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Salem, Saturday, Feb. 24.

OUR FOURTH VOLUME.

This number of the FARMER opens the fourth volume. Three years ago we issued the first number, and since that date we have given all our energies and labors to make the paper deserving of success; and with what result our readers may judge. We enter on the fourth volume with increased determination to make the paper a welcome, entertaining and useful visitor to all our readers. And if anything is lacking, it shall not arise from any want of a good intention and zealous purpose to deserve the support and patronage of every farmer and family in Oregon.

We have received many words of encouragement, and great kindness and assistance from farmers and correspondents in every county and neighborhood in Oregon, and even from sections far beyond the borders. For all this we beg leave to return our sincere thankfulness and gratitude; assuring our friends that every lift they give us is most heartily appreciated, and places us under lasting obligations to labor with redoubled energy to deserve and vindicate their confidence in and recommendation of the paper.

We are especially grateful to those who send us subscribers. There is nothing gladdens a printer's heart and makes his face shine with joy unspokeable, equal to any elongated list of ye honest farmer's autographs, with ye coin thereunto appertaining.

And next to the subscriptions and subscribers, are our thanks especially felt to the correspondents who from time to time sent us interesting and useful communications. These letters add great interest and usefulness to the paper. Being the actual experience and observation of practical farmers, dealing with the circumstances and conditions of our own soil and climate, they cannot be otherwise than valuable to every cultivator. We would like to have every number as interesting, in point of correspondence, as the last issue, and to that end solicit every subscriber to send in his observation and experience in Oregon agriculture.

And now, for the future, we make no apology for again appealing to our friends throughout the country to make one more grand rally along the whole line from "Sailor's Diggings" to Whidby's Island, and from "Clatsop Plains" to Salt Lake, to secure to the "FARMER" new subscriptions and increased lists. Gentlemen, we are fighting for your interests. Our success is your gain; our growth is your prosperity also. Our interests are mutual; let us labor for each other. As the "FARMER" labors for the interests and prosperity of agriculture, let farmers lend a helping hand, and speak a commendatory word for their paper. Hundreds of subscribers can be secured for the paper by simply saying to your neighbor, "Here is a copy of the farmer's paper—it labors for our interests, don't you think we ought to sustain it—let me send in your name as a subscriber?" Try this simple plan with every farmer who does not take the paper.

Some persons suppose that the State Agricultural Society owns and sustains the paper. Let all such dismiss the idea at once. This paper is wholly and entirely a private enterprise, dependent alone on the patronage of the people for support; and without such support and patronage we would have to stop its publication.

The "WILLAMETTE FARMER" aims and claims to be an honest, independent, straightforward advocate of the rights and interest of farmers; and as such it may be unhesitating-

ly recommended and endorsed in any quarter. We strive to make it readable and interesting; and hope to see it in the hands of every man and woman interested in lands, agriculture or kindred interests. We will not for money, or any other consideration, publish any of the lying, swindling, cheating, humbug, or filthy quack doctor or other advertisements found in many other papers; and for this reason, the FARMER may be cheerfully introduced into every family circle. Neither will we, for money, or from fear, favor or affection, or any other consideration, hesitate to fearlessly expose and mercilessly denounce every project, movement, or scheme, calculated to rob the people of their rights, corrupt the public conscience or sow evil among the people.

COLONIZING VOTERS.

