

VALUE OF HANDLING HORSES

(Written for THE SATURDAY JOURNAL horse department by B. O. Van Bokkelen.)

Each driver of a horse or team as well as the owner or those that have to depend upon the harness horse for pleasure or business, admits the great value of systematic training or handling. We all appreciate the advantage in a team, yet as in many other matters, we are negligent in the majority of cases in taking the means to secure the desired effects. The time has come in the history of the horse with its established lineage and high individual merit, that it must have care and treatment commensurate with its inherent value. No one would pretend to say that the equivalent in time of half a year's work should be spent upon a broncho or any such creature but it is almost an axiom that training must be applied to every draft and roadster as well as the high bred and sensitive horse. It is only economy in the true sense of its significance to provide the most careful handling and attention for the equine which is to be sold for remunerative prices. Material to work upon and that too on an extensive scale is demanded if paying results are to follow. With the great progress and rapid growth of wealth in this country, thousands of people are more ready to give \$500 and upwards for a single well broken horse or \$1000 for a double team than to pay \$50 to \$200 for the common roadster, yet this \$50 roadster is often times made the \$500 horse all by close and systematic training and attention. It must be remembered that this fiery animal is, in a natural state far more ungovernable than is the inspiring steam engine or electric motor.

In the case of such mechanical appliances for power, almost any skillful artisan who understands a device of one kind can almost at sight operate any similar device and do it successfully. Every colt, however, is a separate new creature in the world, and must be proceeded with in its training and handling with a trifle at least, of variation in every case to meet its disposition and to render it fully the trained thing of beauty or joy, as may be the case to its owner, who aims to derive from it either pleasure or profit. Starting with a well bred colt whose ancestors for two generations on both sides are known to be of reasonably good natural disposition one may feel as confident in ultimate success in training and developing the youngster into a finished, animate product as is the machinist who works on an engine or motor. This statement must be qualified however, with the further limitation, namely that the trainer, to accomplish positive and unvarying results, must be as skillful in his line of work as is the mechanic referred to. Many farmers and people who have only a few horses are disposed to underestimate the importance of skillful labor upon the young horse, think that they or their farm hands or help can occupy their spare time in developing what has cost them when old enough to wean \$100 or more; here a great mistake is made. While a trainer with less skill will require more time for accomplishing the same results, his time as a rule is very much less valuable than that of the skilled artist in this important work. It is true that many people lack method in their phases of exercising their horses and colts. The majority of farmers and other people who have horses as an incidental investment with other lines of work think only of devoting such bits of time as are not needed in their regular line of work and consequently the colt is neglected when he should be receiving attention and receives a double dose when half would suffice. Such spasmodic efforts accomplish but little. It would be similar to sending a child to school for only half a day once a month and then be surprised that no advancement is made, in which case the horse as well as the child is liable to forget in the intervening time all that it has learned during its brief lessons. To guard against the extremes of too little handling and of the dangers of too much work, is the principal occasion for anxiety in giving the first lessons to the coming horse, and here is where skilled labor is worth double the amount of inexperienced. Horses unfortunately cannot talk, and one must be able to tell how far to go, and not go too far, from experience and study of the various kinds he has handled. It is the history of too many animals that their owners having more work to do than horses with which to do it, put upon a two-year old the work of a mature horse and the same is true in developing the promising colt trotter, for the inexperienced trainer will put a promising colt beyond his limit in his desire to get more speed, and thus ruin what might have been a very valuable animal if placed in the care of a skilled trainer. Occasionally there will be found the rare strength and constitution which enables such a victim to survive his burden and be afterwards a fairly good horse, but where there is one such case there will probably be found a dozen in which sluggishness, indifference to life and sometimes stubborn laziness have been the results. Yet when it comes to the choice between the two evils, the future of the high bred candidate for proper treatment will be a better one

