

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The date appearing after the printed name on the paper is the date of the EXPIRATION of subscription.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Pittsburg, Feb. 17.—The flood in the Monongahela river continues without abatement, and is rather increasing in violence. It is impossible to approximate an estimate of the damage done, but it is considered the heaviest river disaster ever experienced here. Grave rumors are current concerning the damage done up the river. The loss of life so far is only two.

Richmond, (Va.), Feb. 18.—There have been heavy rains in this section of the State for the past two days, and heavy land-slides on several railroads.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The President has signed the Indian appropriation bill.

New York, Feb. 18.—Cassery, from the Committee on Public Lands has reported favorably on the bill authorizing a commission on the irrigation of the San Joaquin and Tulare valleys.

A private dispatch from Yonkers says the engine of the Yonker special became detached near Hastings this morning. The engineer was unable to stop it, and the engine ran into an express train ahead, completely demolishing the cars and killing and wounding a large number of people.

When the collision on Hudson-river Road at Yonkers occurred the train was going north from which the engineer and fireman jumped. It caught the Poughkeepsie way train at Hastings, plunged half-way through the rear coach, which contained one passenger, the brakeman and assistant conductor. The passenger was uninjured, but the brakeman and were both probably fatally injured. No passengers seriously injured, and no one killed.

It is reported that the British ships Sterling Castle and Lincoln, which sailed hence for London, Dec. 10th and 11th, respectively, have been lost at sea. The Lincoln had a crew of twenty-three men and the Sterling Castle twenty-six.

Several creditors of the Bowles Bros. state that claims in this country against the firm amount to over \$300,000. The Japanese claim is said to be as much as \$90,000. It is claimed that Nathan Appleton, whose property at Newport, Rhode Island, has been attached, in the interest of the Japanese, is liable as a partner, and beyond what can be realized from his estate little is expected by creditors.

Archbishop McCloskey has appointed Rev. Father Preston, of St. Ann's, as Vicar-General, in place of the late Father Starrs.

Rumors are current that an effort will be made to place the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad under the control of Commodore Vanderbilt, so as to prevent the threatened depreciation of bonds of that company.

Salt Lake, Feb. 17.—The agent of priesthood are circulating for signatures a petition to Congress for the appointment of Commissioners to visit Utah and investigate the matter at issue with the Gentiles. The object of the Mormons is understood solely to be the staying off of legislation till better arrangements be made to defeat the Government's efforts to enforce the laws.

Clawson and others of the Zion's Co-operative Mercantile institution were principals in the secret protest sent yesterday by the Desert wire to Washington. The job was put up on Saturday night as a sort of forlorn hope, although several saints expressed a fear of its being too late, and thought it no use to contend longer against National authority.

There are some doubts about Claggett's appointment, there being no such information by the Western Union line. Claggett has hosts of friends here, but the displacement of Governor Woods will be much regretted by even the radical Gentiles.

Yreka, Feb. 18.—The first of the army line of the tri-weekly couriers between this place and General Gillem's headquarters arrived this evening, from whom we learn that Generals Gillem and Canby were at Dorris',

but it was thought Van Bremer's would be the headquarters.

The courier met Meacham at Ball's last night, when he stated that he believed Captain Jack to be an honorable man, and if he asked him to go to his camp he would go. It is said that the Modocs have a bitter enmity against both Meacham and Applegate, and the general impression is that they will have nothing to do with either of them.

The recent rains have made the roads between here and the front heavy though not impassible.

Los Angeles, Feb. 17.—Private letters dated Tucson, Feb. 11, has the following:

Cachise's band of red-skins has been raiding in Sonora, killing men and stealing cattle and horses. A communication was received to-day by Governor Safford from the Prefect at Magdalena on this subject, and General Crooks has received one from Governor Peschiera, regarding the same matter.

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—One of the heaviest rain storms of the season occurred last night and it is still raining at intervals.

New York, Feb. 18.—Mrs. Smith, occupant of tenement-house on Sackett street, Brooklyn, left two children locked in a room to-day, and while she was absent the house caught fire and the children were burned to death. A woman named Mrs. Taylor was fatally injured by jumping from a window.

Vanderbilt emphatically denies any connection, present or prospective, with the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad.

It is reported from Albany that a great deal of agitation exists among the members of the Legislature over revelations likely to follow the investigation concerning bribes by Jay Gould for the repeal of the Erie Classification act.

It is probable that the Legislature will pass a resolution declining to ask representatives from New York to vote for the expulsion of Credit Mobilier criminals.

