

READY FOR WORK

The Republican Committees Fix Times and Places.

DECIDE ON LARGE CONVENTIONS

McMinnville Carries Off the Prize—Primaries March 21st—County Conventions on the 29th.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—McMinnville gets the republican congressional convention for the First Oregon district. The date is Tuesday, April 10th, and the hour is 2 a. m.

Portland gets the state convention of the dominant party, and the date is Thursday, April 12th. The Second district convention will be held in Portland the next day, (Good) Friday, the 13th.

The rate of representation in all three conventions is one at large for each county, and one for each 150 votes cast for Governor Geer, and one for 75 votes or over.

This will give a state convention with 338 delegates, and there will be 163 represented at McMinnville.

The First district committee, which met at 10 o'clock 20th, has the number to figure delegates from. This gave 127 delegates at McMinnville.

But another meeting was held at 3:30, after the adjournment of the state committee (which met at 2), and at that time a change was made, to conform to the representation fixed for the state convention and the Second district convention.

The democrats hold their state convention in Portland the same day the republicans hold theirs.

In the vote for place, in the First district convention, Salem received two votes, out of the total of thirteen cast. Roseburg and Oregon City were also contestants. J. P. Irvine, the Yamhill committeeman, had gathered several proxies, and so the Yamhillshire town carried the day.

It will be noticed that Marion county gets 22 delegates in both the congressional and state conventions.

The First district convention will be the largest in point of numbers ever held.

The following is the apportionment of delegates for the various counties of the state:

- Baker 9, Benton 8, Clackamas 15, Clatsop 12, Columbia 6, Coos 7, Crook 5, Curry 3, Douglas 12, Gilliam 4, Grant 7, Harney 3, Jackson 10, Josephine 7, Klamath 4, Lake 4, Lane 14, Lincoln 4, Linn 14, Malheur 4, Marion 22, Morrow 5, Multnomah 70, Polk 9, Sherman 4, Tillamook 5, Umatilla 13, Union 12, Wallowa 5, Wasco 10, Washington 13, Yamhill 12, Wheeler 4; total 338.

It was recommended that primaries be held March 21st and the county conventions March 29th.

A FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

HELD BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PEOPLE.

Interesting Discussions of Important Questions—Fruit Pests and Soil Moisture.

FOREST GROVE (Or.) Feb. 15.—(Special)—Although cold and stormy, the residents of Washington county turned out in goodly numbers to attend the first day's meeting of the Farmers' Institute held here today.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. J. Withycombe, of the Oregon agricultural college, of Corvallis, and proceeded to the election of a chairman. Austin Buxton was the unanimous choice of the meeting, and during the progress of the institute he demonstrated the wisdom of the choice.

Col. J. B. Eddy, in a short address, welcomed the members of the institute to Forest Grove, and at the same time complimented the farmers and fruit raisers on their desire to gain more information along the lines of their occupations.

Colonel Eddy reasoned that as "knowledge was power," the getting of more practical knowledge along these lines would give them more power to accomplish this work in better ways and at less expense.

Dr. James Withycombe responded to the address of welcome. His remarks were upon the line of "more mind and less muscle" in the methods of farming, with better results. He set forth several leaks upon the farm that cause great waste, and that could be avoided.

Among other things he mentioned the leaving of machinery in the fields to rust and rot, instead of properly housing it during the winter.

The "Fruit Pests" were then spoken upon by Prof. A. B. Cordley, of the O. A. C., in which he discussed the codling moth, apple scab and disease of the bark known as apple tree anthracnose.

He discussed the remedies for these diseases as related to spraying. The discussion, by the meeting of this address, brought out many valuable points in regard to diseases of fruit.

A reading was then given by Miss S. T. Crow, showing the need of education and refinement even in the cook in the kitchen, as this would tend to elevate this vocation, as it had done nursing, which, in the past, was considered one of the menial labors.