from overwork to a limited extent than the one that is neglected entirely and allowed to roam at its own free will till 5 years old, which is often the case. Place a halter upon your colts as soon as they are able to stand, be firm yet kind in your treatment. You will find that the little fellow will soon learn to obey and enjoy it. If the colt is to be developed as a colt trotter in its yearling or two-year old form then it should be handled by an expert from the time it is weaned and even then the colt is not expected to make a reputation for its father and mother. By trotting as a yearling or two-year old it should by all means be broken in the fall at its yearling form and thoroughly broken as there is much less danger of accident if taken at that age than when allowed to wait till they are four or five. Frequently an old gentleman is the owner of young colts and lacks tact to give them their regular exercise and systematic care, such a one should be aroused from his lethargy and engage the services of an expert for a month or more to give steady judicious handling and training, such an outlay will be returned a hundred fold in the price attainable when the colt is put on the market, and if such a course was freely adopted you would not hear the pessimistic ideas advanced by the owner of a few mares and a rapidly increasing band of colts, and instead of his finding fault because of the dullness of the horse market he would be disposing of his well broken colts at remunerative prices. A month or two of work or handling by an expert given a colt, when two years old, will enable any owner to continue safely with his care and training, unless he or she should show promise of speed, then it is much better to leave him where he received his early training, for a man who lacks experience can do more to kill speed in a month's work than the most skillful can remedy in two months. The length of time for preliminary work will vary, with different animals. Where the owner or trainer knows the disposition of the ancestors, he can usually judge of the amount of time he should expect it would require, for an expert to turn him over to his owner. First teach your colt what the harness and bit is and get him accustomed to being guided with the reins, after which he must understand what it means to have a buggy or cart rolling and rattling behind him. Don't put on a cheap harness for the first time, or hitch him to a cheap cart, for a lesson or accident learned when young is sometimes very hard to forget. This preliminary work should be given a colt one at a time with an older horse. It is counted by many that all this fuss does not pay. Of course it does not pay if you have not a good colt to begin with, but a youngster that is sound and right, having a good disposition and in its veins a predominance of the great blood of the land, can be trained expensively with great profit if training and developing by the owners of colts was more liberally indulged in, throughout this section, there would not be the feeling existing as it does at the present, regarding the breeding of the favorite mare. There is always a market for the well broken, promising youngster, whereas the unbroken grows and increases until by the weight of numbers, the owner's heart as well as his bank account is broken.

THE VALUE OF HORSES.

The sooner the farmers in the United States realize the fact that the ordinary and commonly bred horse is likely to deteriorate in value year by year, the better it will be for them. The use of cables to drag street cars has already reduced the service performed by horses in the cities, and the extension of the trolley system in the suburbs and the perfection of electric motors will relieve many other thousands of horses from such service. It has not been so very long since nearly all the threshing was done by horses; now only a very small percentage of even the threshing machines are worked by horse-power. Practically all of the ploughing is now done by horses; but a cheap and practical steam plough will be shown to visitors to the world's fair, and it is not improbable that in ten years from now quite a large percentage of ploughing will be done without the aid of horses. The need in the cities and on the farms for fewer horses will tend more and more to reduce their market value. Commonly bred horses will be the first to deteriorate in price; indeed it is doubtful whether finely bred horses will suffer at all. There is no reason why they should. The purposes for which they are used will not be affected by any inventions revolutionizing methods of transportation or tillage. Even though we could fly in the air with a balloon entirely under control, a spin on the road behind a pair of trotters or a gallop across country would give just as much pleasure as ever it gave. The horses who get the blue ribbons in the horse shows will continue to be as valuable as ever, while humbler animals—those that drag street cars and ploughs—will be less valuable year by year. This decrease in value has already been noted, so far as farm animals are concerned, by the statisticians of the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1892 the average value of a

farm horse in the United States was \$65.01, and of a mule \$75.55; in 1893 the average farm horse is worth only \$61.22, and the mule \$70.68. Here is a depreciation of \$3.79 in horses and \$4.87 in mules. Notwithstanding the fact that there are 708,662 more horses and 16,429 more mules on the farms this year than last, the total value of the horses and mules has depreciated more than twenty-five million dollars. This is very hard indeed on the farmers. Though they have to feed more than seven hundred thousand more horses and mules than the year before, the stock in the market is not worth as much as it was the year before by more than \$25,000,000. That sum does not really represent the loss, for the horses are eating all the while, and a source of continuous expense. Had this increase in the number of horses been entirely of those that were well bred, the value of the farm horses would probably have appreciated instead of decreased, and the books would have shown a profit instead of a loss. A well-bred horse costs no more in food and attention than a common one, and he is a very much better investment. A horse of common breeding is sure to be a common and uninteresting horse; but one with a crossing of good strains of blood is apt to be very interesting. In such a horse there are attractive possibilities, similar to those that invest a lottery ticket with charm. Who cares to watch the development of the spindle-legs of a suckling colt when it is well known that the mature horse will only be fit to draw a cart? But what a difference when you look upon the awkward youngster and recognize no reason why it should not lower the record of Salvo or Nancy Hanks! Falling in such high deeds, either runner or trotter would be just as serviceable in a cart as the cold-bred colt for whom there was never any high ambition.