As the last days of February approach, we hear floating around disgraceful rumors that certain parties are "importing" voters into certain counties. No man who loves the honor of his State; no man of courage and true grit, who loves to see "fair play and let the best man win;" no man of common honesty and average decency, can afford to stand by and see any such dishonorable conduct, without raising his voice to rebuke and denounce it, and without pledging his honor and manhood to defeat it. What is an imported voter? A vile, scurvy scoundrel, who for a miserable pittance of money sells his right to be considered a man and citizen, to some other scoundrel who has money to pay, skulks in the byways of the neighborhood until election day, and then sneaks out from his cover like a sheep thief dog, hastily deposits a fraudulent and corrupt vote, and flies from the county in shame and disgrace. Any man that will thus act, justly forfeits his right to vote, and the laws should so declare it. He commits perjury in casting such a vote. Totally destitute of all moral principle, or a spark of honor as a man, and utterly regardless of the rights of others, an "imported voter" shows himself to be a base brute, who, for twenty dollars, would cowardly fire your barn at the dead hour of night, or poison the faithful dog who stands watch at your door. He may vote your ticket to-day, and to-night steal your horse and run away. He is a thief, a coward, a sneak, or a desperado, and you can't afford to have him in your community for any purpose, because the opportunity to rob is all he needs to make him a robber.

And who is the man that employs such dishonorable means to secure a political triumph? As the sornorner of a perjurer is a more dangerous and despicable creature than his contemptible tool, so is the man, who, having money, uses it to defeat the will of the people, a more dangerous person than the base hireling who by fraud and violence registers his corrupt purposes at the polls. Let all such be scorned in dishonor. They forfeit the confidence and support of all honorable and just men. If they would defeat you with money and imported voters, they would not stop at any other corrupt means to despoil you of your rights or property. The evidence that any public man is engaged in this dirty business, should be the signal for every honorable man to withdraw his support and take active steps to secure his defeat.

Let no partisan suppose a victory secured by such means will bring any substantial good to his party. The man who sells his vote to one party to-day will sell to the opposite party to-morrow. There is neither safety nor honor in such business. It is ruinous to the State and corrupting to private morals. We appeal to honorable men in all parties to frown it down, and stamp it out. If one party engages in it, let the other stand up for honor, fair play, and a pure ballot box; for on such a platform defeat will prove the crown of laurel. But you won't be defeated on such a noble platform. The people are not dogs and sheep to be led and driven by dirty politicians. Show them the right and the truth, and they will sustain it.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In the last issue we published a communication from "Corvallis" in reply to our article some weeks since on the above subject.

We are glad to learn that the Corvallis College has even thirty-five acres of land, and that ten acres have been actually cultivated. That is something. From this communication we judge that the Corvallis Professors of Agriculture are probably doing as well as their limited facilities will permit. Our complaint is not against the teachers or managers of that institution, but against the Legislature for the manner in which they disposed of the matter.

Our correspondent seems to think that it is all right; at least we infer that such is his opinion, because he does not say so directly. We differ with him. We have not examined the journals of the Legislature, and do not desire to. Taking our correspondent's statement that it was eighteen whole days from the time the bill was introduced until it was approved by the Governor, we still say that there was no time nor opportunity for investigation, and none was intended to be allowed, and the matter was substantially disposed of in a day. The bill was all the time in the hands of a committee of its friends. The law shows for itself. It is no law at all for the subject. It contains no rules, regulations, considerations, or requirements to be had or done by Corvallis College. If the College does anything to deserve the franchise, it is just that much more than it is under any legal obligations to do. A proper investigation of the subject would have placed the Agricultural College franchise in the hands of a responsible commission to invite proposals for the location of the college, without authority to thoroughly investigate all such proposals. If that had been the case, and Benton county had been compelled to compete with Marion, Linn, Yamhill and other counties, and Corvallis College placed in competition with the Albany, Salem, and Forest Grove schools, we would have seen something more than thirty-five acres of land secured to such a noble purpose. We would have seen money, buildings, farm, philosophical and chemical apparatus, etc., etc., secured to the State for farmers, in requital for a ninety thousand acre land grant. Our correspondent must see that interests of the State have not been consulted in this matter.

We did not say it was a Democratic job—but a political job. If the Democrats are responsible for it, let them take the blame. We know that Republicans voted for the bill. The information that it was a "job" came to us from leading Democrats, one of whom was a member of the Legislature and voted for the law, he excusing his vote by saying that it was necessary to do so in order to secure votes for the passage of another measure. We forbear to mention names—but such are the facts.

