

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

VOL. XIV.

## Correspondence.

Letter from Lane County.

IRVING, Oregon, March 13, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

At a late meeting of the farmers of Lane County, a committee of five were appointed to incorporate the Lane County Agricultural Society; capital stock, \$10,000. The Secretary (Mr. Church) will probably give you a complete report of said meeting. Our anti-monopoly friends met in Eugene on the 11th instant, and had a very interesting meeting. I was somewhat disappointed at not seeing you there, although you did not say definitely that you would come. We will have another meeting at Eugene on the first Saturday in May to review the actions of both political nominating conventions, and if we can induce the best men to work for measures and not men, we hope to place none but reliable men here, no matter what their politics may be. Against no fanatics or extremists, but "Justice to All."

At a mass meeting of the anti-monopolists of Lane County, the following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That we demand of our Senators and Representatives the regulation of pilotage and towage on the Columbia river and bar, so as to destroy the present monopoly in that business and open the same to competition.

*Resolved*, That the fees of the Clerk and Sheriff be reduced, or make them salaries.

*Resolved*, That fares and rates on railroads should be controlled by law, compelling them to submit to a just law regulating interchange of commerce.

*Resolved*, that railroad companies should be compelled to pay for stock killed by them in the county where the damage occurs.

*Resolved*, That we demand of the present political parties, that they place in nomination only such men as will pledge themselves to use their utmost endeavors to secure the passage of laws in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, and others that may be presented that may be for the good of the people.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to furnish the *Eugene Journal* and *Guardian* with copies of the foregoing, with request that they be published, and all other papers friendly to the resolutions are requested to copy the same.

A. C. JENNINGS, Secy.

## Questions to be Answered.

FOX VALLEY, LINN CO., March 8, 1882.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Some of the professional anti-monopolists would be good enough, I should like to hear, to answer the following questions and those railroads that are now building are almost to the country where they are

First—Do they blockade the rivers so as to prevent us from shipping our produce as before the railroads were built?

Why don't the stages underbid them for the mail as usual? Why do farmers patronize them—why not haul your own and other produce to market the same way before the railroads were built?

Why not patronize the railroad from a pre-  
ference of our own choice? Why is a farm or the railway worth three times as much as the same dimensions twenty miles on the road? Why do immigrants want to locate near the railroads? They don't compel us to patronize their mode of transportation.

Why is this vast region of rich agricultural land lying east of the Cascades and West of the Missouri river now being cultivated, from which many million bushels of wheat finds its way to the world's markets?

If the railroads are a detriment to all that goes, why do stock raisers ship their stock on the cars to market in preference to driving them?

And now, Mr. Editor, are not all the anti-monopoly institutions that are organized for the purpose of controlling great monopolies, making the same still stronger by pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into their pockets by traveling to and fro from their conventions. Here is the National Grange, the expense of which is very great, and nearly all of which finds its way into the treasury of monopolies. These anti-monopoly organizations are pouring their petitions by the thousand into the fountain-head of all monopoly, asking for a law that will relieve them from the crushing exactions of monopoly; they even go so far as to ask Congress to pass a law making it a misdemeanor for a Senator or Representative to accept a free pass on a railroad. Now, if a free pass will buy a Senator, will not money do the same thing? Then, if we can't find men to represent us of more firmness and honor than that, it will be for us to ask for such a law.

Mr. Editor, as the columns of your valuable paper are open to communications from

many farmers, I would be very grateful to you to give the foregoing space in the same.

I remain, as ever, your obedient servant,

A. D. GARDNER.

NOTE.—Mr. Gardner lives near to the mountains and a good way from a railroad. He doesn't feel the weight of a "grinding monopoly" as heavily as he would if he lived close to a railroad station, so we make excuses for him, though we disagree with him entirely if he objects to the National Grange or to organizations that oppose unreasonable exactions of corporate monopolies. We suppose that Mr. Gardner's idea is that we ought to elect honorable men to office that money or influence cannot corrupt, a position the FARMER has always held and heartily endorses.

## SET OUT NATIVE OREGON PLANTS.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

It seems strange to one while traveling among the farmers and villagers that none, or scarcely any, of our really pretty Oregon plants and flowers have a place in the adornment of yards and gardens. We are annually sending to Eastern florists and seedsmen in many dollars for seeds and plants which are no better nor prettier, and not so hardy nor so well adapted to our climate. Many of our Oregon plants are much sought after by Eastern people, and more would be but for the fact of their being too tender to endure Eastern Winters. Thomas Meehan, in a letter to me, says he has tried for the last twenty-five years to grow the Oregon wild flowering currant, but had always failed in the latitude of Philadelphia. Our mountain laurel or rhododendron is also an object of interest when in bloom, yet I have never seen it transplanted here in Oregon; while in the East it must be protected during Winter, here it can be grown in the open ground.

M. Peters has growing on his grounds in Eugene City a number of native Oregon plants, and his yard will compare favorably with any other costing two or three times as much for plants. There are some plants, trees and flowers in Oregon not found in any other part of the country. In the line of trees, it is true, that some of the nut-bearing trees of the East would be an acquisition here, yet we have one, a native to this State and an evergreen. I refer to the chinquapin (*Castanea Pumila*): I have one transplanted from the woods, and it seems to thrive well. The wild currant of Oregon (*Ribes Sanguineum*) is the first shrub to bloom in the Spring, and is an acquisition to every garden. Then we have a number of early blooming flowers that do credit to most Oregon yards. From the time the snowdrop first makes its appearance until the sweet-scented lily is gone we have a succession of them. Gray's Botany does not sufficiently describe and name the plants of the Pacific Coast, and we ought to adopt one that does. Then the wine-bark (*Spiraea Opulifolia*), bearing its sweet-scented flowers in May and June, while like an orange flower, has a fragrance somewhat resembling a tuber rose. Also the arrow-wood, or tassel-wood (*Viburnum Dentatum*), hardhack (*Spiraea Douglascii*), two kinds of cherries, and especially our choke cherry, present a beautiful appearance both in flower and fruit. The mountain laurel (*Kalmia Latifolia*) is common to our mountains, and is a splendid bush. The Oregon grape vine, two kinds, are evergreen (and one I have seen covering trees sixty feet in height), can both be grown without trouble here. The myrtle, balm and sugar pine are trees of fine appearance, and ought to have a place on all large grounds. The yew tree (*Taxus*) and the cedars are also sightly and easily grown. The Port Orford cedar (*Cypressus Laurisilva*) is a rarity, and much sought after in the East. Our lillies are named in the catalogues East and offered for sale, and many Oregonians who buy bulbs often get our Oregon lilies. Our Eschscholzia, or yellow, poppy-like flowers, are common to gravelly soils, and are of world-wide celebrity. Coltsfoot and celandine are common in the fields, but we never see them in cultivated gardens. Can we not make a move towards planting native plants and flowers? The dogwood, especially would create raptures anywhere but in Oregon.

J. S. CHURCHILL,

men) should invoke the aid of our law makers in an aggressive war of extermination on the aforesaid owl. But the Doctor has failed to place to the credit side of the owl its just balance. Owls fly during the night. Rats, mice and gophers are likewise out of nights; consequently, it is more likely that the latter animals make up a greater portion of the food of owls than quails, grouse, etc., and that for every quail killed by an owl, three mice are destroyed. Now let us make a trial balance. One thousand quail at ten cents amounts to \$100. Place this to the debtor side of the account. Now, if we charge every mouse with what he destroys of seed when sown, say every three mice will destroy seed enough to produce one bushel of wheat; then place to the credit side of the account 1,000 bushels of wheat or oats at 50 cents per bushel, amounts to \$500; balance in favor of Mr. Owl \$400. This is a very liberal estimate, to be sure, but not more so than the Doctor's on the debtor's side. We farmers claim immunity from harm from the owl; and even the much-despised hawk destroys great numbers of squirrels and mice.

On the morning of February 22 there might

have been seen winding their way up Walker creek four men, armed, with about fifteen dogs—fox hounds, stag hounds, shepherd dogs, our dogs and a variety of assorted, conglomerate and indeterminate breeds. Arriving in the neighborhood of Panther Gulch, the hunters were made aware, by the actions of "Old Nip," that there was coyote in the air. The fox hounds are turned loose. Away they go with a long drawn yelp which only a hound can give, and which means that he is on the scent of game. Soon the full cry of the dogs tells us that the pursuit is hot, and after having made the circle of about a mile, the pack of dogs, with the wolf ahead, come over a high ridge in full view. Then the business stag hound of the pack is let slip. Away he flies, making a wild streak around the mountain side, set with the bellowing of the hounds, the yelping of the curs and the shouting of the men; old stag hound is confused and turns back. By this time the wolf is going up from creek with a display of energy which betrays a decided interest in the race. Now dogs and wolf are lost to view. Soon they come in sight again down the ridge, the wolf more than a hundred yards in the lead. Then men and dogs turn themselves loose down the mountain side at a reckless speed. Suddenly a deer jumps out from the brush and starts down the slope, and half of the dogs forget all about the wolf and turn off after the venison. Down Walker creek, almost abreast, go the two packs of dogs with the deer and the wolf dividing the honor of leadership.... The coyote is gone—the deer is gone, and the dogs are gone.... The hunt is over, so far as the men are concerned. (Coyote tracks next night on spring lamb. Dogs promise to catch him in the next hunt.)—W. N. A. Ashland *Pioneer*.

