

COLFAX GAZETTE

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Crop Outlook Promising.

The outlook for a bumper crop of all kinds of grain, was never more flattering in the Palouse country at this time of year than it is today. Reports from all parts of the country lead to this conclusion, and if the weather is favorable from now till the grain is harvested Whitman county will undoubtedly establish a new record.

While some fields of fall grain are rather ready by reason of the frequent rains, the loss from this source will be comparatively small.

In the western part of the county fall sown grain is headed out, and it is expected that harvest will commence by the 10th of July.

Well posted grain buyers estimate that the acreage in grain this year is about equal to that of last. While some sections have fallen off to some extent, there is a large acreage of new ground which will balance this shortage, and present indications are that Whitman county will raise from three to four million bushels more grain this year than last.

Books That Bring Tears.

Marriott Watson, the English novelist, gives a nudge to "eminent folks" and tells them to write about books that have made them cry. Just why eminent folks are singled out is not clear. It is no sign of special cleverness or of deep insight into the human heart to be able to draw tears from people who happen to get into the public eye. Some of them can be very sentimental when they delin to view the hard facts of life at second hand. Often the impulse to be considerate and helpful toward less fortunate fellow creatures expends its force in a few tears over some imaginative sorrow.

Books that bring tears to the readers' eyes are not confined to the masterpieces, although certain works of great authors, as Dickens, Hugo and Thackeray, have become classics because of their pathetic scenes. The common people, readers of common literature, cry when they find sorrow which they recognize as genuine in fictitious characters who are drawn true to life. The farmer, the blacksmith and the railroad man are all acquainted with grief, yet are not hardened to the sufferings of mankind about them. Their sympathies are keen, but wholesome, and they are not given to slopping over just because an author labels an incident, "Please cry here." A study of fiction which makes strong men weep would be interesting.

Life in a Small Town.

Attention is often drawn to the fact that modern improvements have reduced the isolation and discomforts of the small town to a minimum. The Field and Stream expresses the view editorially that a man or a family has a better chance for decency and comfort in a small town or city than in a city of the first class. It says:

The small town is a better environment in many ways. Not the least of its desirable qualities is the fact that it is closer to the out of doors. The man who has a cottage of his own, with a horse and buggy and a shotgun, in some place of a few thousand inhabitants is better off as a man and a citizen than one who is receiving a \$30,000 salary in any big city.

Modern improvements have also changed city life, and that for the worse. Conditions favor the very rich, and the poor do the best they can, but the middle class fares ill indeed. Very many of the rich people in cities made their money outside, and outside money keeps the cities financially prosperous.

The Mountain Gem completed her trip from Lewiston to Celilo on Saturday last, arriving at the latter point on the scheduled time, thus proving the feasibility of steamboating on the Snake and Columbia rivers. On the same day the last spike was driven on the portage road, around the dalles of the Columbia, thereby connecting the upper and lower river. This means much to the Inland Empire and when the contemplated canal is completed it will do more toward reducing freight rates on the products of this country than all the railroad commissions in the world. The completion of the Cascade locks resulted in cutting the freight rates in two for the people of the district opened up to river navigation. It did not need legislation to make the railroads see that they were charging too much, competition was a much more potent instructor.

After a careful study of the world's sources of gold supply the mining experts have reached the conclusion that the discovery and opening of new mines is not keeping pace with the exhaustion of those now being worked. A glut of gold is therefore not a danger for the near future at least.

Rice Growing in the United States.

The rice industry of the United States is discussed by E. Seymour Bell, British commercial agent in Chicago, in a recent report to the British foreign office. This report is of especial interest in view of the fact that in 1904 the United States became for the first time a rice exporter. Before 1890 the rice production of this country was practically limited to the alluvial lands of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana. When machinery was adapted to rice production and it was found that the prairies of southwestern Louisiana and southern Texas, with their impervious subsoils, would dry before the harvest sufficiently to support machines, there was a revolution in the industry.

Fifteen years ago scarcely a barrel of commercial rice was produced in what is now known as the prairie rice section of Texas, which extends 400 miles along the gulf coast and which contains some of the most fertile land on the continent. These lands were valued at 25 cents to \$1.50 an acre. Today the improved lands are worth on an average \$125.00 an acre. Within this territory there are now thirty rice mills, with a daily capacity of over 20,000 barrels. Successful irrigation has had much to do with this change. The department of agriculture has interested itself in Texas rice culture and has effected the introduction of a Japanese variety of the cereal which has given very satisfactory results. Texas is now encouraging Japanese immigration, and large colonies of subjects of the mikado are working in the rice fields. Many of these Japanese have signified their intention of becoming American citizens.

Before the civil war the rice planter realized 4 or 5 per cent on his investment, valuing his slaves at \$500 to \$800 a head and reckoning them in the investment. The planter now realizes from 6 to 10 per cent. It is estimated that the total rice crop of the United States this year will be about 470,000,000 pounds, the land planted amounting to 643,400 acres.

The War's Influence on Europe.