After the noon intermission, Dr. Withycombe addressed the audience on "Conservation of Soil Moisture."

ject, W. K. Newell introduced the subject of farm manures, discussing it at length, when adjournment was had.

RUSSIA NEEDS MONEY.

Will Float Bonds in New York to Build Railroads.

New York, Feb. 15.—The Press says: It has been recently reported that \$10,000,000 4 per cent bonds of a Russian railway, the Wiadikawkas & South-eastern, soon will be placed upon the New York market. The bonds will have the guarantee of the Russian government, and, being intended solely for this country, the amount will be stated in dollars.

The negotiations for placing the bonds, it is said, will be conducted by a syndicate which has been formed by a New York life insurance company, which does business in Russia, and it is understood that the issue practically has been underwritten by this syndicate, thereby insuring its success. Presumably, if the bonds are not disposed of by the syndicate, they will be taken by the life insurance company or by the h. is been underwritten by this syndicate be successful in distributing the above noted loan in this country, probably Russia will be encouraged to negotiate for other loans for more important amounts, for her requirements for railway purposes alone, during the current year, are understood to be heavy.

The business motive which, induced the life insurance company to become interested in this first loan may be expected to appeal to other corporations in this country which have dealings with Russia. The Russian government has been liberal in its purchases of all kinds of railway material in this country, paying therefor full prices, and thereby it has established very favorable business relations with other manufacturers.

MONTGOMERY HANDICAP.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 15.—The weights for the Montgomery handicap, the first of the big spring events, are announced by Secretary MacFarland. The Montgomery will be run on the opening day of the Memphis spring meeting. Declarations are due on or before March 1st.

AGAINST BOXING.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 15.—A bill repealing the so-called Horton law, which permits boxing matches in the state, was passed in the assembly today, the vote standing 92 yeas to 36 nays. The bill has now gone to the senate.

A CUBAN POET ON GEN. WOOD

An Amusing Account of the New Governor of the Island.

In a letter written from Havana to El Mundo by the Cuban poet and chess player, Manuel Marquez Sterling, occurs the following passage in regard to General Wood, the new governor of the island:

"The chief topic of conversation is: 'Who is Wood?' He is the physician of the wife of the president of the United States. 'What is Wood going to do?' He is going to decentralize us. 'Where does Wood come from?' From the East. 'Whither is he going?' That is only known to the president of the United States.

"For my part I have Wood on the brain. At 10 o'clock in the morning I plant myself in his office and say: 'Is Don Leonardo in?'

"'Yes, sir.' 'Tell him that—'

"'The general does not receive until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.' 'But at 4 o'clock I have another similar interview.'

"'Say, how many times has General Wood put his overcoat on?'

"'These and similar facts are carefully jotted down in my note book.' 'Wood is simpatico; well mannered, respectable, careful in dress, nay, elegant, and just a trifle bald. He has, they say, artistic tastes, yet he yawned last night while listening to la Chalia sing in the Tacon theater. He has had discussions with the foremost generals of the golden isle, and after experiencing dejection under the enormous weight of the accusation of General Miro, he has recovered himself and has faced the notables with the following words: 'On my word as a physician and a soldier we are going straight in the direction of independence.'

"'And as winter politics have brought with them great cold and as the waters which October left in the Prado have frozen, this afternoon he was skating with some gentlemen wearing blue scarfs in the direction of la Punta.' 'The multitude respectfully taking off their hats, shouted, 'Viva Wood. Long live the secretaries!'

"'I was on the point of bursting out laughing.'—Mexican Herald.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

For adjusting Weisbach and other gas lights a handy bracket is formed of a pair of lanyards mounted on a wall bracket, with the burner fitted on a pole at the outer end, the gas being supplied through a flexible hose.

Heads of a cuff button are securely held together by a new link, formed of a single piece of spring wire, one end of which is slotted to receive the opposite end, making a smooth internal surface, which prevents the button loop pulling itself out.

An improved horse collar has means for opening and closing it at the top instead of pulling it over the animal's head, a U-shaped plate being provided at either end, with a yoke shaped to fit the ends of the collar, with locking devices to hold the ends in place.

