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For the Willamette Farmer.
FAMILIAR TALKS.—No. 7.

Your correspondent C. complains that a wagon load of apples only sells for three dollars in Oregon, and that three boxes of fine apples will fetch only a dollar, and argues from this that there is no encouragement for Oregon fruit growers to produce fine fruit. Nothing can be more erroneous than this course of reasoning. Time was when corn would sell for ten cents a bushel in the western States, and when bacon was used as fuel on the Mississippi steamers. The fact is no country is so far from market as those that have nothing to sell, and the experience of the commercial world is that where there is a surplus, there will eventually be a market.

Where there is an abundance of an article in the market, then the best is selected, and the poorer neglected, and in no article is this more manifest than in fruit—hence one great incentive to produce the best. We should dry and export vast quantities of fruit, especially the pear, which is scarcely to be found in the cold regions of the west.

In December of 1870, I saw Oregon apples in Omaha, on the fruit stands, and they were to be seen at other points along the line of the Union and Central Railroads. Upon the completion of the Northern Pacific, we shall be able to furnish not only the miners of Idaho and Montana, but, also, those that dwell upon the great treeless plains of Dacotah upon the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and even to Duluth on Lake Superior. For the present we must dry up, make into vinegar, manufacture apple butter, feed the poorer to stock, and furnish a bountiful supply of good, which will increase the demand, and eventually place fruit on a sure and safe foundation of prosperity.

Now that hops are fifty cents a pound and still going up, there will not be men found wanting to rush into the business heedless as to the adaptability of their location or themselves to carry on the business. It is this same spirit that has impelled men to sell their cattle when beef was but two cents per pound, and invest in sheep to be sold in turn while wool and mutton ruled low,—to sow and neglect wheat, then change again to wheat while high, and so following the phantom of high prices, yet always arriving after the feast and only able to pick the crumbs. We should not be surprised to hear of some enthusiast cutting down his orchard, while apples were only "three dollars a wagon load," and pronounced not worth raising.

The only true way is to keep right straight along in the even tenor of your way—plant and sow that which is best adapted to your soil and locality, and a judicious routine, and my word for it you will strike a paying market oftener than by following the

jack-o'-lantern phantom of high prices.

Three years ago, when I ordered my milk cans eight inches in diameter and twenty inches deep, some of my neighbors said it would not do, and that I would have to give up this "new project notion,"—that the cream would not raise through such a depth of milk—the cans would soon rust out if set in water,—that they would be troublesome to keep clean, and many other like objections, too numerous to mention.

The longer we use these cans the better we like them. A better article of butter can be made than when the milk is spread out, presenting a great surface to the atmosphere. It is much more cleanly, more convenient, in a word cheaper than the usual old method of shallow pans and these less than half full.

Twenty-two pounds of milk when kept at an even temperature of 62° F., make a pound of butter. I could get no better results from milk set in pans and not so good if the weather was warm. The tank for the cans can be easily filled with water from the well and kept at an even temperature, which is a very important item. My well is no more than ten feet deep, yet I have never known the water to be warmer than 54° F. and so a few bucketfuls of water from the well will reduce the water in the tank to the proper temperature.

Oregon's yield of wheat for 1871, was but a fraction over 19 bushels per acre, while Massachusetts, with her poorer soils and patchy farms, turns out over 18 per acre. Oregon receives for her crop of 1871, an average of 93 cents per bushel, while the Massachusetts farmers receive \$1.75 for their crop of 1871. This shows the difference of good farming as well as the advantage of a good market.

Oregon can produce an average of 30 bushels by underdraining, deep plowing and careful seeding, and that too without exhausting her soil as rapidly as now, and at no greater expense per bushel, but her farmers must employ more capital, do their work better and more nearly up to time. Here the strife is to see how little help we can get along with, while in the famous farming regions of older settled communities, the aim is to use the greatest possible amount that can be done to profit. To increase the price of farm products we must encourage home manufactures and bring the consumer alongside of the producer. Time, coupled with a judicious policy, sooner or later will accomplish this, but those that help themselves are first helped.

COOS BAY.—The *Plaintdealer* learns that Hardee & Co., who have been engaged for some time in opening a coal mine on the east side of the Bay opposite North Bend, had the good fortune to strike the vein with their tunnel at the depth of nine hundred feet, and there is every probability that it will prove to be a paying mine. The necessity of a telegraph line from the Bay to Roseburg, is becoming every day more apparent, and there is little doubt one will be established the present season, on the line of the Coos Bay road.

READ the new advertisements.

THE NEW ERA IN POLITICS.