J. S. CHURCHILL,

## Southern Wasco County.

From the Prineville News.

We are in receipt of several private letters from the Western States asking for information in relation to the industries, the natural resources, populations, openings for certain trades and professions, etc., in this part of the State. We are never more impressed with our general inability than when we attempt to describe the many advantages and natural blessings we enjoy. Farming, which generally means the culture of cereals and fruits, is a new and rapidly spreading industry in this part of Wasco county. For

prices of farm products see market report, which is a correct report of prices for this time of year, though in the Fall prices are some lower, but very little. The reason for these comparatively high prices is that no railroads tap this part of the State, and the chief industry being the rearing of stock, only a few have as yet given attention to the tillage of the soil. For years it was thought that the soil of this part of the State, composed, as it is, of alkali and volcanic deposit, would not prove sufficiently productive to repay the tiller for his trouble, but within the last few years it has been proved that most of this land will grow good crops of wheat, rye, oats and barley, while vegetables grow as well in some localities here as anywhere in the world.

There are places, however, that are not adapted to the cultivation of anything; where nothing will grow except a natural coarse grass that will grow nowhere else. We have seen as fine potatoes grown in this vicinity as are raised in the Willamette Valley. Very fine tomatoes are cultivated and ripened here, which shows the natural mildness of our Summer and Autumn months. One enterprising vegetable man is confident enough of success to considerably outlay the cultivation of sweet potatoes next Summer. The uneven distribution of water is the chief drawback to the settlement of this part of the State. There is plenty of water, but it is not always conveniently situated. The rivers and creeks in many instances are 200 feet below the level of the surrounding country. We have talked with men who have resided here for years, engaged in the stock business, and who have always depended upon the natural fountains for their supply of water, and they are confident that water can be obtained in any and all places by boring. This question is to be decided soon, as some of our stockmen intend to give the experiment a trial.

This country produces the best firewood we have ever yet seen. All things being considered—the labor of procuring it, the work of preparing it, etc.—it is the cheapest wood that grows on the coast. We were told before we came here that a man could take four horses and a wagon properly rigged, and haul seven cords of wood at one load. The way it is taken from its native soil is in this wise: He drives up alongside a tree and fastens on to it with a rope, which is attached to the wagon, when upon starting the horses the tree is uprooted, and the operation is repeated until he has secured a load. We thought this an exaggeration at first, but as to the seven cords at one load, that is true, for the wood is stood on end with the branches all on, as our woodpile testifies at this time, and the trees are uprooted also. We are speaking of firewood, or wood that is used for fuel. This is the juniper, which grows where nothing else will grow but the black pine. The trees that are uprooted are, of course, the dead ones. The nature of the wood is similar to cedar, though it will burn readily when either wet or dry, making a very hot fire, and, unlike cedar or fir, will keep fire for many hours.

Mowhawk, Oregon.

Lumber used for building purposes in this

section is mostly pine, of two varieties, the yellow and black. All wooden structures are made of one or both these varieties. It is easily worked, admits a high polish, and has lasting qualities far ahead of the common fir that is so extensively used in the Willamette Valley, and in other parts of the State.

## A Wolf Hunt.

Wolf hunting with hounds is a new sport in this part of Oregon, but is none the less exciting because of its novelty. A number of farmers up the valley have spent some of their leisure days this Winter in this exhilarating pastime, and the result is that there are fewer coyotes in the country to prey upon sheep than there were before the hounds were set at work. The following description of a day's chase was written by a gentleman who was, as will be seen, an enthusiastic follower of the hounds:

On the morning of February 22 there might have been seen winding their way up Walker creek four men, armed, with about fifteen dogs—fox hounds, stag hounds, shepherd dogs, our dogs and a variety of assorted, conglomerate and indeterminate breeds. Arriving in the neighborhood of Panther Gulch, the hunters were made aware, by the actions of "Old Nip," that there was coyote in the air. The fox hounds are turned loose. Away they go with a long drawn yelp which only a hound can give, and which means that he is on the scent of game. Soon the full cry of the dogs tells us that the pursuit is hot, and after having made the circle of about a mile, the pack of dogs, with the wolf ahead, come over a high ridge in full view. Then the business stag hound of the pack is let slip. Away he flies, making a wild streak around the mountain side, set with the bellowing of the hounds, the yelping of the curs and the shouting of the men; old stag hound is confused and turns back. By this time the wolf is going up from creek with a display of energy which betrays a decided interest in the race. Now dogs and wolf are lost to view. Soon they come in sight again down the ridge, the wolf more than a hundred yards in the lead. Then men and dogs turn themselves loose down the mountain side at a reckless speed. Suddenly a deer jumps out from the brush and starts down the slope, and half of the dogs forget all about the wolf and turn off after the venison. Down Walker creek, almost abreast, go the two packs of dogs with the deer and the wolf dividing the honor of leadership.... The coyote is gone—the deer is gone, and the dogs are gone.... The hunt is over, so far as the men are concerned. (Coyote tracks next night on spring lamb. Dogs promise to catch him in the next hunt.)—W. N. A. Ashland *Pioneer*.

