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SKETCH OF BEAUTIFUL EUGENE

Editorial Visit to the State University.

The German Professor Who Hadn't Written a Volume of Poems.

The editor of THE JOURNAL spent a day in Eugene the past week and in the short time left after lecturing at the University, saw a little of that bright Oregon town and its people. Before he left the train he heard a traveling man say Eugene is the best town in the State and wondered why it was. A look over its residence and business streets, its magnificent colleges, schools and churches, with increasing industries, and fruit industries spreading in all directions into the foothills, convinced him that there is truth in what the commercial traveler said: "When you reflect that Eugene is too far away from Portland to have many of the people go there to do their shopping, you find another secret of its large and prosperous retail trade. The grocery and dry goods houses carry large and expensive stocks. There is a mining trade that requires big stores of supplies. There is a heavy trade in wool, mohair, hops, chittin bark, cattle and hogs. There are flouring mills and warehouses, woolen mills, tanneries and sawmills in all directions whose managers transact their business here. Great farming and lumbering valleys like the M-hawk and McKenzie pour in their trade while several mining districts are entirely tributary to Eugene. Add to this a bright and intelligent people, who have aspirations to culture and refinement quite beyond the expectations of even larger cities, with a naturally beautiful and picturesque location at the head of the Willamette valley, and you get a combination that makes Eugene the envy of many places, and its people justly proud of an environment that will always make it a superior community.

Arrived at Eugene the party was met by a committee who wanted us to take a carriage for the University but we preferred to walk and see the town as six years had passed since we were there to stay any time. Many good business buildings but more fine residences have gone up in that time. Some of the streets have been nicely graded but many of them are still in the mud. There are some beautiful lawns but like Salem there are too many big trees along the streets to show off the residences to advantage, too many board and picket fences and unpainted houses. But houses are all occupied and in greater demand than even in Salem. Carpenters are much sought after at Eugene and the town is on the edge of a building boom. The prettiest building sites are on the elevated ground, up the slopes of the buttes where the first sunshine strikes, where the first roses bloom and the first fruits ripen. Even a hundred feet above the level of the business parts these handsome residences are out of the fogs that sometimes fill the valley. Many of the larger houses in the college quarter are filled with students, "eyether" as some of the mortar-board young ladies say, for clubs or as consumers of hash and beefsteak pie. Some of these houses have queer combinations of paint and we were told on hallooed parts of them sometimes change color, a white tight-rope fence being checkered with red roof paint, or a beautiful verandah or conservatory roof turning black or green in a single night like the hair of the prisoner of Chillon, only in this case the grief is all on the other side. College boys will be boys still and the professors who are most boylike in some respects get along the best with them. It seems a pity that boy life and hilarity and don't-care-ness spirit should ever be crushed out

with the two large main University buildings, and it can be said that the state has provided a liberal plant for higher education. There is a good young men's gymnasium, but we missed seeing the young ladies at their gymnastic work and heard no mention made of it, but suppose they have regular exercises at sprinting, fencing, jumping, bar work and other means of developing their muscles, besides walking to and from their boarding houses. I did not think they were altogether as vigorous as red-checked a lot of young people as I saw the week before at the Agricultural College, but this may be accounted for by the fact that the State University students come more from the cities and towns, and the Haystack College draws the river hills up more from the ranches. And then a whole lot of the farmer college students at times in the year and some all the time work at farm work, industrial work and domestic labor. The State University boys and girls are in for more "book arning," and culture of the intellect, and that sort of thing draws on a different class of the human species. I would caution all the University students and students elsewhere to put in two hours a day at outdoor exercise. If you can't go any "exercising" just do common labor in the open air, which is better and more respectable than any artificial exercise.

