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WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH FARMING?

Professor Edward Mead, of the University of California, at the hearing of the State Rural Credit Commission in San Francisco, Saturday, said: "Land problems and the position of farmers in the state have reached such a stage that unless something is done to remedy existing conditions, a warning must be sent broadcast cautioning prospective settlers against coming to the state." Colonel Harris Weinstock, one of the commissioners, stated that: "the commission's estimate showed that 90 per cent of the rural ventures within the last five years have been failures."

This is not all encouraging to the great agricultural and horticultural state south of us, and it may well cause an investigation of conditions in this state. There is wide spread complaint among farmers from all parts of the coast, as to conditions; but here in the Willamette valley the complaints are as to the insufficiency of markets, rather than to other causes. It would be well worth while however to have a commission appointed to study into farming conditions generally, so that some idea could be gained as to conditions in the farming industry, the handicaps discovered and if possible, the proper remedy applied.

That farmers generally are not getting adequate returns for their investment and labor, is pretty generally conceded and dozens of causes for this are suggested. Some or all of them may touch the causes to a greater or lesser degree, but at present there are no statistics and no information by which they can be measured, proved or disproved.

The Willamette valley is one of the richest anywhere and the same may be said of the valleys west of the Cascades generally, and it would seem that the farmers in these favored localities, should be prosperous if any are. For some years Oregon lands have been advertised and boosted as the best and most prolific in the world, and the whole idea was to attract immigration and settlement. The statements as to soil, climate and productiveness were generally true, yet returns to those buying the lands and farming them have not been satisfactory. The land is all right, the climate all that could be desired, the productivity of the soil all that was claimed for it. What then is the reason for complaint and dissatisfaction?

The farmers say it is the markets—or lack of them, and the lowness of prices. This would account for some of the trouble, but it strikes us there must be a deeper and more far reaching cause.

If it is lack of markets and lower prices, the efforts to assist the farmer in growing bigger crops is simply an injury to him, for it tends to make the markets already over supplied still weaker.

It might be a good plan for the agricultural department of the Commercial Club to take up this phase of the farming subject, and see what can be learned concerning it.

A strike of 1300 employes of the Schenectady, N. Y., General Electric company, that has been on since October 3, was settled Saturday, the men returning to work. They have been working 10 hours, but now get 9 1/2 and a 5 per cent raise in wages, and after October 4, 1916, they will get another 5 per cent raise and work only 9 hours. Evidently the company does not pay its men on the kilowatt system, but insists on a flat rate.

Some of the literary censors might take a crack at the Cosmopolitan Magazine. Most of its continued stories preach the doctrines of "Free Love" and the "Get Rich Quick Wallingford" tales all indorse crooked financial dealing. That once leading magazine is getting to be decidedly unfit for family reading.

Reports from China indicate a revolution is to be started there by those opposed to the country again becoming a monarchy. With China at war, practically all the world save the United States and the countries of Central and South America will be scrapping.

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TO DEVELOP AN EMPIRE

Robert E. Strahorn is the kind of railroad man who has the faculty of making railroad dreams come true. He is a railroad builder not a wrecker; a railroad man who believes in railroads building ahead of the country and doing their indispensable part towards developing it. His plan to connect the widely separated sections of Eastern Oregon has been dreamed by others, but it was only a dream. Mr. Strahorn is in a fair way to make that dream a reality.

Eastern Oregon has been looked upon for years as fitted only for cattle and sheep raising, and utterly unfitted for agriculture, on account of the insufficient rainfall. Some of Uncle Sam's agricultural experts have assisted materially in giving it this reputation. They had never had any experience under similar conditions, and hence as a matter of protecting their reputations turned it down.

The Imperial Valley in California, now one of the most productive spots on the earth, was delayed in settlement for some years, because a United States agriculturist reported on the soil, that it might raise sugar beets or some few other things, but for general farming it was no good. The stout hearted farmers went ahead in spite of this prediction, brought in water, and raise practically everything that can be grown in that latitude, and more of it to the acre than is grown anywhere.

It is so in Eastern Oregon. The soil based on a decomposed basalt is rich in plant food, and the dry farming system now in its infancy, is demonstrating that it will produce crops abundantly. The larger part of it, however, lies too high above the water courses to permit of irrigation, and it may be that the dry-farming system is the only one that can be used upon it. However artesian water has recently been found in Morrow county, and it may be possible that this system will change conditions and permit of irrigation.

Anyway it is a country of vast possibilities, and once put in touch with the world as Mr. Strahorn promises to put it, it will indeed prove an Inland Empire. Portland which will benefit most by developing this vast idle territory should get solidly behind Mr. Strahorn and make a big farm for herself.

Portland's "Land Show" opens tonight with an explosion of aerial bombs fired from the roof of the Chamber of Commerce building, a parade headed by McElroy's band and exercises at exposition, Mayor Albee and others will speak and the county officials will be present, but not as an exhibit.