The Republican Central Committee last evening endorsed the new charter. After all obligations are paid, Horace Greeley's daughters will each have \$100,000.

Salt Lake, Feb. 18.—The irrepressible conflict still goes on. All the papers, Mormon and Gentile, are loaded down with matter in regard to the Utah question. Money in abundance has been sent to Washington for the payment of the services of Tom Fitch and his kind in behalf of the Mormon cause. Ex-Territorial Secretary Fuller, ex-Acting Governor Mann and various other renegade Gentiles are at work like beavers to prevent the dreaded legislation. Paid special dispatches have been sent by the Desert Telegraph to various papers East and West deprecating the President's policy and settling forth that conservative Gentiles think his special message will materially injure business and is based on wrong information. Every unprejudiced and truthful business man in the community who does not yield allegiance to Brigham Young testify to the utter falsity of these Church telegrams. Many opportunities to secure Eastern and foreign capital for development of mineral resources have within the last year been lost or deferred by fear of insufficient security under Mormon law. Letters here now contain the refusal of capitalists to invest till they could depend upon the protection of the Federal Courts and laws.

Madrid, Feb. 18.—A proclamation of amnesty will be published on Thursday to Carlists now in insurrection in northern provinces if they, within two weeks, submit to the authorities. If they decline they will be energetically pursued. The question of representatives to South American republics is under consideration.

London, Feb. 18.—An explosion occurred to-day in a coal mine at Staffordshire. Between 30 and 40 miners are reported killed.

Castellar is about to send a circular to foreign powers to prevent their interference in the affairs of Spain and to assure them that the Republic is not seeking to interfere with other nations.

Farmers' Insurance Companies.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22, 1873.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Since the great fire which destroyed this city in 1871, and the great fire of last fall which nearly destroyed Boston, or a large part of it, the matter of insurance has taken a great deal of attention among men of property. These conflagrations have demonstrated the utter worthlessness of the insurance companies which take such great risks in large cities, so far as the farmer is concerned.

Suppose such a conflagration should visit Philadelphia, New York, St. Louis, San Francisco, New Orleans, or any of the great cities of the United States, then what would it profit the farmers throughout the country, provided they should have their property insured in city companies?

The amount of property destroyed in Chicago and in Boston, equaled three hundred millions of dollars, and the farmers of the country must help pay this destruction by an increase of premiums on their insured property, or they have lost what premiums have already been paid by insurance companies becoming insolvent.

Now the question naturally arises, what is the remedy? The answer is, there must be two kinds of insurance; country insurance and city insurance. A farmer must not take risks in city insurance companies, because by so doing he has to pay a ten fold risk when he takes out a policy. There is not much danger of his property being destroyed by fire. His buildings are isolated, and he should not have to take a risk with those whose property and buildings are in cities closely situated. His policy is coupled with these risks, and he has to share a proportional quantity of the losses.

It has now become necessary that farmers protect themselves—that they look out for their own interests. In order to do this, Farmers' Insurance Companies must be established which do business only in the country. It matters not where these may have their head. Let them be managed with fidelity and economy and they will be safe. There are plenty of farmers who are capable and willing to take hold of such enterprises, and who will conduct them successfully and satisfactorily to all parties concerned. Perhaps, at the present time, the best ones to take hold of this are the Patrons of Husbandry. Farmers' Clubs can also inaugurate this enterprise where there is no other agent to begin it.

It is claimed by insurance agents and by their papers, that Farmers' Insurance Companies will prove a failure, but such will not be the case. There is no reason why such enterprises should fail, if good men are at their head. Country and city are bound together in some relations, but not in the relation of fire insurance. It is but folly for a farmer to insure in a city company, and pay a premium equal, or nearly so, to the one paid by city property holders.

Farmers' Insurance Companies are necessary and practicable, and it behooves all farmers concerned to commence operations immediately, and thereby lose no more by city conflagrations.

This is certainly a common sense view of the whole matter and not visionary. The Chicago fire of 1871, and the Boston fire of 1872, have awakened the farmers, and have taught them a lesson, which will be the means of revolutionizing fire insurance. Farmers, prepare for the future, that you lose no more by city insurance companies. REX.

North Yamhill Farmers' Club.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

According to adjournment, the farmers of North Yamhill met on Saturday, Feb. 15th, 1873, and organized the North Yamhill Farmers' Club, which has for its object the encouragement of the improved cultivation of the soil, and the general development of the agricultural resources of this community and county; the encouragement and fostering of whatever may seem calculated to increase the contentment and happiness of home life; co-operation with all other farmers' clubs of our county and State in the carrying out of any measures that may be calculated to advance the local or general interests of the farmer.

