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Special Representative Plummer and County Agent Brown Brave Storm to Serve Farmers

By O. M. Plummer
(Special Representative of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture)

The good people of Marion county who have been sitting before their happy fire-sides these last few days, know that there is a frightful storm abroad, because they have read that fact in the "Journal." They haven't been foolish enough to go out in it and can't realize that anybody else would be so fool-hardy. However there is one man in your midst who goes on forever. Weather is a mere instance to him, good, bad, or indifferent, it all looks alike. It is not his to question why.

County Agricultural Agent Brown allowed me to accompany him in his rounds the last two days, Monday morning we left in his trusty Ford for Silverton and Scotts Mills, and when we went up the Pudding River about noon the water was lapping up on the road bed, I told Brown that he had better get the compass course by day light, for I felt sure that it would be a case of navigating on our return.

After a most successful afternoon amongst the farmers of Silverton and Scotts Mills district, we found the farmers unanimously in favor of the county agent work. We started for Salem and just before reaching the Pudding River Bottom we overtook a real automobile. The man seemed to be in very little hurry, so Brown gave two blasts of his horn, indicating that he would pass him on his port side. Immediately we discovered the reason for the man's slowness. Pudding River Bottom was everywhere, and the road no where to be seen. Brown immediately consulted the "log" of the good ship "Lizzie" and found that our course was one point West of South and for the next half mile we kept her nose headed that way. We had all our storm awnings up when we reached the middle of the bottom, I suggested to Brown that I didn't mind a little wet anyway and I would take the storm curtains off and unplug the door, and as a matter of fact if it was just the same to him I would get out and walk "somewhere." Brown said nothing audible to this but his snuff was highly enlightening, as much as to say he could expect no more from a "tender-foot" who had been in the

in times of peace. It was good to see the eagerness with which the farmers attacked the problems as presented by the different members, and by the county agent—question of lime arose. One man said he had spent \$200 the previous year for lime which he had scattered thinly over several acres. Brown asked him if he had made any check on the value of the lime and discovered that he had not. As a matter of fact, he had not the slightest idea whether the lime had done him any good or not. Other prominent farmers present admitted a like experience on their part.

They were very glad to have him make an arrangement for some positive checking results in the use of lime and fertilizers for the coming season. Every man present signed a petition to the County Court to support a budget appropriation for the continuance of the splendid work.

We reached Salem about midnight, happy and warm inside, even if we were very wet without. I think Brown thought he was going to bluff me the next day when he said he had a meeting in Ankeny Bottom and in the direction of Jefferson, but my previous experience the day before had given me confidence in his ability to navigate. So I sat in with him again at occasional pieces of winter wheat and noon and we headed south for Ankeny Bottom, reaching the summit of Ankeny hill, the bottom laid before us in a broad expanse of water with a house cropping out now and then. Before we left the main highway to plunge down into the bottom, Brown stopped the engine for a moment to offer a silent prayer, that we might reach the bottom safely. It was well he had for after we struck the mud road it immediately looked as if our trip was ended right there. For the next half hour we hoped very devoutly that the good County Commissioners might have been with us in the car, as our guests.

After going sideways, edgeways and in every other direction for half an hour, we reached Nye's place and from there on to the grange the road was a little less "worse."

Mr. Nye presided as chairman of the farmers and their wives who had braved the weather to hear Brown talk. At first they responded rather slowly to his request for questions, but finally discussion became general, and it was dark before the meeting finally closed.

Mr. O. L. Garthoff, who had a special experiment in potato cultivation in his section developed the fact that a potato improvement club was badly needed in that part of the county, and Brown immediately made arrangements to have a potato specialist meet with the potato growers of the section and arrange an organization of such a club. This future meeting will no doubt lead to the forming of a strong potato grower's association. The certification of this would very likely lead to the erection of a potato warehouse, to take care of the needs of this section.

This is merely one of the details as to the activity of the County Agent. Eugene Findy also told of splendid success he had on kale, with fertilizer, realizing ten times the growth from its intelligent use. It developed that his immediate adjoining neighbor, while noticing the splendid growth of Findy's kale, had not known how he had obtained it. This will be developed in a series of experiments in that country.

Mr. J. M. Marlett who has lived in that bottom for many years was a very interested listener and told the agent many things which will be of value to him.

Every one of the farmers signed a petition for the county agent.

Had we been half an hour later we would have been unable to get out of the bottom. At it was, one small bridge was afloat on one end and as we passed over it, it was lucky that the Santiam river banks with end of this country, otherwise Brown would have felt compelled to go through three feet of water that flooded the Santiam bottom at that place.

After spending a very pleasant half hour discussion with Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Looney of Jefferson, about the value of a county agent, we hurried on to the Jefferson district, three miles north, where Mr. Hochspeier, together with Mr. Looney, had arranged another meeting. Over half the farmers present had signed a petition earlier in the season, protesting against the appointment of a county agent. But after Mr. Brown had finished his talk and outlined the plan of work, stating that the proposition had been entirely misstated to them at the time the protest was signed.

