



THEN AND NOW.

The Albany Democrat, in its usual narrow and bigoted fashion, is making a great ado over the fact that the judges of the recent inter collegiate oratorical contest decided that Minchin was entitled to the gold medal in that event.

Considerable agitation is reported from Albany over the discovery that Elwood Minchin, who recently won the state oratorical contest on behalf of Pacific College, Newberg, had prepared himself for the oration on Wendell Phillips by reading, and that from at least one book he had taken ideas and even words.

It is just as well to be correct in our statement of facts. Among recent dispatches was one stating that the superintendent of the Dubuque division of the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company has issued an order which prohibits the employees of that road from entering saloons or using liquor, whether on or off duty, and the penalty for violation of this rule is immediate discharge of the offender.

Summer Fallow is Wrong.

During the Farmers' Institute, which closed a two-days' session at Sheridan last Friday night, Dr. James Withycombe, in discussing "Conservation of Soil Fertility," said in part: "The single-crop system not only depletes the soil of plant food, but changes its mechanical condition. The soil becomes compacted, owing to the loss of humus. Humus has two great functions—first it keeps the soil loose, giving it warmth early in the season, and greater moisture-holding capacity later; second, it furnishes nitrogen, the most valuable plant-food element. Our soils have been robbed of humus by the one-crop system, but restoration can be made by the growing of leguminous crops, which besides increasing the amount of humus, add to the plant food in the soil by transformation of atmospheric nitro-

gen in a form available for growing plants. "The summer fallow is expensive, wasteful and entirely wrong in principle in a humid climate such as we have in the Willamette valley. In semi-arid regions it is not so bad, since there is little loss by leaching. About five times as much nitrogen is liberated by the summer fallow as the following wheat crop can utilize. When the winter rains come on, this excess of nitrogen is leached out of the soil and carried away by the streams. The amount of nitrogen which in this manner has gone down the Willamette river is probably equal in value to the total production of wheat during the time this crop has been grown in the Willamette valley.

"In place of the summer fallow, the following treatment is recommended: Plow early in spring, and sow to rape early in May. Replow and sow to wheat early in the fall. The next February sow on the fall wheat red clover to the amount of eight pounds to the acre, with about 50 pounds of land plaster. Allow the clover to stand two years; then break up and sow to fall oats or wheat. It is essential for the best results in the production of clover to sow the land plaster not later than the first of April."

Acid Soils.

Prof. A. L. Knisely, chemist at the O. A. C. Experiment Station, has just issued a circular bulletin concerning acid soils of the state. This bulletin can be obtained by applying to the college. The circular contains directions which will enable any farmer to make experiments for himself. Among other important items, the following facts are set forth: In some sections of the country crops fail without any apparent cause. Injurious conditions of the soil or climate exist and cause these failures.

It is with the idea of sifting out one or more of these injurious causes or conditions that this circular bulletin is issued. Recent investigations have shown that one of the most important causes of the failure of the clover crop is that the soil has become sour or acid. Clover will not thrive on acid soil. The beet plant is also very sensitive to acidity and will not thrive on sour or acid soil, but when the acidity of the soil has been corrected or done away with then clover beets, etc., will thrive once more.

The potato plant on the other hand, seems well adapted to acid soils, and when grown on such soils the tubers are smoother and of better quality than when grown on soils that are not sour. The station wishes to determine the extent of the acidity of Oregon soils, and, in carrying out this investigation, the intelligent farmer can be of great assistance to it; in fact he can make the tests for acid soils on his farm and then report the results to the Experiment Station.

The Future of the Valley.

A recent visitor to the Willamette valley wrote to his home paper in Eastern Washington that he saw no reason why the towns and cities of the Willamette valley should ever be any larger than they now are. As they depend upon the farming community and country is all settled up he saw no hope for further growth. This was not written in an unfriendly spirit, but the writer failed to grasp the situation. The value of the agricultural production of the Willamette valley will probably be quadrupled within a generation. Under proper development this valley with its adjacent foothills is capable of producing in the same year more butter, eggs and poultry than are produced in the whole Pacific Northwest; more wool than is now grown in all Oregon; more hops than the total present output of the United States; enough potatoes to feed everybody in the United States west of the Rocky Mountains; more mohair than the present production of the United States, and enough wheat to supply the home demand of Oregon and Washington, besides a vast quantity of fruit, hay, oats, onions, garden vegetables, etc. It will probably be a long time before the agricultural and other resources of the Willamette valley are fully developed, but long before that is accomplished there will be more than one large city in

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MR. THAYER, Local Agent.

Notice of Administrator's Sale of Real Property.

In the matter of the estate of James Abraham, deceased. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order of the county court of the state of Oregon for the county of Benton made and entered on the 10th day of November, 1900, I will from and after the 15th day of March, 1901, proceed to sell at private sale the following described real property of said estate and all the right, title and interest which said James Abraham had therein at the time of his decease, to-wit: