

GATE CITY JOURNAL

Published every Thursday at
Nyssa, Oregon

THE JOURNAL PUB. ASSOCIATION

Entered as second-class matter,
April 14, 1910, at the post office
at Nyssa, Oregon, under the Act
of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year, in advance\$1.50
Six months, in advance75
Three months, in advance,50

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WORK—NOT CHARITY

A Portland magistrate made the rounds of the employment agencies, saloons, cheap lodging houses and other places where idle men usually congregate, Saturday, to secure first-hand information as to the status of unemployed common labor in that city. The result of his investigation into this subject shows that there is not at present one opening for employment to ten of those who must eke out as best they can a precarious existence during the winter months just ahead. What is to be done to care for the large number of unemployed loggers, railroad workers, sawmill hands, and the other hordes of human beings that flock to the larger cities during the winter season, is a problem that calls for the exercise of utilitarian ideas and a higher order of statecraft in solving these social problems than has been the case in the past. The question that confronts Portland at the present time—what disposition is to be made of its unemployed—obtains in lesser degree in every town and village in the Northwest. True, improvidence, booze and general cussedness are responsible for much of this distress, but it is also equally true that there are many thousands of men who are able and willing to work but who must of necessity remain in enforced idleness because work is not to be had in this section. Soup houses and municipal lodging dumps are repugnant to the spirit of our civilization and at variance with the oft repeated cry of prosperity. If the government were as solicitous concerning the welfare of the under dog in his scrap for existence as it has heretofore been for the interests, these conditions could not exist. Public improvements, the building of state highways, and other public projects, would give to the worker an opportunity to earn a living wage and remove the acrid flavor from the humble cup of porridge and sweeten the loaf with the sweat of honest endeavor. It were better to build public highways than to empty the public purse in the erection of costly jails and elaborately appointed soup houses; better still to abolish charity and the activities of the alms-giver, by removing the primal cause of their existence—the injustice of the entire present social system. The chance to work, and an equitable share of that which his labor creates, is all that the workingman asks from his masters.

There is a growing insistence that more interest be taken in the adoption of agriculture and manual training in the curriculum of the public schools. Conditions are rapidly changing from the old obsolete methods of teaching the child and the new, sane and practical system that is everywhere finding favor in the eyes of the more advanced thinkers of the time. The lecture of Prof. Holden at the school house and later at the opera house Monday, although lacking in sufficient time for a thorough amplification of the question handled, has served to arouse renewed interest in the study of agriculture and its correlated subject, the virtues of a thorough course in manual training.

The rural districts, apparently, are the first to awaken to a realization of the necessity of installing these two important branches of study and training in the public schools. Improvement in the methods of farming operations is now attracting the attention of the government, national and state, and millions of dollars are being expended in the work of making two blades of grass grow when only one grew before, in improved conditions on the farm, socially, intellectually, morally and otherwise, and in getting the greatest returns from the soil at the expenditure of a minimum amount of muscle and money. Science and common sense on the farm has superseded the antiquated haphazard methods that obtained less than a decade ago, and the returns in dollars and cents, the elimination of unnecessary and fruitless effort, and the elevation of the tiller of the soil, with all of its accompanying benefits, is apparent on every hand. Individual effort is an admirable trait, but the achievement of greater things can be more easily accomplished through co-operation and the pooling of resources latent in every community to the end the establishment of agriculture, of manual training and other practical, every-day questions, in the public schools of the county, will result in instilling in the minds of children more ambition, loftier conceptions of the duties of citizenship, and instilling in the home those ideals that make for happiness, for prosperity and enduring good.

Weather conditions in the East are reported to be the severest that has been experienced in a decade. The loss of property in the cities, the havoc wrought among the fleets of the great lakes, interruption of traffic and in some localities a general paralysis of industrial activity, are some of the conditions that confront the less favored trans-Missouri states. In these untoward conditions the Northwest has, and will continue to have, a most powerful ally in securing next year a large immigration among that class of farmers and business men who seek more congenial surroundings. Of all times this is the most opportune to impress upon the above class the advantages of the great Snake river basin. A comparison of climatic conditions between this and the storm stricken East at this time of year is illuminating and fraught with much food for consideration. Up to the present not a flake of snow has fallen in Nyssa, nor has the white mantle made its appearance anywhere within a radius of many miles of this locality. Apples still remain upon the trees, garden truck is gathered daily for the table, the sun shines warm and pleasant and constant as in May or June, while the pure ozone infuses new life and vigor into the sinews and soul of the residents of this God-favored valley. Come to Nyssa, and take hold of the life problem with a new conception of the eternal fitness of things.