CROPS IN FRANCE.

Full reports of the last grain crop place the deficit at from thirty to forty-five million bushels, being a larger crop by at least fifteen million bushels than was expected in August last. The falling off is hard enough to bear by the poor French peasantry, many of whom were stripped by the war with Germany, and all have now to contribute heavy taxes to pay the Prussian bill of costs. But this variation in the crop is felt less in France than it would be in any other country, on account of the great frugality of the producing classes, who make up by their economy for the failings of nature. But their loss this year on grain, will be more than made up next year, if the season is favorable and the country is not disturbed by war or bad home government. The French are all heroes, and will rise from their misfortunes with wonderful elasticity.

The grape crop did not come up to the general expectation, and, per consequence, the vineyard farmers did not secure as much for their labors as in years past. But the exportation of wines (so-called) will be fully as large as in former years. The French merchants are skillful in the manufacture of doctored stuff from acids, alcohol and sugar, and John Bull especially, where they drink port and sherry, will get more than his usual dose of French drugs.

What is to be done?—Years ago there was no better beef than was produced in this valley. It was before the natural grasses were eaten out. Now, and for a considerable time past, there does not grow, as it would appear, grass enough in this valley to fatten our stock. We send off large bands of cattle to feed and fatten on our eastern prairies. What is required now is a system of cultivating the grasses so that we shall be able to increase, and feed and fatten, stock in this valley. How can this be done? By making three blades of grass grow where one does not now. How can this be done?—This is the very thing we want to know.

What success has followed attempts made to make pastures of the cultivated grasses? What are the best grasses to be sown so as to keep the pastures green through the season? These are matters of deep interest to the growers of stock and herds in this valley.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—The State Temperance Convention assembled in this city yesterday, and is in session as we go to press. It is composed of a class of our first citizens, and is the largest temperance body which has ever met in the State. A good effect will certainly result from this demonstration.

FARMERS' CLUBS.—The farmers living about Bethel, Polk county, will meet at that place on the 8th of next month for the purpose of forming a Farmers' Club. The farmers of Yamhill county are also moving in the same direction. Every agricultural county in the State should have one or more of these Clubs.

EUROPEAN.

ROME, Feb. 16.—It is announced that the Pope intends to renounce the Concordat, so far as relates to Alsace and Lorraine.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The activity of Bonapartist agents, who are striving throughout France to secure a return of the ex-Emperor, creates a great excitement in Parliamentary circles.

M. Rouher, recently elected to the Assembly from Corsica, appeared in that body and took his seat. His entry excited extraordinary attention from members.

Minister Washburne, accompanied by Count De Demusal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, had an audience with Thiers to-day, and presented Cushing, Evarts, and Waite, counsel of the United States before the Geneva tribunal. Bancroft Davis was unable to be present.

Monarchists in the Assembly are canvassing with great activity to obtain the signatures of their friends to the coming manifesto, and to organize a compact on the part of newspaper organs of Thiers and of Legitimists. Both accuse the Orleanists of intrigue and bad faith.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Gladstone entertained Minister Schenck at a dinner on Saturday.

At a general meeting of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, last evening, a reduction of the present toll for dispatches was favorably received. A proposal for laying a fourth cable was well received.

SMALL POX RAGING ALL OVER EUROPE.—A letter from Messina, Italy, dated December 9th, 1871, received in Washington, says: "Almost every city in Italy is infected with small-pox. In Messina a large portion of the lower classes is attacked, and many of them die. The health office gives clean bills of health, but since the 7th inst., the American and British consuls, after a consultation, agreed to enter their bills of health that 'cases of small-pox have occurred in the city, some of which have terminated fatally.' The other consuls think it unnecessary, as, in their opinion, the disease was raging over the whole continent of Europe."