The facts gathered by the statisticians, and the prospects for changed motive power for transportation and for farming, appear to indicate clearly that in the future there will be less and less profit in breeding other than from good strains of equine blood.—Harper's Weekly.

THE LIVE BIRD SHOOTING.

A Leading Portland Sportsman Presents the Other Side.

ED. JOURNAL.—Dear Sir: In the issue of Saturday's March 25th you invite discussion on the merits or demerits of live pigeon shooting at the traps. I do not wish to say who shall or shall not use live birds for targets, nor do I wish to say who shall or shall not use tobacco although they may both be offensive to me, but there are cranks on every subject and no doubt I will get scored in the near future for the stand I take in this matter, is it any harm to shoot any of the numerous wild fowls? Is it any way cruel to kill chickens for food purposes? or, does it show cruelty for the butcher to take the life of a dear little lamb? If so then it is positively cruel to shoot live pigeons at the trap, a great portion of the unfavorable comment on this subject is the result of reports circulated by uninformed persons, reports are sent out that these birds are killed and that the carcasses are permitted to go to waste, also that the birds are wounded and permitted to sit on the grounds and suffer, again that artificial targets are as good for practice as the live birds are now this is all wrong, first all of the dead birds are sold, in order to reduce expenses, and they are used for food purposes, again no bird is permitted to linger if it can be avoided. There are, in some isolated cases, birds hit with shot that get away but not nearly so many as there are trout hooked that tear half of their mouth out and go off to die of starvation. As regards the merits of live birds vs targets for practice, there is no comparison between the two targets. Under the present rules are thrown so that the shooter knows beforehand just the direction it will take in its flight, and the shooting of them becomes purely mechanical, with live birds, this is done away with and the shooter gets regular field training at the trap. To kill live birds at the trap may be against the principles of some, and may possibly be wrong, but if it is, then there are 37 states in the Union that permit wrong doing within their boundary lines. All of Europe, Asia and part of Africa permit live bird shooting and I forgot to mention Oregon.

W. A. Storey.
Portland, March 28.

About a Rifle Tournament.

It would add no doubt to the attractiveness of the coming tournament, if one or more rifle matches could be held for the good prizes; and if those interested in such shooting, will go to work in earnest, it can be accomplished. We must not expect those who have joined and maintained clubs, and through this club become members of the association, to make special endeavor in our interest unless we do some rustling ourselves. There is no kind of target practice which tries a person's nerves like the rifle, and when a good marksman "draws a lead on the spot," he exhibits coolness and confidence, as well as elegance. Calm—undaunted—not a nerve quivers. No trifling, no guesswork, no strap

shot to blot the center; a keen eye, a steady hand and a trusty gun guarantee success. While the "splatter gun" as we are prone to call it, may wing the bird and play sad havoc in the field, it would be of small consequence in an encounter with some of the large and fierce animals which inhabit portions of our state; for these it requires a rifle, and in order for it to be effective the hunter must know how to use it; this can only be attained by practice. We might be ever so proficient with a double barreled, hammerless choke bore, but if we should happen some day to meet a cinnamon or grizzly, he would knock us out in one round. Join the Gun club Brother Rifle, and help in the cause, you will find those who will work with you, and we will have some good old rifle sport. I am with you for one. H. A. SALISBURY.

SOME MCKENZIE HORSES.

Pedigrees of Some Wonderful Oregon Mares.