An Englishman has patented a cigarette which decreases the danger from poisons which pass off in smoke, a thimble being set in the end of the wrapper, with holes at the inner end, covered by a layer of fabric, inside of which is a wad of absorbent material.

—Chicago News.

To prevent animals from tangling their feet in their tether ropes a Virginian has designed a hanger for the end of the rope, comprising a T-head set on top of a vertical post, with pulleys arranged in the head to carry the rope, which has a weight at the end to take up the slack.

CANARIES AS TRAVELERS

NO EASY TASK TO GET THEM FROM GERMANY TO N. Y.

First the Buyer Must Foil the Gullie of the Peasant Breeders—Then the Birds Must Have the Closest Attention on Shipboard—Perils of Disease and Rats at Sea.

"The Sun published recently a story about canary breeding in Germany," said the head of a large bird importing firm in this city. "I wondered when I saw it whether the average reader would have the slightest idea of the amount of work implied in the transfer of the birds from the German breeders to the American owners of pet canaries. It's a long story and as full of problems as a modern novel. Of course, a good many of the German birds go to the English market, and it is comparatively a simple matter to ship them so short a distance. A large proportion of the best singers, the Campanini birds, stay in Germany; for the Germans are such music lovers that they will pay sixty or seventy dollars for a canary, more quickly even than the Americans who are supposed to be so lavish with money. Still, the United States afford the best bird market in the world, and the number of ordinary grade canaries shipped here each season is enormous. New York is the distributing point, and the New York importing firms have a large staff of employees working for them abroad. We have about thirty traveling men who go back and forth between Europe and New York. Then, too, we have a few travellers in South America and Africa, but our chief trade is in canaries and is carried on with the great German exporting houses, whose shipments we distribute.

"These German firms employ scores of pickers, who go from village to village through the bird breeding districts, selecting the singers. The picker's job isn't any snap, I can tell you. He has to be as shrewd as a weasel; for the breeders are up to all sort of tricks, and will try in every possible way to get around him, and palm off old, sick, or silent birds on him. The hardest proposition he finds is in distinguishing the sexes of the birds. The colors in the head feathers are the indication, and some of the breeders are adepts at dyeing feathers; so it's a clever picker that doesn't bring in at least a few female canaries, for which he has paid songster prices. It takes years of experience to teach a man even moderate proficiency in this feature of the buying. Through the summer and fall the picker's work isn't so very bad. His route lies far off the lines of railway, and he does a tremendous amount of tramping; but he is well known, along the way, and hospitably entertained, and the weather is usually good. After the first of November it's another story. The winds and storms, especially among the Hartz mountains, where the best canaries are bred, are simply terrific; and the snow lies on the paths, four to five feet deep. The cold is intense, and many pickers have been badly frostbitten, a few even dying from the exposure. Still, the holiday season must be provided for, and the birds, after the summer sales, are scarce; so the picker must search every nook and corner of the breeding district to supply the demand of his house. He starts out, early in the morning, taking a helper with him, to carry his cage crates. This he does after the cheerful custom of the fatherland, is usually a woman, and more often than not, an old woman. The two travellers buffet their way through the snow and storm, the greatest care is exercised in protecting the birds, carried with them from cold. The little wicker cages are first packed in straw, then covered with thick linen, and finally wrapped in heavy woolen blankets. Frequently, in extreme weather pickers have been badly frostbitten, because they have taken off their great coats to wrap about cages holding birds of special value.