Will some of the wise ones who insist there is no such thing as luck, kindly explain what it was that made the little waif, abandoned by his parents, the adopted son of the Shepards? Was it good management on his part? If it wasn't luck, good or bad, what was it?

Strange how some of those war correspondents size themselves up as being of vast importance. James O'Donnell Bennett and dozens of others of his ilk have their stuff copyrighted, flattering themselves that otherwise someone might reprint it.

Czar Ferdinand, Saturday, was decorated by the kaiser with the iron cross. Should the Allies win the war this is nothing to the double cross with which they will undecorate the Bulgarian czar.

The London Times thinks "the Serbians' position is grave." Unless the Allies get a move on soon and go to their assistance "the Serbians position will be in the grave."

As the Germans are the most kind hearted of people, such happenings as the execution of Miss Edith Cavell must be attributed to the rigid military system.

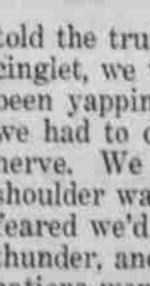


Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

THE CRAZY WAR

When the flags have ceased to flutter over ambush, siege and rout, then perhaps the kings will mutter, "What was all this scrap about? We have torn our lands asunder, it has been a dandy war, but the time has come to wonder what in blitzen was it for? Now that for a little season we have ceased our gory fun, we'll have time to find a reason for the butchering we've done." They'll have time, the kings and princes, to ransack each royal mind, but a reason that convinces will be mighty hard to find. For a while they will endeavor, each to vindicate his crown, but the true excuse will never from a throne be handed down. If an honest, candid kinglet told the truth, he would declare, "By my halidom and cinglet, we were loaded up for bear; at each other we'd been yapping, springing warlike threat and curve, and we had to do some scrapping, just to show we had the nerve. We were wild and we were woolly, on each shoulder was a chip, and we had to act the bully, or we feared we'd lost our grip." Still the reeking cannon thunder, and there is no sign of peace, and the sickened nations wonder what's become of the police.



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SCHOOL BONDS AT PREMIUM

Woodburn Independent: School district bonds, as well as state, county and municipal bonds, for well-known reasons, are in great demand even though they do draw an interest rate much lower than a good farm mortgage. This was fully demonstrated in the interesting race by a large number of bond brokers for the Woodburn school district \$40,000 issue of 5 1/2 per cent serial bonds. There were 22 bidders in the field with certified checks, the bids ranging from 353 to 1301 premium, the latter being from Morris Bros. of Portland, who were awarded the bonds at the directors' meeting last Thursday night. The next morning three more bids arrived with certified checks, but they were too late. They were lower than Morris Bros. and therefore it did not matter. The bids were from Portland, Seattle, Denver, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Toledo and Chicago.

SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATED.

(Gervais Star.) The twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Rondeau was celebrated at their home on Second and E streets Sunday. Mr. Edmond Dupuis, brother-in-law of the couple, presented them with a huge wedding cake. The said, Junior had the honor of presenting the pair with their first wedding cake since 1890.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Dupuis, Mr. and Mrs. F. Seguin and children Raymond and Eleanor, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Seguin and family, Hilda, Edward, Wallace, Raphael, Clarence, and Bernadine; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Manning, Mrs. Jennie Rondeau and children, Oliver, Arthur, Albert and Delyna; Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Krause and daughter Helen, Mr. Leon Choquette, Mr. Triboulet, Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Choquette and daughter, Anna, Mrs. Ed Krause and baby Thelma, Urban, Earl and Lester, children of the couple.

MT. ANGEL STREET WORK.

Mt. Angel is presently making quite an effort in the way of street improvement. Believing that more pavement will be accomplished at some future date the council has planned to put new cement cross walks in different parts of the business section. In addition to this a cement walk is being built on the east side of Garfield street, covering two or three blocks. Nine cement cross walks will be put in, and when the work is finished, it will be a decided improvement over former conditions.

The present council is going to make a good record in the matter of a better Mt. Angel and it is evident that their achievements will be fully appreciated by property owners.—Silverton Tribune.

CORN CROP PROFITABLE.

"In feeding value I can get just twice as much from an acre of corn as from any other grain crop I can raise," said a Lane county farmer to J. W. Pixley, of the Eugene Register. The farmer stated that he could get twice as much per acre as wheat and that its feeding value, bushel for bushel, was the same. He could get as much corn as oats per acre, and its feeding value was twice as great. Another farmer of Lane county averaged 60 bushels per acre for the last seven years; another has averaged more than 75 bushels per acre for 20 years, and another had grown 110 bushels of corn per acre the last year. The corn crop is not grown for its feeding value alone, Mr. Pixley points out, but also for its rotation value.—Silverton Appeal.