A JOURNAL horse writer asked Dr. Powell Reeves, now of Salem, how he became interested in standard bred horses, something about his famous McKenzie river stock farm and fine animals there. He said: "Being a lover of a horse and as I have owned and driven a few good ones and bred and raised, and am breeding horses now, to tell. After visiting the many large horse breeding farms in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and California, I selected a farm in Oregon, five miles east of Eugene, Lane county, on the McKenzie river, a fork of the Willamette. There I have a beautiful stream of mountain water flowing through my farm as cold as ice all through the summer, and 300 acres of fine Kentucky blue grass, shaded along the stream with fine oak and cedar. I find that the soil is very warm, rich and productive, Grass and feed is abundant ten months of the year, which enables me to raise the horse with but little expense. "I have imported from Kentucky one of the grandest bred young stallions Kentucky ever produced, being sired by the great favorite, Wilkes 3257, record 2:24, a son of old George Wilkes, the greatest stallion that ever lived. His dam being a Clay mare, what all breeders like to have in a horse is Clay blood. I also purchased at a big price the great mare Jenna D. P., by Altamont, dam Lady Clark, which I had trained at a yearling, and showed me a mile in her yearling form in 2:29, driven by Wm. Campbell in Dallas, Texas, the best bred Altamont in Oregon. Also Ferno, a black mare which I had purchased at a big price in Wisconsin, in her 3-year-old form, in 2:16, she is by Montana Wilkes, dam Dalgarno by Dictator; also a brown mare by Kentucky Volunteer, dam by Belmont. This mare I had trained at 2 years old and she showed a mile in 2:44. After testing the speed of these three mares I shipped them to Chicago and bred them to Roy Wilkes, record 2:05, the greatest and gamest race horse in the world which history shows. I had those three mares shipped back to Oregon and each one of them foaled a fine colt. They are now one year old this spring. I have been offered \$3000 each cash, for two of them which I refused, and ten thousand would be no temptation for each of them. Now I have purchased a Nutwood mare from California, which is very speedy; also eleven head of standard and registered mares from Kentucky, which I have on the McKenzie ranch breeding to this young Wilkes stallion. "Farmers and breeders cannot be too careful in breeding. First, get blood, of size, bone and speed, color clean, and sound of limb and feet, for brood mares. Then select the best bred stallion in size, color, and be sure he is sound and of good disposition, and I will assure you if you breed right you will get carriage horses, road horses and race horses, which will sell right here at home for \$500 to \$1000 apiece at three and four years old. How can you make money easier and faster? Breeders should weed out their common stock. They are down to nothing. Give them away. Breed nothing but what is standard, registered and shown speed and has style, and you will always find a good market at home for all you raise. That is the experience of noted breeders."

NEW-BASEBALL RULES.

The Principal Changes Only Affect the Pitcher's Position.

After almost endless discussion and controversy over radical changes in the rules of baseball in order to re-establish the game in popular favor, little more has been done than to move the pitcher back five feet in order to increase the batting. All the pet projects of enlarging the diamond, of making it in the form of a pentagon, of allowing bases to be run on fouls and dozens of others, have been lost in the shuffle.

THE PITCHER IN THE "BOX."

Under the old rules the pitcher stood in a rectangular box 5 feet long by 4 feet wide. The front line of the box was 50 feet from the plate. The pitcher was compelled to have one foot on the rear line of the box, so that the heel of this foot was 55 feet 5 inches from the plate. Under the new rule he is moved back just 5 feet. The old box is abolished, and instead the pitcher boundary is marked by a rubber plate 12 inches long and 4 inches wide, at a distance of 60 feet 6 inches from the outer corner of the home plate. The pitcher must stand with one foot in front of and in contact with the pitcher's plate, so that the heel of the foot is 60 feet 6 inches from the home plate.

CANNOT RAISE HIS FEET.

The pitcher is not allowed to raise either foot in delivering the ball, nor to make more than one step in such delivery. He must hold the ball before delivery fairly in front of his body and in sight of the umpire. When the pitcher feels to throw a base he must resume the above position and pause momentarily before delivering to the bat. A balk is defined as any motion to deliver the ball to the bat without delivering it, or any motion to deliver it while the pitcher is not in the required position.

BATS—SACRIFICE HIT.