A discussion as to some of the prevalent diseases amongst cattle of this district arose, and the information developed was of material benefit to those present.

Leaving the meeting place late in the night, we felt fairly safe as to the roads, but much to our surprise discovered roads awash and culverts overflowing, and bridges unstable, even on top of the hills. It was close to midnight when we reached Salem. We saw nobody on the roads. I couldn't help but feel that a man who would respond to the call of the farmers under such stress after the last few days, could always be counted on, under every circumstance

HUNTING SOMEONE TO MEET WILLARD

Offer Made Fred Fulton of \$10,000, But the Chance Open For All

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—Reports from Los Angeles that Henry Berry and Charlie Graham have been dickering over terms of Spider Baum's transfer to Sacramento, where he is to be manager, caused some surprise here today. Baum claims to have Berry's promise that he would be released outright by San Francisco if he could get a managerial post.

Baum says that unless he can get the Sacramento post he will probably retire from professional baseball.

Trying to Match Willard
New York, Dec. 19.—Jack Curley said here today that he had received a promise from a wealthy man to pay Fred Fulton if the heavyweight would agree to fight Jess Willard for the benefit of the Red Cross. Curley said

Real GRAVELY'S Cheewing Plug

Costs more per pound to buy than ordinary plug but less per week to chew. A Little Chew of Gravely Lasts a Long While. The Good Gravely Taste Lasts, too. A 10c POUCH IS PROOF OF IT.

OLD TOP—YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'D BUY A WHOLE TRUNK FULL OF IT IF YOU COULD READ AND LEARN HOW GOOD IT IS.

LOOK FOR THE PROTECTION SEAL
IT IS NOT REAL GRAVELY WITHOUT THIS SEAL

he had wired Mike Collins offering Fulton \$10,000.

League is Patriotic
New York, Dec. 19.—The National League at its last meeting here, adopted resolutions urging baseball players to offer themselves for service to their country.

For a Willard
Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 19.—Efforts to stage a Jess Willard versus anybody championship bout here were begun today by Promoter Matt Hinkel.

Hinkel will see President Jim Dunn of the Cleveland Indians regarding the use of the American league baseball park. Saturday he will leave for the south, where he expects to meet Willard. League Park will hold 28,000 when temporary seats are placed in the field.

Frank Gotch Buried
Humboldt, Iowa, Dec. 19.—Frank Gotch, whose shoulders were pinned to the mat by death Sunday after scores of wrestlers had failed to do so, was

carried to his last resting place today. The entire town suspended business today and joined in the procession from the Congregational church to the little cemetery on the edge of town.

In addition to the townfolk, scores of men prominent in the athletic world attended the last ceremony to the former champion wrestler.

BUYING UP CARDS
Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 19.—Evidence that a well organized syndicate has been buying up registration cards from soldiers at Camp Lewis and have been disposing of them for big sums to "slackers," has been unearthed by the military police, who assert that the plot for the evasion of the law extends to other cantonments of the country. They say those behind the scheme have laid their lines well, and have been working quietly and to such effect that they have collected thousands of new worthless cards from men who are in service and sold them at an enormous profit.

Pacific Coast League Closes Business Session

Los Angeles, Cal. 19.—Venal vidi vici, which means in American that they blew blew in, lapped the burg and it fell for 'em—is about the way the august body of directors constituting the Pacific Coast league would give vent to their feelings anent the baseball conference just closed, if all hadn't forgot their Caesar and Cicero in the more modern and complex problems of baseball as she is played.

Today all business is closed and the spirit of baseball magnates is optimistic for the 1918 season. They accomplished:

Transfer of Portland's franchise to Sacramento, with Charles Graham president, and Spider Baum manager.

Single umpire system as a means of war time economy.

Thirty weeks season, opening April 2, closing October 27.

Oakland as 1918 meeting place.

Walter McCredie as manager of Salt Lake.

Make Him a Gift

WORTH WHILE
We would go along and enumerate article after article that appeal to men and boys and there wouldn't be space enough in the paper. Come in, let us show you the nice things for men.

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| President Suspenders, in fancy lithographed box | 50c | Crystal White Soap, bar | 5c |
| Neckties, in Xmas boxes | 25c and 50c | Glycerine Toilet Soap, bar | 5c |
| Ladies' and Men's Hose, nice line | 10c up | Many other Soaps, bar | 5c |
| Ladies' and Men's Handkerchiefs | 10c to 25c | Nuts and Candies of the best grades, per pound | 25c |
| Men's \$3.50 Hats | \$2.50 | Apples, per box | 50c to \$1.50 |
| Nice line Men's Gloves | 75c to \$3.25 | Royal Club Coffee, 3 pound can | 95c |
| Guernsey Casseroles | \$1.50 | "Our Pride" Coffee, 30c seller | 25c |
| Cedar Mop with bottle of polish | 49c | Onions, best quality, per sack, per pound | 3 1-4c |
| Rolled Oats, 4 pounds | 25c | Spuds, per sack | 1 1/2c lb. |
| Black Pepper, pound | 35c | Nice line paint, floor and vegetable brushes. | |

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