The regular meetings of the Club are to be held on the first Saturday in each month.

The officers elected are: President, J. Torrence; Vice Presidents, John Laughlin and E. Bedwell; Secretary, D. C. Stewart; Treasurer, S. F. Glendon.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, no discussion was had on the question chosen at the previous meeting, and the same was retained for the next meeting.

Sixteen became members of the Club, and all present appeared to have a deep interest in the movement, which seems likely to be something more than momentary, and the present indications are that the North Yamhill Farmers' Club will speedily grow to such proportions that at no far distant day its influence will be felt, to the material advantage of the farmers of this community, and, in co-operation with the numerous other clubs of the country, to the great advancement of the agricultural interests of the State.

Club adjourned to meet at the North Yamhill Academy on the first Saturday in March, at 10 o'clock a.m. D. C. STEWART, Sec'y.

Mr. Philip Lowe, of Tangent, Linn county, has published a lengthy letter concerning the charge for transporting wheat to market, which has effected quite a commotion in certain quarters. Mr. Lowe's statements are vigorously assailed, but, aside from the detection of an error in figures, his main positions appear to be correct. We shall doubtless hear from him again.

We are informed that Mr. S. G. Reed has recently sold two of his blooded short-horn calves for the round sum of \$2,200. One of them will be taken to California. We did not learn the destination of the other. Such stock pays for raising.—Oregonian.

The Olympia Courier is informed that the Supreme Court have allowed the issuance of a writ of error in the case of that Territory vs. Charles Watts, convicted of murder, with a view of removing the cause to the United States Supreme Court.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.—Hon. A. J. Dufur delivered an address at Portland last Tuesday evening, explaining the objects and aims of the Centennial Celebration, and the manner in which it will be conducted. We give the Oregonian's notice of the address: "The speaker, after giving the earlier history of the enterprise, stated that the Commissioners who assembled at Philadelphia last May, among many other things determined to hold the great Centennial Celebration in 1876, commencing on the 15th of April and extending to 1st of October. The number of acres on which the celebration will be held is 2,740, lying across the Schuylkill river from Philadelphia, in what is known as Fairmount Park. The speaker then proceeded to give in minute detail the precise manner in which the grounds are to be divided, the dimensions and form of the pavilion; that each portion of the pavilion will be set apart for the numerous classes, specimens, etc., from the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms. Every kind of wild animal would be on exhibition, from a harmless gopher to an elephant, and of the domestic animals from a lamb to the finest short horned Durham cow. Minerals of all kinds, coal, rock, and precious metals, would be assigned their appropriate places. Cereal productions, specimens from the farm, manufactories, shops and forest, would also be given a prominent place. Arrangements would be so perfected that each State should be entitled to a place in the great pavilion, which would cover over 50 acres; and that all articles from one State would not become mixed with those of another, and those of another, and thus produce confusion. Each State should be entitled to the full measure of credit she might deserve. Mr. Dufur then explained at length and with clearness the financial workings of the great national enterprise. He favored strongly the early organization of a State Society, which should devote its energies to awakening an interest, and in the collection of minerals and other specimens to be placed on exhibition. He concluded his remarks by a handsome appeal to the State, urging her active co-operation in the great national enterprise now on foot."

GRANT COUNTY.—Grant county now makes all the flour she needs for home consumption. It sells at the mill at \$4 per 100 pounds. Beef is worth 5 to 6 cents per pound on foot; barley and oats, 1; and wheat 2 cents. All kinds of home produce is abundant.

An old settler of Grant county, under date of Feb. 9th, writes that the past winter in that region has been very much of the Webfoot style. More rain has fallen than during any previous winter since the country was settled. The mercury has not been below 10 degrees above zero. Stock looked well, and the grass was green and growing like spring.

The Register, of Albany, says: "Capt. Smith and his engineers have run one line for the Albany and Santiam Canal to this city, and are now running another. Capt. Smith pronounces the one run the most natural channel he ever saw for the same distance, twelve miles, the fall being gradual, requiring no deep cuttings, the deepest cut being six feet, and that for a short distance only. There will be no locks required, thus cheapening the cost of construction."

Mr. Slater has introduced in Congress a bill to make the Columbia and Snake Rivers the northeastern boundaries of Oregon; in other words, to include the whole of Walla Walla Valley in this State. The bill provides that the voters of that section shall have opportunity to express their choice in the matter.

To prevent swarms leaving new hives, it is recommended to move them, as soon as possible, several rods from where they were hived.