"These cages, by the way, provide a distinct industry for German peasants, in the bird districts. They are made by the poorest classes, who whittle them by hand. This is long after the evening, and a clever hand can make fifteen in an evening. They sell for about three cents, and are always in demand. Many of the breeders contract to sell all their birds to a certain firm. In that case, the picker's work is slightly tightened; for he doesn't have to arm against competition, and need only wrestle to foil the wiles of the breeder. After he has canvassed his district, he takes his birds to the nearest railway station, and ships them to his employer. The crates go as baggage, and the picker always accompanies them and helps to handle them. At the exporting house, the birds are unpacked and kept until they are all in first-class condition for shipping. From 25,000 to 30,000 canaries are taken care of daily; and during the busy season, about 4,000 birds are received and sent out each week. There are a great many rooms in the building, no two kept at the same temperature, and the different birds are allotted to rooms, agreeing in degree of cold with the climate to which they have been accustomed. A small army of workmen is employed; the apprentices cleaning, feeding and watering, while the old hands sort out the grades of birds, doctor the sick and prepare the stock for shipment.

"The strongest birds are selected for America, for the long ocean voyage plays havoc with any save the healthiest. For the London market, color is the chief consideration. Two men are always sent with a London consignment, one to manage the business, and a younger fellow to learn the ropes. More female canaries are sent to England than elsewhere; for the street fakirs, in London, buy only the cheap female birds, take them home and paint them, skillfully, and then peddle them about the town. The man who is sent to America with a consignment of birds has a hard job before him and it takes a wonderfully honest, sober and faithful man to carry it through. He has five large crates, which contain

about 1,500 birds, and the probabilities are that he will be obliged to work for twenty hours out of the twenty-four. He and his charges are stowed away in the coal bunkers or the steerage, where he makes the crates fast to the walls and floor. He begins his work by 4 a. m., and spends from one to two hours cleaning seed, preparing food and drawing water for the birds. Then his charges are fed and watered, and each is carefully examined for indications of sickness. The cages are scrupulously cleaned, and the quarters ventilated, as well as possible. The slightest neglect in all this care, might bring about disease and a long death list; and that would mean business ruin for the man in charge. Sometimes the dreaded bird pest, called "schnappel," breaks out and then the tender is wild with despair. Cases have been known where, out of 1,500 birds, not more than twenty were alive when the consignment reached New York. The ship rats are another dreaded enemy; and, in spite of all vigilance, invariably make way with a few birds during the voyage. Nothing in the world is more voracious than a ship rat; and although the bird tender usually stays up most of the night to protect his charges, the rats actually attack the cages and devour birds before his very eyes. One of the hardest problems that can confront a bird tender is a long delay in the voyage, through some accident to the ship. In the old days such situations were frequent, and the mastery way in which bird raters were shorted and made to 'last was a marvel.

"During good weather, the man in charge of the birds, may possibly accomplish his day's work in ten hours; but, if the sea is at all rough, he will be twice that long in getting through the necessary programme; and, when he reaches New York and hands the birds over to the proper persons, he is a sadly demoralized and sleepy German. Recently many of the exporters have been sending two men with each shipment; and, in that way, both the work and the risk are lessened materially, but the job isn't a cinch, anyway you fix it."

To the average man, the honey bee is an insignificant little insect with no particular function in life outside of the stinging of mortals and the manufacture of honey for folks to eat. That the view the average person takes of this tireless little worker, but those who have studied the honey bee, say that it is more than this, and that in many ways it presents an example that mortals would do well to follow. President Aspinwall of the New York Microscopical Society has been for many years a close student of the honey bee and has made friends with so many of them that he knows about as much of them and their ways as any man living. He says in the first place that the honey bee is the most domesticated of all insects, not even barring the ant, and that it can be trained by man to serve his purposes in a most profitable way. If properly handled, he says, it will get to know people and can be approached and work done near it without its getting angry or resorting to the use of its sting.

"There are three kinds of bees in every hive," says Mr. Aspinwall in a paper read recently, "the worker, the drone and the queen. There are several thousands of the workers, an almost equal number of the drones, but only one queen. The workers are the bees that go out and collect the honey, bringing it back and placing it in the cells of the comb. The queen is the mother of the hive and her particular function is to lay eggs at certain intervals, which eggs produce new workers and drones, and when the other bees think it necessary, a new queen. The drones of the hive are just what the name implies. They do not do any work but live on the honey that the workers bring home from the fields. They just lie around the hive all day and grow fat on the proceeds of the labor of the others. Despite this they are tolerated by the workers, who, while they snore pluck enough in other directions, seem to regard the laziness of the drone as perfectly natural, and put up with it with remarkable patience.