Although the general European conflict, which seemed imminent when hostilities opened in the far east over a year ago, was happily avoided, it is plain that the results of the war have produced great changes in the situation on the continent. For years past continental Europe has been divided into two great groups, with Germany, Austria and Italy in a triple alliance and France and Russia in a dual alliance. Disasters to Russia have destroyed the balance of power secured by these coalitions.

France can no longer count upon Russia as an effective ally, and the bear's aggressiveness is no longer a menace to her nearest neighbor in the west. England and France have come to an understanding, and Italy appears to lean toward sympathy with these two powers. On the other hand, the feeling is general in continental capitals as well as in St. Petersburg that the German emperor has rendered Russia very efficient service by his attitude of friendliness. The end of it all may be that Great Britain, France, Italy and Austria may form an alliance, in which case Germany and Russia must combine for mutual protection. Spain's interest in the Mediterranean would naturally draw her toward the Anglo-French group, and the good understanding between England and Japan means an extension of the influence of the great coalition in the far east.

A Tribute to Robert Louis Stevenson.

Andrew Lang, the English critic, presents in his book of reminiscences a view of Stevenson which will appeal to many who know the author only through the medium of his books. Says Mr. Lang:

Mr. Stevenson possessed more than any man I ever met the power of making other men fall in love with him. I mean that he excited a passionate admiration and affection, so much so that I verily believe some men were jealous of other men's place in his liking. I once met a stranger who, having become acquainted with him, spoke of him with a touching fondness and pride, his fancy reposing, as it seemed, in a fond contemplation of so much genius and charm. What was so taking in him? And how is one to analyze that dazzling surface of pleasant, that changeable, shining humor, wit, wisdom, recklessness, beneath which beat the most kind and tolerant of hearts?

It is a common experience for readers to "fall in love" with an author by reading his works and then meet with a disappointment on personal acquaintance. Stevenson has hosts of adorers who never saw him. His creations take hold upon the hearts of his readers. Evidently his art was not mere literary jugglery, but a frank interpretation of life as he knew it or wished to know it and as he felt it or wished to feel it.

Maxim Gorky, the Russian writer who was imprisoned in February last for complicity in the revolutionary outbreak in St. Petersburg, has turned his incarceration to good account evidently, since he has written a new play while behind the bars. The drama is called "The Children of the Sun" and deals with the revolutionary movement. The author himself thinks that the work is his masterpiece, but the public will have a word on that perhaps.

A New Indian Policy.

The passage by congress of the Curtis act, under which tribal government in the Indian Territory is soon to be extinguished, marked, according to Representative Lacey, a new era in Indian legislation. It was the first great step toward placing the Indian as an individual on a plane with the individual white man. Additional legislation providing for the allotment of tribal funds is, in Mr. Lacey's opinion, a necessary corollary of the Curtis act. Francis E. Leupp, the new commissioner of Indian affairs, writing in the Outlook, indorses Mr. Lacey's suggestion and outlines his own policy of Indian civilization, the basic idea of which is recognition of the Indian's individuality. The problem, he says, is to eliminate the "race" and strengthen the individuals for their intercourse with the absorbing whites. "We must strive," the commissioner continues, "to make the Indian an active factor in the community in which he is going to live." Mr. Leupp desires to transfer money which the government is holding in trust for the Indians, very large amounts in the case of some tribes, to local banks, which would use it to further local interests, work in which the Indians might share. The deposits under this plan are to be turned over to the individual owners as they shall show themselves capable of using them properly. This nearer view of whatever wealth he may command will, it is hoped, break the bonds which tie the red man to the licensed trader and give him an idea of the value of competition.

That the allotment of funds would render the weaker and less experienced Indians the prey of white sharpers Mr. Leupp admits, but he intends to throw about the Indians' money every safeguard compatible with the true purpose of his policy. He would dispose of it as many testators dispose of their estates—granting the ultimate, free use of it only on conditions implying financial sagacity in its ownership.

The change from dependence upon rations to dependence upon earning powers inaugurated by Commissioner Jones the new commissioner purposes to continue, at the same time pointing out the dangers of "making work" for the Indian. The red man, he asserts, can see through a humbug as readily as can a white man, and he will not, for any wage, carry bricks from one side of a road to the other and then back again.

Mr. Leupp has organized a special employment agency in the southwest which, if successful, should go far toward solving the labor question. The agency is in charge of an energetic young man of Indian blood, whose duties are not only to secure work for his fellows, but to supervise contracts, and that they have the necessary medical attention. This plan is enough like that which Booker T. Washington has successfully employed among the negroes to justify the expectation that the Indians will follow alertly a guide of their own race.

Along educational lines Mr. Leupp promises to carry out the programme bequeathed to him by his predecessor, emphasizing industrial training as General Armstrong emphasized it at Hampton Institute. "To my notion," he says, "the ordinary Indian boy is best equipped for his life struggle on a frontier ranch when he can read the simple English of the local newspaper, can write a short letter, though ill spelled, and knows enough of figures to discover whether the storekeeper is cheating him."

A New Role For the Flea.