Bats of soft wood and flat bats are done away with, in order to stop expensive bunting. In order to increase team work, and that a player's batting average may not suffer thereby, in case of a sacrifice hit purposely made, the batter is not credited with a time at bat, just as he is not in case of a base on balls or being hit by a pitched ball. Many lovers of horse racing are looking forward to the time when the two champion trotting stallions of the North Pacific Altas 2:17 and Holmdel 2:18 will meet to decide their superiority as speed horse. Each horse has its admirers and the race will attract large crowds.

will bite, and the angler is fortunate enough to land them on dry land. This explanation will remove a heavy load from the professional nitrod, who has doubtless already become somewhat gloomy in anticipation of the law which would not only prevent him from catching trout, but afterwards performing a master piece upon that well known instrument, the "lyre," who is not only found in the valley, but oft-times in the mountains, and is possessed of such great magnifying qualities that it has been known to perform a modern miracle, and change one diminutive trout into sixty. But aside from these attendant circumstances which can perhaps be laid to the exhilarating and buoyant atmosphere, for which Oregon is happily noted, it is gratifying to know that the tourist, or he who enjoys a summer's outing, will not be debarred from his favorite pastime, most enticingly offered by the many cool, sparkling mountain and valley streams.

Salem as a Breeding Point.

Following is a copy of a letter received by B. O. Van Bokkelen from Capt. J. Sorenson of Portland:

PORTLAND, March 23, '93.

B. O. VAN BOKKELEN—Dear Sir: I did not see you before leaving the city, so I drop you this to let you know that if nothing happens to prevent it I will breed "Buale 3" 218 to Holmdel 2:18 and if it will be of any service to the horse to let people know that I am going to do so you are at liberty to publish this. Yours Truly, J. SORENSON.

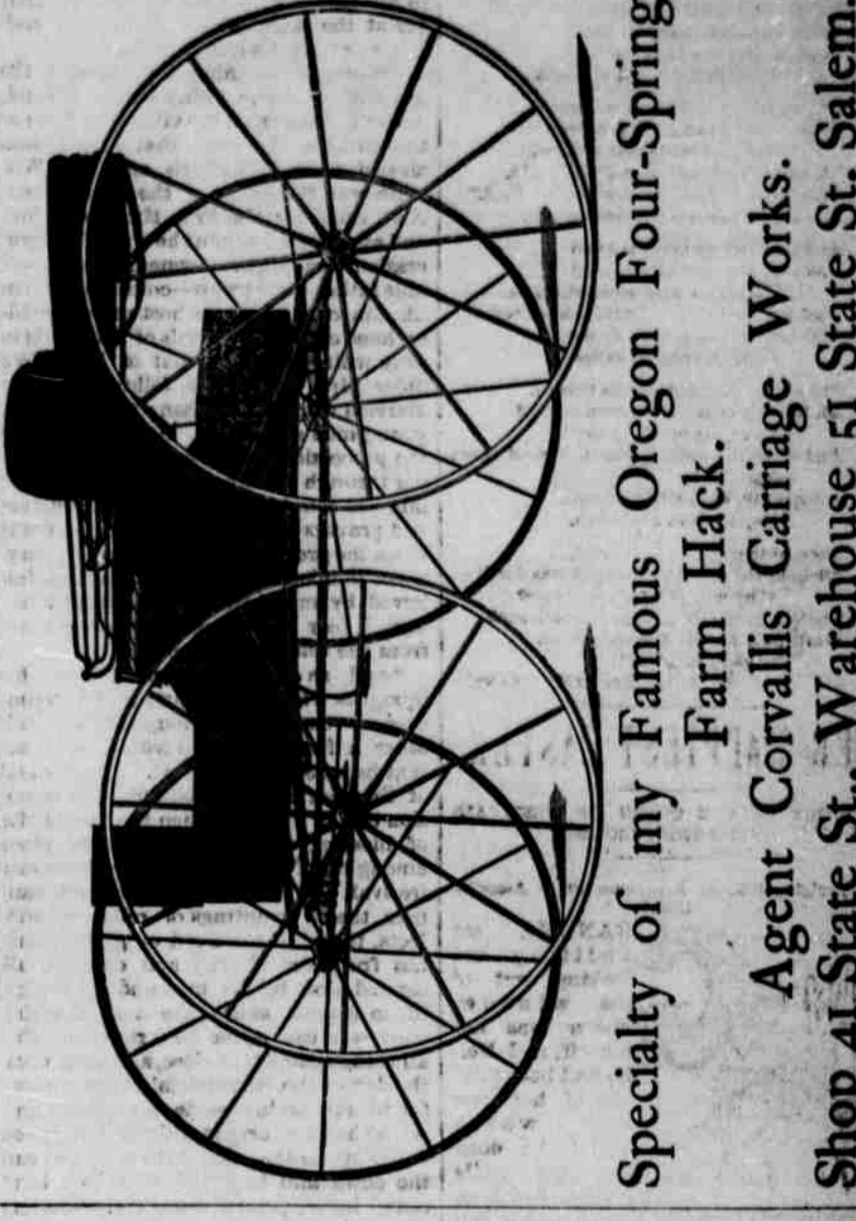
435 Gleason St., Portland, Or.