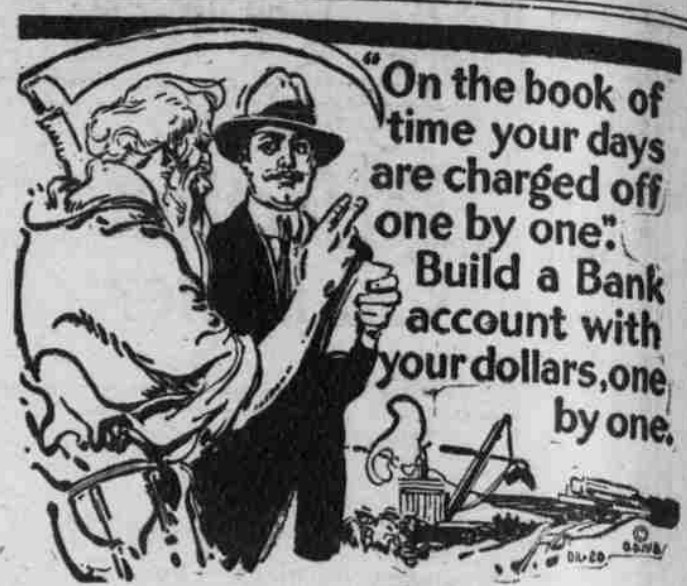
TURNER PIONEER DIES.

Adam Minsler, of Turner, died at his home Thursday, October 14, at the advanced age of 82 years. His wife preceded him about two years ago. On account of sickness in the home, the funeral was held at the Turner cemetery, where he was laid to rest, and was conducted by the Methodist minister of that city.

Mr. Minsler was born in Germany in 1833 and emigrated to America in 1851. Seven years later, in 1858, he came to Oregon, and spent his busy life on his farm near Turner until about eleven years ago when he moved to Turner. He is survived by one son, J. H. Minsler, of Stayton, and one daughter, Mrs. May Forrest of Turner.—Stayton Mail.

Eczema Is Conquered

Greasy salves and ointments should not be applied if good clear skin is wanted. From any druggist for 25c or \$1.00 for extra large size, get a bottle of Zemo. When applied as directed, it effectively removes eczema, quickly stops itching, and heals skin troubles, also sores, burns, wounds and chafing. It penetrates, cleanses and soothes. Zemo is dependable and inexpensive. Try it, as we believe nothing you have ever used is as effective and satisfying. Zemo, Cleveland.



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Salem, Oregon

OLD-TIMERS VISIT SILVERTON.

To many old-time friends of Aunt Mary and Uncle Chris, Eisenhart will be glad to know they were able to once more visit Silverton. Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfard drove over to Stayton Thursday morning and brought them over in their auto. This old couple have lived in this part of the country since 1851 and have a wide circle of friends. Uncle Chris, who has been under the doctor's care for a long time, begged so hard to be allowed to visit Silverton again, that he obtained the doctor's consent to come for one day. They returned Thursday night.—Silverton Appeal.

GEORGE'S BAD BREAK.

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 25.—George LaBerge, aged 19, is in jail today and is said to have admitted stealing two suit cases full of clothing from the home of Captain R. L. Childs, of the steamer Columbia who resides at Southwark. LaBerge made the mistake of boarding Captain Childs' boat in making his getaway. He wore a suit of the skipper's clothing and was nabbed.

"TIZ" FOR ACHING, SORE, TIRED FEET

Good-bye sore feet, burning feet, swollen feet, sweaty feet, smelly feet, tired feet.

Good-bye corns, callouses, bunions and raw spots. No more shoe tightness, no more limping with pain or drawing up your face in agony. "TIZ" is magical, acts right off. "TIZ" draws out all the poisonous exudations which puff up the feet. Use "TIZ" and forget your foot misery. Ah! how comfortable your feet feel. Get a 25 cent box of "TIZ" now at any druggist or department store. Don't suffer. Have good feet, glad feet, feet that never swell, never hurt, never get tired. A year's foot comfort guaranteed or money refunded.



KILLED BY AUTO.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 25.—James McMahon, a civil war veteran, who was struck down by an automobile driven by Milton Frazier, is dead at the county hospital today, making the second automobile accident fatality in four days. Coroner Stewart will hold a conference with the prosecuting attorney to decide whether or not the state will file any charges in the case.

CLAIM SELF DEFENSE.

Portland, Or., Oct. 25.—That he acted in self defense was the claim today of Robert Broadnax, colored, who shot and killed C. D. Crawford, a colored railroad porter late yesterday. The tragedy occurred in the Broadnax home. Crawford had often threatened him, Broadnax said, and the shooting followed a bitter quarrel.

If moving pictures, by occupying the mind, keep men from drinking, isn't that proof enough that alcoholic indulgence is purely psychological and must be doctored from that standpoint?

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Portland, October 25-Nov. 13

Tuesday, Nov. 2
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