The disease which is devastating the population of India is said to be due primarily to the rat and incidentally to the flea. First the rat is infected, and then the flea deserts him, but not until he has caught the infection, which he carries to some human being.

A sure cure for the plague was found in an antitoxin which renders the system immune by inoculation, but the Hindoos complained that it made them sick, and they refused to submit to it. Finally the authorities overcame this objection by preparing a new bacillus broth and began the inoculation of the 70,000 Hindoos in the Punjab, when an accident again upset the faith of the natives. A tetanus microbe found its way into the broth, and nineteen subjects of the treatment were killed by lockjaw. Now the Hindoos refuse the antitoxin, and the death rate per month so far in 1905 has about equaled the annual death rate in the worst years of the plague during the 100 years of the epidemic.

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When Stanton Apologized

[Copyright, 1904, by T. C. McClure.] The butler returned with Stanton's card and the impassive announcement, "Miss Carver's not in, sir."

Stanton smiled grimly. "Very well, Howes," he said, calmly picking up a magazine and settling back comfortably. "I'll wait until Miss Carver is in, and, by the way, Howes," he added as the butler turned to go, "you'll favor me by conveying that bit of information to Miss Carver at once."

He fished in his pocket and drew out a half dollar, which he flipped to the butler, with a meaning nod, and Howes departed, the ghost of a grin showing at the corners of his mouth. A fire burned on the broad hearth, and, as the stairs creaked beneath the portly Howes, Stanton piled on wood and worked the bellows until he had a small sized conflagration roaring cheerfully. He was just hanging up the bellows when the portieres were whirled angrily aside, and Katherine Carver stood before him, a spot of red burning in either cheek and hard lines showing about her pretty mouth.

"Hello," said Stanton cheerfully. "Back early, aren't you? Glad I waited."

"Well?" she said shortly, coming a step nearer and giving an unpleasant indication to the word. "Very well, thank you," said Stanton imperturbably. "And you?" "Miss Carver glared at him. "Won't you sit down by my fire?" he went on politely. "I had no end of trouble to get it going."

"What have you come for?" she asked frigidly. Stanton looked thoughtfully into the fire for a moment.

"I didn't come to rob the house," said he, "nor to commit murder. I think I must have come to apologize."

"It is too late," said she. "Then I'll come earlier tomorrow," he returned. "May I ask what time the receipt of apologies ceases?"

"It ceased last evening at 10, and it ceased forever," said Miss Carver. "Oh, I say," Stanton protested, "really that's not fair."

"It's quite as fair as your remarks of last evening," she replied. "Honestly I'm sorry," said Stanton. "I was beside myself."

"So it would seem," she observed tartly. "And when I called you a heartless flirt and the rest of it I was irresponsible," said he. "I take it all back except"—he paused.

"Except what?" she asked. "Well, I'll take it all back—no exceptions, if you say so," he said meekly.

"Oh, it doesn't matter," she mused indifferently. "No, I suppose not," he said. "Still I'm really sorry. Won't you sit down by the fire and hear my side of it?"

Miss Carver hesitated. "Won't you?" he pleaded. She came to the fire and took the chair he had drawn up for her. "Proceed," she said, still practicing an economy of words.

"Katherine," he said slowly, "you know how devout a worshiper I've been; you know how patiently I've waited and what—er—what encouragement you've given me. Well, yesterday when I heard of your engagement to Cawthorne"—

"To whom?" she gasped, suddenly attentive. "To Cawthorne," he repeated. "I heard it at the club."

Miss Carver suddenly burst out laughing. She covered her face with her hands and went into convulsions of merriment. Stanton stared helplessly.

"I wish I might see it in that humorous vein," he said gloomily. "Do you mean to tell me that the announcement of Mr. Cawthorne's engagement was responsible for your outburst last night?" she asked between hysterical giggles.

"Yes," he said. "I was angry then, but today I've come to offer apologies and to add my congratulations. He has a mint of money, I hear."

"Oh," she gasped, convulsed in laughter again, "it's too funny! Mr. Cawthorne is engaged to Miss Cynthia Carver—Aunt Cynthia. It's the culmination of a romance that began before I was born."

"Oh, Lord!" said Stanton softly, but in tones of infinite relief. He picked up his hat and coat. At the door he turned.

"Not going?" she asked. "Yes; I'm going to the club to announce your engagement to me," he said, with an air of finality. "I haven't given my consent," she said, with reddened face. Stanton chuckled.

"Well, in response to your urgent invitation, I'm coming back to dine with the family, and I'll get it then," said he. LEONARD FRANK ADAMS.

The Wicked Bosom Pin. As every one knows, in the early days of Methodism a considerable degree of strictness was maintained in regard to the wearing of jewelry or costly attire. An eminent divine of that church gives an amusing incident. A preacher had just gone to his new charge and was in the midst of his sermon when a woman rose and went out, slamming the door with unnecessary violence. Of course he supposed he had said something which gave offense, but on making inquiries he learned that the woman left because "the minister wore a bosom pin." The fun of it was that he had driven to the service over bad roads and one drop of mud had settled on his immaculate shirt bosom, deceiving the tender conscience of the good sister.



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