J. S. CHURCHILL,

## Carriage Making in Portland.

A visit to the extensive work shops of W. W. Espy, on Yamhill and Fourth streets, this city, will convince any person that in at least one branch of manufacturing we have established successful effort in Oregon. Mr. Espy has been for many years at work here, constantly improving his means for doing good work and increasing his trade as he has increased his facilities, until he is able to turn out anything intended to run on wheels, from a baby wagon to one of these immense trucks that haul the heavy loads over our stone paved streets. He sends East for much of his material, of course, because hickory doesn't grow here, and we have nothing to take its place. That wood is so perfectly adapted to carriage wheels that nothing else that is known can take its place. Espy also has sent East for the best skilled labor procurable and has men connected with his shop able to do any fine work needed to turn out a buggy or carriage intended to be perfect. He takes the lead in this State as a successful carriage maker, and what is perhaps surprising is, that he can hold his own in price with Eastern manufacturers. Freight on a single buggy from South Bend was lately \$55, by overland road, for which we can show a bill, and with that margin in its favor a well equipped Oregon factory can successfully compete. Mr. Espy pays nothing for style, as his shops are plain and unassuming structures. The fact of his success we attribute greatly to his thorough oversight of his own business and the absence of design.

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J. S. CHURCHILL,

## Mineral Wealth of Baker County.

The location of Baker City was well chosen. Viewing its site from the hill side south of town the full beauty of the location and capacity for unlimited growth strikes one forcibly. Situated on Powder River, and on the southeastern side of Powder River valley, surrounded by all the elements of greatness—rich farming lands, boundless forests of pine, fir and tamarack, and receiving the tribute of a mineral belt over fifty miles wide by one hundred in length, the future of Baker City is assured.

In one year, at least the Villard road will be completed from the Columbia river to this point, whers it will make a junction with the Oregon Short Line, which is making rapid strides for our rich country. The discovery of gold in Griffin's Gulch by a noble band of pioneers, in 1862, awakened to life and industry the stillness of the Blue Mountain ranges. This great country, with its vast territory (11,000 square miles), its magnificent mountain ranges, farming and grazing lands, its fields of coal and mountains of snow, would still have remained the domain of the savage but for the discovery of gold. But a few years have changed this hitherto unknown land into a wealthy, busy and populous country, and have started it on a career of prosperity whose bounds no man can predict.

The vast mineral belt referred to contains gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, cinnabar, in fact a belt on which all the metals which have yet been discovered in the United States are found.—*Reville*.

MR. WILLIAM KIRKMAN informs us that cattle are in great demand at present and that they have advanced 10 or 15 per cent. over last year's prices, and for sheep there is even a still larger demand, whereas last year they were selling for \$1.25 per head, buyers are now boldly offering \$1.75, and can obtain none at even that figure. Heretofore sheep have been a drug in the market and no demand for them; they are now wanted for mutton to be shipped East, and there is not a sheep holder in the country but has been approached by buyers to sell, but the investment is now so good that holders prefer to keep their stock to sell them. Messrs. Dooley & Kirkman have just received 235 head of fat hoggs from Preston Brothers of Wautsburg, making altogether a grand total of 385 received from that firm. This will complete that firm's pork-packing operations for the season.—*W. W. Statesman*.

## An Imported Cotswold.

A COTSWOLD ewe was recently purchased by James Withycombe, V. S., of this city, from Mr. Abner Straw, Ottawa, Illinois. She was bred by Mr. Henry Ackers, Oxfordshire, England. Imported to this country when a lamb, in 1880, by Mr. Straw, and shown by him at the following fairs: 1880, Ohio State Fair, Columbus; Northern Ohio State Fair, Cleveland; International Exhibition of sheep, wool and wool products at Philadelphia; Illinois State Fair, Springfield; St. Louis Exposition. She was in the first prize pen in all the above mentioned fairs.

This ewe is with lamb