demand for anthracite coal at present high prices is not sufficient to absorb the output and the operators, refusing to sell at lower prices, closed down their works. Thus they are enabled to fix absolutely the prices at which they will sell the coal. But the farmer can do nothing of the sort. He grows perishable commodities, always and everywhere subject to competition—to the law and supply and demand. If the people refuse to buy them his products will rot; no combination can permanently aid him to better prices. The difference is between conducting a monopoly and a competitive business. The remedy lies in the destruction of all forms of private monopoly. That will create at once equality of opportunity, and put all lines of business upon an equal footing—make all equally subject to the law of supply and demand—and thus establish an equitable basis for prices.

Many theorists, and among them more than one secretary of agriculture, have gone over the list of American imports and discovered that this agricultural country was importing a great many farm products. Then they have jumped to the conclusion that these things should have been produced at home and all of this money kept here. The New York Sun presents a list of \$97,000,000 agricultural and live stock products that it calls "suggestive of opportunities neglected." The biggest item on this list is raw silk, \$42,000,000, and the next goat skins, \$25,000,000, followed by goat's hair, \$17,700,000. Is there any good reason why these things should be imported? Yes, there is the very good economical reason that we can and do raise things that pay better. Instead of raising goat skins, for example, we produce wool, a more valuable and profitable article. Incidentally the Sun lectures the farmers for not pursuing a sound business policy in their production. It is true some farmers do not produce what would pay them best, but

broadly speaking agricultural production is governed by the same laws as rule any other production. It seeks the maximum return with the minimum of cost. The fact that the country still has to import some thing is no evidence that our farmers are pursuing an un-sound business policy, but simply that their crop has suffered or they are engaged in producing something that pays better. When goat skins, silk and other products will pay better than what they now produce there will be no need to import them in large quantities.

**LICKED UP BY FIRE.**

**Seven Blocks of Aberdeen Destroyed.**

ABERDEEN, Oct. 16.—Seven solid blocks, embracing every business house of prominence in Aberdeen, a large number of dwellings, the Opera House, the Central School building, the Edison and Olympus Theaters, the Crescent Hotel, the Pacific Hotel, the new fire department headquarters, the Council Chamber, the fire alarm system, every law office, and a hospital—all were included in a district covered by a fire which started this forenoon in the Mack block on Hume street. The loss is estimated at not less than \$1,000,000, and the insurance is not more than one-third.

There were three fatalities from falling walls and suffocation and five other persons were slightly injured. All the buildings burned, except the Kaufman block, were of wood, and only vacant areas of land here and there prevented the entire town from being fuel for the flames.

The fire started in the Mack block, a three-story structure, occupied by impoverished bachelors, who cooked their meals on small oil stoves. In one of these rooms a blaze was seen, but before the department got to work the interior was a mass of flames. Two lives were lost in the building.

The fire jumped from this building to the fire department headquarters, a new building, with a high tower on G street. Then it crossed the alley and destroyed all the buildings on the south side of Heron street, between F and G, and partially ruined all those on the north side of Heron. Then it jumped across G street and burned every building on Heron between G and I and H and K and two blocks north and south, an east wind carrying burning embers in every direction.

The business men and people were panic-stricken and goods were removed from all the buildings destroyed and from every residence within a radius of 20 blocks.

The excitement was at the greatest tension, there not being sufficient wagons to get goods away from the fire and the fact that so little insurance was carried made the condition the more aggravating. The lack of sufficient hose and the failure of the big new engine to work properly kept the Fire Department from saving property and dynamite was used at several points to stop the progress of the fire.

The arrival of the departments of Montezano and Hoquiam and a large corps of volunteers from each place helped materially in getting the fire under control at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The fortunate circumstance of the fire is that no mill property was burned and no one is thrown out of employment, except store clerks and this will be but temporarily.

**Rebuild With Erick and Stone.**  
ABERDEEN, Wash., Oct. 17.—Over the burned and blackened waste made by the flames of Friday there will rise a city of stone and brick. This was decided on by a meeting of business men held this evening and by the Mayor and Council in the forenoon, the municipal body preparing and passing an ordinance which fixes a definite fire limit. The ordinance was written and passed under suspension of the rules signed by the Mayor and published in the official paper, all within the short space of six hours.

The council also took the initiative in building enterprises, decided to erect a City Hall of stone and brick of three stories, in which all the city offices, a public hall and the fire headquarters will be located.

By to-morrow noon the waste district will also be covered by hundreds of tents, Governor McBride having notified Mayor West that the largest of the canvas houses owned by the commonwealth will be sent here for the use of the business men who have no places in which to place damaged stock or in which to begin business. In addition to what tents the state will provide, there will be a good many canvas-covered shacks put up by saloonmen and others, and on account of many visitors today all who got started did a thriving trade.

**Saves Two From Death.**  
"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Haviland, of Armonk, N.Y., "but, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece, who had Consumption in an advanced stage, also used this wonderful medicine and to-day she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for Coughs and Colds. 50c. and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Chas. I. Clough, druggist. Trial bottles free.

**A Love Letter.**  
Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed Salve for Sores, Burns or Piles. Otto Doshi, of Ponder, Mo., writes: "I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best Salve on earth. 25c. at Chas. I. Clough's drug store."

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