PORT ORFORD POST.

THURSDAY, - OCT. 1, 1880.

"WILLAMETTE FARMER" VS. PRODUCTION.

The editor of the Willamette Farmer, claiming to speak for the Grangers of the State, proposes to lay on the desk of each member of the Legislature during the session, a copy of that journal, and hopes that body will pay heed to its suggestions in behalf of the farming interests of Oregon. Strange as it may seem, though, the very first thing the Farmer essayed to urge upon the favorable attention of the Legislature, was to outlaw the provision in our statute reserving from taxation the sum of indebtedness of the people, which would be an outrage upon the farmers and a harvest for the money sharps and vultures, whose trade it is to prey upon production from year to year. Is any person (except the editor of the Farmer) so stupid as not to see that the success of the said editor's proposition would entail a system of double taxation—which would be unconstitutional and wrong—or the alternative of the debtor class, largely composed of farmers, paying not alone taxes upon what they own, but also upon the sum of the notes held against them by Shylocks?

GOVERNOR WOODS AND THE CHINESE.

But for the veto of Governor Woods of the anti-Chinese Bill passed by the Legislature of 1868, Oregon would have been forever freed from their pestilential presence. It provided a tax of $15 per month upon every Chinaman in the State or that might thereafter come in. At that time the Republican party of this State, led by the Oregonian, was avowedly pro-Chinese. The Oregonian poured out the vials of its wrath upon the devoted heads of Col. Chapman of Portland, B. F. Amis, of Lane, and other members for taking a common sense view of the subject. And to show to what lengths Woods went for justifying his veto of the law, he based it squarely on its conflict with the Burlingame Treaty; when, as a matter of fact, said Treaty was not ratified until SEVEN MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

The dealer in farm machinery in Portland, though he hold $300,000 in farmers' notes, pays not a cent of taxes on the entire amount, if the Willamette Farmer's theory of no set-off for indebtedness is to prevail. The purchaser must be burdened with the payment of an aggregate of six thousand dollars taxes on this same machinery.

To facilitate harvesting, threshing machinery, etc., must be purchased. It is usual to buy such on time. Under the new order of things proposed, the farmer's one $1000 worth of machinery will cost him an average of forty dollars taxes, though he owe for every cent of it.

A PLAN TO DEFEAT CONCEALMENT OF TAXABLES.

A gentleman of this county suggests a plan which, if it should receive the recognition of our law makers, he thinks would, as an adjunct of reforms already proposed, in a large measure insure the public revenue against fraudulent concealments and evasions. He would provide for submitting the rolls to public inspection either by printing the same in the newspapers, or posting copies conspicuously at the several points in the counties most frequented by the people, say for the period of four weeks prior to the day of the assembling of the County Boards of Equalization. This, it is claimed, would go a long way toward bringing out the bulk of the property liable to assessment, since each tax-payer would thus be apprised in advance as to what had and had not been assessed to his neighbor, thus rendering concealment and gross undervaluation a hazardous experiment. For, under such a practice, persons cognizant of discrepancies could appear before the Boards and expose them, with a view to their correction. It is obviously the interest of every taxpayer that every other tax-payer does his whole duty in the behalf of carrying the burdens of the State.

The religious press East, furnishes the best argument in the world to the point of the fraud practiced by the Church in gathering dimes and pennies of the poor to send missionaries to convert the heathen in China, when it is pleaded in behalf of Chinese immigration that Chinamen form the most exemplary, law abiding class of people who inhabit this country.

The illusory plea is held out that, abolish the "set-off" for indebtedness, and interest will become cheaper. Capital has been notorious from the earliest times for being utterly consciousless. It will get all one's necessities compel him to pay, tax or no tax.

The popular error that the bulk of the Democratic vote of the United States is at the South, is exploded on comparison of figures. Tilden received one million, sixty-eight thousand nine hundred and eighty-two more votes at the North than he received in all the Southern States.

If the manufacturer who engages in any enterprise in our State must needs pay taxes on his borrowed capital in addition to his products, machinery, etc., he will be likely to conclude that he has fallen upon eviltimes.

Josh Billings says that, as soon as an Indian is converted to Christianity, he straightway puts a lock on his door.

Bob Ingersoll finds it difficult to keep the "free-love" element from dominating his "Liberal League."

The number of white convicts in the Oregon Penitentiary who cannot read and write, is only four.

A MODEL SAN FRANCISCO "TAX-PAYER."

Truth, Which Smacks Considerably of Romance.

Six years ago, it will be remembered by those who kept tolerable watch of the course of San Francisco politics, that a Tax-payers' party suddenly loomed up, and under whose auspices a considerable per cent. of the officials were successful. Well, says the reader, there was nothing remarkable in that. But there was a remarkable beginning to it. A personage named Porter, living in splendor in a fashionable quarter of the city, who had been everything by turns in politics and nothing long, and failing to get his merits recognized by either of the two great parties, suddenly came to the front on the occasion mentioned above, with a plan for a "Taxpayers'" party. He desired "wealth" to have an even show for the offices. No person objecting particularly to so modest a demand, a sort of mixed ticket was elected that year, and, as a result, Porter became a man of much consequence; indeed, the successful candidates on the Taxpayers' ticket were afterward spoken of as having been elected on the "Porter ticket." Such officials were happy, and Porter was happy. Now for the sequel. During the first year of the Porter reign, there appeared on the scene a man from Syracuse, N. Y., and a lady from Leavenworth, Kansas, heirs by close kinship to a woman who h[illegible]ew years previous, died an[illegible] buried by charity in Stockton. These heirs knew their kinsman had been wealthy, and at once set about discovering the whereabouts of the lucre. They ascertained that, during the days of the deceased's triumphs as a woman of the town, Porter had "lived with" her, first at Stockton, and lastly in San Francisco; that she was possessed of large means; that investments of her funds had been made in stocks and real estate in Porter's name, and that she had finally been turned adrift by Porter and had died as described above. A demand was made upon Porter for restoration, but the sum was so large that he could not raise the ready funds. The matter was taken into Court where the above facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, and verdict rendered accordingly. Henceforward Porter was not a "Tax-payer," and the shrewdest detective could not, in a week's hunt, find a man who had been elected on the Porter ticket.

And what is still more remarkable in this connection, is the fact that there are still men in the Penitentiary at San Quentin for wholesale speculations in tax receipts, and other gigantic frauds. Even the Coroner was afterwards impeached for robbing the dead.

Altogether, that "Tax-payers'" reform administration was the most corrupt of any that had preceded it; and Porter, the author of its being, and its close, had retired from view, weighed down with a very avalanche of disgrace and ignominy, because of the exposure of his late relations to, and robbery of, the now dead frail, fair one.