"Although the bees all look alike to the ordinary observer there are marked physical differences that denote which of the three kinds they are to the expert. The worker is shorter in body than the queen but has longer wings and a very much longer tongue. The drone is more like a large bluebottle fly and has a tremendous compound eye. The worker, like the queen, is a female. All the bees have the same kind of sting, and these stings are in two parts. While one goes in the other comes out, and the poison is injected into the object of the bee's wrath through fine channels which run through the two hair-like stings. A man's first inclination when a bee stings him is to reach up and grab the bee by the body. He then proceeds to squeeze the life out of the insect. This is a great mistake, for it only forces a great deal more poison into the system than the bee ever had any idea of wasting on one person and makes the sting a much more serious one than it would have been if the bee had been allowed to operate in his own way. It is a great mistake to think that the bee regards his sting as a protection against man. He would rather never use it for that purpose, but as it is the only weapon that he has, there are occasions when he has to.

The real purpose of his sting is to provide him with something to protect himself from the ravages of his own kind, for there are profligate bees as well as there are shiftless and worthless human beings, and the respectable bee has to have something to defend himself with when this sort come around. As a matter of fact, few bees live after stinging human beings, and the little creatures are intelligent enough to know that it is dangerous for them to do it. The reason for this is that in brushing off a bee that is stinging him the average man will be inconsiderate enough not to get the time to get his sting out and the result is that it is almost always broken off short, making an injury that is fatal to the bee nine times out of ten. The queen bee is the only member of a colony who will not use her sting. Once in a great while she will use it, but the occasions are rare, and the provocation has to be great.

There is a great deal of conflicting opinion about the bee's range of vision, many maintaining that the bee, like other insects, can only see for a short distance. My own observations have made me believe otherwise. If you tarry a bee you will learn that when it has finished its day's work, it will make a few turns in the air and then fly straight back to its hive. My opinion is that the bee can see for great distances, as far as six miles for instance. Many have credited the ability of the bee to fly straight back to the hive without diverging to instinct, but with the knowledge we have that the bee has as many as 12,000 eyes, there is no reason why it should not be credited to its remarkable eyesight.

The study of the life of the bee in the hive is very interesting. The combs are hung perpendicularly in the hives. In the smaller cells that you see the workers live and deposit their honey. The larger cells belong to those creatures of ease, the drones. When the time comes around for egg laying, the queen will start out and make a tour of all the cells, accompanied by an escort of workers, who make up her court. As she approaches a cell she will stand on the edge and peer in for a second. If everything seems to be all right, she will crawl in and investigate. If this closer investigation is satisfactory, she will deposit an egg and then proceed to the next cell. On each one of the queen's egg-laying tours, however, she will find a certain number of cells that are not satisfac-

WAYS OF THE HONEY BEE

ECONOMY OF HIVE DESCRIBED BY MR. ASPINWALL.

The Sting of the Bee and Its Long-Distance Eyes—Unexplained Wonder of the Birth of Queen Bees—Bees That Learn to Be Thieves and Are Never Reformed.

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tory. Just what the trouble is I'm sure I don't know, but when she comes to a cell of this kind she will peer in for a second and then pass along to the next cell. If we don't know what the trouble is, the other bees do, and whenever the queen passes a cell in this way, a certain number of the workers who are accompanying her on her tour, will promptly retire from the escort, and crawl into the cell that was passed and proceed to put it in proper shape. I have seen them working like good fellows over a cell that the queen has passed. Just what they are doing to it, I don't know, but when they are all done they return to the queen's escort and take up their places again. I have seen bees working at a dozen cells at once because the queen has passed them.