Some judge-made law and, evidently, made for the purpose of currying favor with the big newspapers of the state, can be discovered in a recent opinion of Circuit Judge Davis of Portland. That eminent jurist announced in a recent opinion that because a small weekly newspaper had been used to advertise the summons in a divorce suit on the grounds of desertion, that such service was insufficient and withheld the granting of a decree. The law as to service of summons by publication, as we are able to interpret it, is that any newspaper of general circulation published in the locality where it is most likely to be read by the parties to be affected, is a compliance with the law in this regard. However, as Judge Humphries of Seattle has enunciated some new fangled ideas on the scope of a Judge's power to be a law unto himself, there is little surprise shown these days at any thing a judge may do.

HOLDEN PHILOSOPHY.

The recent visit of Prof. Perry G. Holden, the alfalfa-corn expert, whose lectures on these two important subjects, in addition to many other matters of prime importance to farm life in the West, has awakened in everyone a new interest in those things that relate to the soil and to the methods by which its cultivation will return the greatest profit. The lectures of the professor are interspersed with aphorisms that convey truths that the farmer would do well to treasure, a few of which we take the liberty of reproducing from his five booklets, "Corn Improvement," "Alfalfa," "Silos" and "Profitable Poultry Raising," which are distributed gratuitously along the line of his travels and during his lectures. On the subject of corn he says:

"No time will be more profitably spent by the farmer than that devoted to the improvement and care of his corn crop."

"The experiences of farmers who are growing corn in the Pacific Northwest prove conclusively that corn is destined later to become one of the principal crops of this region."

"It should be the motto of every corn grower to have good ground, to do his work on time, and to do it thoroughly."

"You must not import seed corn from a distance with which to plant the general crop."

"Every ear of corn intended for planting should be harvested before the severe fall frosts and stored where it will dry and keep dry. Frozen seed corn costs the country millions of dollars each year."

"Not more acres of corn, but another ear of corn to each hill should be the motto of every farmer."

"Drudgery is labor without thought."

"Poor seed means poor stand and weak stalks."

"Getting your heads into the game is half the battle."

"The farmer who makes two ears of corn grow where but one grew before is a public benefactor."

"The most precious thing in this world is the labor of a human being. Yet hours are wasted every day on vacant ground and worthless stalks."

ALBERTA EDITOR'S GRAVE MISTAKE

The editor of the *Castor (Oil) Advance*, published at Castor, Alberta, takes the *Journal* to task because of an article that appeared in this paper a few weeks ago under the caption of "Sunny Alberta a Misnomer." The article referred to the fact that Dallas Duncan, of Nyssa, who recently returned from the above North American banana belt, was not favorably impressed with the opportunities offered homeseekers in that country. The *Journal* also stated that Mr. Duncan arrived in Castor on May 10th and at that time a healthy, vigorous snow storm was in full swing, and the surrounding landscape was filled with all the discomforts and discouragements that only a residence in the Alberta country can produce. It was also stated as a fact, which the *Advance* does not attempt to refute, that a heavy frost was reported in that locality during the early days of August. The difference in time between these two dates is exactly twelve weeks, a period, in our opinion, entirely too abbreviated for the successful cultivation of onions, oranges, spuds or bananas—or in fact any thing else that has roots and is inclined to do something under adverse conditions. Hence, as a matter of mathematical computation, our Alberta friends enjoy nine months of as congealed frigidity as can be found this side of the pole, and three months of durn cold weather in each year. Don'tcher know! The *Advance* heralds the as-

tounding fact that at the time of the *Journal's* article oats were selling in Alberta at 25c per bushel, 30 bushels to the acre. The average is three bushels to the 100 pounds, or to be exact, 32 pounds to the bushel. In Oregon the average yield per acre is from 75 to 125 bushels of oats to the acre, and 40 to 45 cents per bushel is the prevailing price. While oats bring 75 cents per hundred in Alberta, the farmers in Oregon receive \$1.20 to \$1.35 cents for the same weight. The difference in the price of oats in Alberta and the price that obtains here is from 45 to 70 cents in favor of the American planter. There is also a difference in favor of the Oregon farmer in yield of from 40 to 75 bushels per acre. Don'tcher know!

The fact is, the people of Alberta as well as the whole of Western Canada, have been exploited to the limit by the Canadian Pacific railroad for years, and, as a rule, American farmers have been lured to that uncongenial and ungodly section through deceptive literature conceived in the Munchausen brain of the literary end of this great subsidized railway. Few Canadian newspapers it is said, could exist, were it not for the fact that this corporation requires that editors of Alberta newspapers devote the larger part of their time and space to the boosting of waste lands owned by the road, in transforming snow drifts into orange groves and in piling the Ossa of deception upon the Pelion of untruth. Hence, don'tcher know, the editor of the *Advance* is engaged in a most laudable work—earning his mess of pottage and the few shekels that are permitted to filter through the Canadian Pacific's till into his hands, don'tcher know, Old Chap!

Parentetically, The *Journal* might also mention the illuminating fact that not a flake of snow has fallen in the Nyssa section of the valley since the middle of last March, don'tcher know.

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