There is quite a sweep of humanity from the stately stone buildings on the campus and the white-walled Divinity school to the saloons down town where untimely games, of which the miners are so fond, are conducted openly in the back rooms. The whole gamut of human interests is run in the course of a mile and is typical of western American life. No effeminate mind can grasp the whole of it and do it justice. After going to bed on a heavy banquet of political economy and a desert of sharp questions from the keen-minded students and professors, it was comical to awaken in the "wee small hours of morning" and hear men arguing in not too choice language in the barrooms down on the street, and an occasional fist descending among the jingling glasses on the tables of some saloon. It was three A. M. before the night policeman finally got all places closed and all the roustabouts stored into the arms of Morpheus and sleep came back to hold sway until a late breakfast. In spite of its being a positively all-around live town Eugene has a certain air of refinement that belongs only to a college city, and certain standards of society that make for better conditions of all young people who go there to live. A lawyer who has lived in both places told me re-

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of our lives but it is just the same, and after a man is past fifty no law is required to keep him in nights or from attending cakewalks.

I met the professor of physical culture at the University and he is an enthusiast in his line. He has a grip like a striker at the anvil and a back broad and shoulders as square as if cut out of marble and straight as a shingle. He showed us all the prizes the boys had won and the records the college had made in various contests of an athletic nature. A circle of young athletes was doing time in the gymnasium at all kinds of "work" in short knee trousers and thin shirts, until the perspiration rolled off their heads. In the engine house and pumping station everything was neat and clean. Here the light and water for the many buildings is made. We visited Prof. Gordon's natural history department and collection of geological specimens. It is a natural history of the past, besides a grand collection of mineral specimens. It is a life work of love and devotion to natural science, now to be crowned with the publication of a history of the geological development of this northwest, which has also been a great labor of Mr. Gordon. We went through many other departments. Especially note-worthy is the school of mines, where smelting and refining the ores is taught thoroughly and practically. A short story like this can not begin to tell all the lines of modern educational work pursued at such an institution and an ordinary newspaper writer cannot begin to appreciate them. Oregon has doubtless an up-to-date university and it is doing as good work as any similar institution in the west.

The first place of interest at Eugene is the State University. The buildings are scattered over a noble campus, grown with a splendid collection of native and improved trees. At the very gateway stands an oak that must always make the Sophomores think of the days of the Druids. Its branches are hung with mistletoe and it was told me that some sacrilegious and unscrupulous students had robbed it of its finest clusters the last holidays. There is a fine specimen of the Sequoia Gigantica, or great redwood of California, which President Strong, who was raised in New York, showed me with great pride. He took me through all the buildings connected

cently that the standard at Eugene gave recognition to brains and ability far more readily than either Portland or Salem where the money-god most was worshipped. In Eugene a young man or young woman was respected for intellect, and not for wealth so much as in the other cities mentioned and that speaks volumes for the fair little city at the head of the valley (valleys, where the mountains rise in romantic grandeur on all sides and the extending low lands say a farewell to the everlasting foothills slashed with silver cascades from the snowfields.

The Wednesday morning assembly of the students at the great chapel hall was an occasion of great interest. The classes by years sat in groups and upon call of President Strong arose in a body and showed their respective strength by numbers. There were several hundred present and with all the faculty ranged on the platform made an imposing body before which a country newspaper man was to appear and read some of his own poetry. Not all the students were present and some that were had an intuition of what was coming and looked pale. A few words from the tall, lean and lanky New Yorker who seems to run the whole institution like clockwork, in the nature of a reprimand was, I thought, undeserved. There was sufficient provocation to have kept them all away but they did not seem to take it to heart and the slaughter of the king's English had to be gone through with. In speaking of the hereditary right of all Germans to write poetry, I mention that nearly every educated German in the fatherland prided himself on having written poems and nearly all German professors had perpetrated a volume of poetry on the world some time or other. The whole student body was grinning from ear to ear and I thought I had pleased them immensely but I did not see just what the fun really was about until after the show the German professor came up and protested vehemently that he had never written any poetry in all his life. The students were giving him the universal grin as I was talking. Yes, Youan sang some lovely songs in a sweet and cultivated voice. Then the president announced a hymn, but at the second verse it dragged so he threw down his book and said let's try something with some poetry in it. The hymn that was abandoned was a triumph in illustration of what I had been telling them was not poetry. It was almost doggerel though set to music and in a standard collection of religious verse. This demonstration of the truth of my theory set us all laughing again. The college assembly was an event to be remembered all one's life, to see the pick of the young men and women of a commonwealth assembled with their teachers to meet a perfect stranger who for the first time in his life was inside an university.

E. HOFER.