"Well, when the queen has finished her rounds, she will go back to the first cell that she passed on her earlier trip, and after peering into it, go in and lay an egg. She will take up the others that she passed in regular order, and will not quit work until she has deposited an egg in every cell in the comb. It rarely happens that after the workers have cleaned up a cell because of the queen's fastidiousness, she will decline to go into it. The workers know what is wrong when the queen passes a cell, and they attend to the matter thoroughly.

"About the fifth day after the queen has put her eggs around, the other bees cover up all the cells and the bees are born about the twenty-first day. It doesn't take as long as this and in some cases I have known it to take longer. The birth of a queen is the most interesting of all. The other bees arrange for this whenever a queen is needed. First, they enlarge the cell in which the queen has laid the egg until it is almost as large as a peanut and very much the same in shape. Then at regular intervals they place a peculiar kind of jelly in the cell. When the bee that has been prepared in this way for its life work is born, it is a queen bee. There is no explanation of the things that contribute to bring about the result that the bees desire, but it is perfectly apparent to all who have studied the honey bee that it is the food that makes the queen bee.

"So that there can be no possible slip up the bees generally plan for four or five queens in one crop. The result of this is very amusing. There can be but one queen to a colony and as soon as the first queen is born she will go around to the other queen cells, rip them open and kill the about-to-be-born queens just as fast as she can. It is thus that she disposes of all possible rivals. Her course meets with the entire approval of the other bees; in fact, if two queens happen to be born at the same time, she will bring them together at once and make them fight until one or the other is dead. Two queens would be worse than none at all. If the queens are disposed to tolerate one another and will not fight when brought together, the other bees will force them to it, and they are obliged to combat for supremacy.

"In my own experiments with bees I have made a number of queens. After the queen has made her round I have placed some of the queen jelly, procured from other hives, in the cells with the eggs, and the effect has been miraculous. When the bees have come around and discovered the jelly in the cells, they have immediately set to work to rip out the adjoining cells in order to make a place suitable for such an important bee as a queen, to be born in. From the time of the discovery of the jelly until the birth of the queens, the bees have continued to feed the unborn queens with the jelly necessary for their very existence. This is the one thing that you can fool the bees on. They go right on making queens out of eggs laid for workers if you only start the work by placing the jelly in the cells with the eggs. In this way I have been able to keep building new colonies of bees and keep them supplied with queens. It is a delicate thing, introducing a queen made in one hive to the inhabitants of another colony, but it is accomplished in different ways, and the queen and her subjects become good friends almost always.

"There are many other things about the bee just as remarkable as what I have told you, but I will only have time to dwell on one other. I want to tell you something about the criminals in the hives, for there are degenerates among the bees as well as among human beings. The thief is a little insect, one of the most interesting little rascals in insect life. You can always tell the thief by the fact that all of the hair is worn off his body from the attacks made on him by his fellows whom he has tried to rob. The thief, instead of going out in the fields to gather his honey, will sneak off to some other hive and lie around waiting for a chance to sneak in and steal some honey. Every hive has bees on guard, but the thief will hang around trusting to catching the guards shirking their duty. Once he gets inside he makes for the comb and fills himself up with honey. Then he waits a favorable opportunity to get away without being caught. Sometimes he succeeds, but more often, unless he is an old criminal, he is caught, and then begins a merry time. The guards of the hive will attack him fiercely, trying their best to sting him to death. But he will curl himself up and the stings of his victims cannot reach him. This is because the bones of the bee are on the outside and his flesh inside. His skeleton is made up of a succession of bands of bony material and by bringing them together he prevents the sting of his assailants from reaching any vital spot. If by chance the bees manage to get a sting in between these bands, the chances are that they will bring about the almost instant death of the thief.

"The old and experienced thieves are a cute lot. I have known them after eluding the guards of a hive and stealing their fill of honey, to buy their way out when caught by giving the guards a part of the very honey that they have just stolen. The bees on guard, never suspecting that they are being bribed with their own honey, take what is offered them greedily and allow the thief to depart with the property of their comrades.

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