HIGH WATER.—The rains last week brought the streams up higher than than they have been in five years, doing considerable damage along the low lands, in sweeping away fences, etc. The running of trains on the railroad was interrupted for a day or two, but otherwise the damage was not great.

SETTLED.—The difficulties between the Railroad company and Campbell Chrisman, of Lane county, have been satisfactorily adjusted.

SHEEP KILLED.—We learn that M. L. Savage, living near Lake Labish had a number of sheep killed by dogs one night this week.

MAIL AGENT.—Joseph Mendenhall has been appointed mail agent on the Oregon and California Railroad, between Portland and Eugene City.

INSANE.—A man named W. E. Beach was declared insane, before Judge Terry, last Wednesday. The Judge ordered him to be sent to the Asylum.

TYGH VALLEY.—Nelson Mahony, who resides near Tygh valley, Wasco county, writes that out of 750 sheep he had lost 250. Snow was five inches deep, and feed plenty.

GRANT COUNTY.—A letter to the Bulletin, from Grant county, states that out of 19,000 head of cattle in the county, less than one hundred have been lost this winter.

WILL RETURN.—It is now understood that, owing to his long detention in San Francisco, Mr. Holladay will not go to Europe, but will probably return to Oregon within a few weeks.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Arrangements are being made in Portland for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on a grand scale. Hon. George K. Shiel, of Salem, has been selected as orator on the occasion.

CROOKED RIVER.—The Eugene Journal learns that stock on Crooked river are doing well. A few days before Christmas snow fell to the depth of twenty inches, but it soon melted away so that stock could get plenty of grass.

ORNITHOLOGY.—Rev. P. S. Knight delivered a second lecture, last Tuesday evening, before the Normal Class of the Willamette University. The audience was large, and seemed highly entertained.

THE Benton Democrat says the roads between Corvallis and Pioneer are almost impassable, owing to the high waters and deep mud; also that heavy storms have prevailed there as well as in this section of the country.

POLITICAL.—The Republican County Committee of Marion county assembled in this city last Wednesday, and named March 9th as the time for holding the County Convention, and March 2d for holding precinct meetings for election of delegates.

LANE COUNTY.—From the Journal we learn that a bold attempt was made to rob the store of the Manufacturing Co. at Springfield, a few nights since, but the efforts to open the safe were not successful.

Abraham Rand, a young man, has been arrested on a charge of perjury, and committed to await his trial.

YAKIMA.—A letter to the Vancouver Register, dated Feb. 2d, says one hundred dollars per ton is offered for hay in the Yakima valley, and none to be had at that figure. The coldest weather has been nineteen degrees below zero. There had been snow on the ground a foot deep for seven weeks.

THE STAGE COMPANY.—Col. Hooker, Superintendent of the Oregon and California Stage Company, is now in Oregon. He states that notwithstanding the high waters and terrible condition of the roads they have lost no mails, and the failure to receive our eastern papers and letters is entirely owing to the snow blockade on the trans-continental railroad.

WASCO COUNTY.—The Mountaineer, Feb. 16th, says:

We have not been able to get any reliable information in relation to the condition of cattle in this section. We are satisfied, however, that a large per cent. of the cattle of the northern part of this county will perish before winter is over. In Umatilla, Walla Walla and Yakima counties the loss is bound to be considerable.

LANDS WITHDRAWN.—The Herald says the Land Department at Washington by telegram to the Land Office at Oregon City has directed the withdrawal from market, or action under Homestead and Pre-emption laws all lands on the Northern border of this State for the distance of width of forty miles. It is supposed this in behalf of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

ARRESTS.—During the month of January there were 150 arrests made by the police of San Francisco; and in Portland, during the same time, the police made 142 arrests. Population of San Francisco, 150,000—of Portland 10,000. The Oregonian suggests that probably the chief of police of San Francisco doesn't get a handsome per diem for the boarding of those arrested, as in Portland.