Horseman's Pleasures.

In a recent chat C. J. Hamlin referred to the pleasant side of the horse business in the following style:

"The happiest moment of my life—when I feel like kicking up my heels—is when I see one of my horses which I bred, raised and developed, winning a turf battle down the stretch in a race by a magnificent burst of speed at the finish. I believe, too, being engaged around horses is conducive to healthfulness, provided a person's habits are properly balanced. There is a certain degree of magnetism between man and beast, a sort of silent telephone. What is more invigorating than a spin down the park roads on a bright morning behind a highbred trotter. It is not the ride that does you good, but the magnetism of your horse. If you don't believe it, then take an hour's trip tomorrow morning out to the Park Lake on a trolley car and go over the same route trucked up in a newly painted roadster drawn by your favorite roadster the next day and draw your own conclusions."

HERMAN PHOLE, Manufacturer.



Specialty of my Famous Oregon Four-Spring Farm Hack. Agent Corvallis Carriage Works. Shop 41 State St., Warehouse 51 State St. Salem.

ED. S. LAMPORT, Harness and Horse Furnishing Goods.

Campbell's Celebrated Hoof Ointment on Sale. 289 Commercial St., SALEM.

Baby Carriages, Bicycles, Tricycles, Velocipedes, Boys Wagons

BROOKS & SALISBURY,

(SUCCESSORS TO BROOKS AND HARRITT.) Guns, Fishing Tackle, Sporting and Athletic Goods.

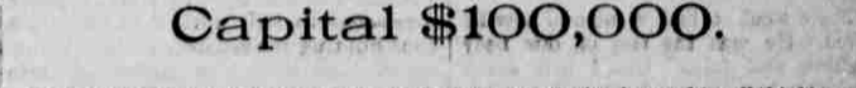
Base Ball Goods, Flags and Fire Works. BOXING GLOVES, LAWN TENNIS SETS, CROQUET SETS, KNIVES, RAZORS, SCISSORS, DOLLS, TOYS, NOTIONS. LEATHER AND PLUSH GOODS. SALEM, OREGON.

McKenzie River Stock Farm.

J. M. BOWES and S. C. REEVES, Props. Capital \$100,000.

It is of interest to the business man, to the farmer, to the banker and to all thinking men of our state. We have imported from Kentucky one of the best bred stallions Kentucky ever produced, and he is now located in Oregon, where his services can be had by all who wish to breed to the best.

HANDSOMEST STALLION THAT EVER LIVED!



FAVORITUS WILKES (15,240.)

We have both power and speed combined, which all breeders should breed for, as well as the best bred stallions in America. We have the best color, blood bay. We have the best of bone and feet and substance of any stallion in the state. He weighs 1500 pounds in fair flesh, stands 15 1/2 hands high; his coils are large and handsome and of the best disposition and are natural trotters and are very speedy. This stallion will be limited to forty approved sires at \$500 for the season with usual returns privilege, or \$75 to insure more in fact; this small fee not being one half what the stallion's fees are worth. We put the fee for this season so very low as to be in reach of all who wish to breed and raise a horse superior to any they ever raised in Oregon. Remember this stallion will cost you not less than \$100 to breed to him in another year and his book is rapidly filling, so if you have an idea you wish to breed this season send in and book your mare at once.

THE GREAT WILKES STALLION

Will Make the Season of 1893 at the McKenzie River Stock Farm, two and one-half miles East of Springfield, Or. Book Now Open.

Breeders, before you book your mare, study and think read this PEDIGREE, here you have a horse with the greatest blood lines, both on sire and dam side, in the history of breeding, and you cannot afford to lose this opportunity of breeding to this great Kentucky bred Wilkes stallion at the Low Price I offer this season. For further particulars, call or address:

J. M. BOWES & CO., Springfield, Lane County, Oregon.