ED. FARMER: We wish to say a few words of encouragement to the FARMER for the manly and independent articles it has recently contained in regard to political reform and retrenchment. We, as farmers, do not wish to see the FARMER become the organ of any political party or faction, but the friend and guardian of our interests, and as such it undoubtedly has the right—not only the right—but it is a duty to point out and condemn those pernicious practices and tricks of parties and politicians by which so many incompetent and unprincipled men make their way into offices of honor and profit—men, whose political attainments are too circumscribed to enable them to discharge the duties devolved upon them with honor to themselves and profit to their constituents. In the character and acts of some of Oregon's former Representatives, does the truth of this find abundant confirmation. But, after a careful survey of the political horizon, we come to the conclusion that a new era is dawning in politics, that the time is not far distant when Americans will vote as becomes Americans, without the dictation of conventions or leaders, as we commonly term them. The time has been when conventions could make a ticket of whatever material it saw proper, and that ticket would receive the support of its respective party, without any regard to fitness on the part of the candidate; but the people have about come to the conclusion that it is necessary for a candidate to have brains and character as well as nomination, to entitle him to their support. Wherever I conversed with my fellow farmers, there is a deep, earnest feeling to this effect, and we think it augurs well for the future of our country; it is the only way by which "rings" and "slates" can be broken up, and profligacy and corruption corrected.

RUSTIC.

EUROPEAN.

LONDON, March 24.—The *Observer* says of the second note of Lord Granville, in regard to the Alabama claims, that it is most friendly and conciliatory in tone, but states explicitly that England is unable to submit the indirect claims to the Board of Arbitrators at Geneva. The *Observer* states that the dispatch is very lengthy.

The Queen departed this morning for Berlin via Paris.

In a suit of the United States against Arman, a shipbuilder of Bordeaux in 1868, to recover damages for depredations committed by the ram *Stonewall*, which escaped from Bordeaux, the case having been decided in favor of the defendant by the tribunal, Washburn has now appealed the cause to the Court of Customs.

The Opinion Nationale states that the literary Convention between the United States and France has been concluded by Washburn and Count de Remusat, and now awaits ratification.

MADRID.—March 25.—The doors of the last Protestant Chapel in Madrid have been closed.

UMATILLA COUNTY.—A correspondent writing to us from Birch Creek, says the weather is exceedingly fine, and stock are thriving unusually well. Sheep men are highly elated over their prospects. Most farmers have sowed their spring crops, and considerable improvement is being done on the farms. We hope our friend will write to us often.

DOMESTIC NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The small pox here is decreasing.

The Custom House Commissioners report only four or five witnesses remaining to be examined. Probably they will next call witnesses on the San Domingo subject. General Babcock is the only witness who has been examined. He said he knew of no corrupt influence being used to promote annexation.

There is but little interest now expressed among public men relative to the Alabama claims, and some of those who were the strongest friends to the Treaty now say they are indifferent as to whether or not its provisions are carried into effect. There seems to be no disposition in any quarter to yield to the British view of the question.

Vice President Colfax made a temperance speech at Lincoln Hall to-night to a large audience.

The military officers of the Japanese visited the signal office last night and had the workings of that branch explained to them.

ST. LOUIS, March 24.—Trains on the Belleville and Southern Railroad have been stoned lately and the lives of passengers endangered by a gang of scoundrels near Pinckneyville. On Thursday night last two men were arrested in the act, and on being searched by the City Marshal one of them stabbed him, inflicting a wound three inches long, whereupon the Marshal shot the desperado dead.

James Cady, for over forty years a prominent iron manufacturer in this city, died to-day.

LOUISVILLE, (Ky.) March 24.—Slough, the wife murderer, committed suicide in jail at Richmond, Kentucky, last Monday by hanging himself to the top bar of the door of his cell with a rope made of a towel and two pocket handkerchiefs. He left letters to his children, saying he had already brought shame enough on the family and would not add to it the ignominy of a public execution. He said his wife had done him irreparable injury, and deserved the death she met at his hands.

BANGOR, (Me.) March 24.—A fire in Rockland last night destroyed Berry's block.

The heaviest snow storm of the season occurred last night. The roads are badly blocked.

NEW YORK, March 25.—A Washington dispatch says Minister Schenck telegraphed that Earl Granville's note to Secretary Fish argues the Alabama claims elaborately, but gives no idea of what it contains in absence of information.

The administration has no theory as to the result of negotiations. The impression is that Granville and Fish look upon time as the great pacificator.

The State department sent to American agents and consulates a day or two ago, a printed statement of private claims against England on account of rebel privateers. Claims for direct and actual losses amount to about \$19,000,000. About \$7,000,000 more are charged for detention of vessels, loss of prospective freights and mercantile profits, with other consequent losses.

CHICAGO, March 25.—A *Times* Washington special says Secretary Fish sent to Madrid a vigorous dispatch concerning Dr. Howard, an American citizen just transported to a Spanish penal colony for participation in the Cuban rebellion.

A protectorate for Mexico meets with favor from President Grant. He would urgently support it if initiated under Congressional auspices.

CHICAGO, March 25.—It has been raining here since midnight last night, but not heavily. The country is suffering from drought. Thousands of wells and cisterns are dry.

California vegetables—cauliflower and asparagus—are plenty in market, and dear.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The National Executive Democratic Committee will hold a meeting in this city early in May, after the meeting of the Cincinnati Convention.

The place for holding the National Democratic Convention is undecided, but it is supposed by leading Democrats that it will be the 4th of July and place St. Louis.

The Supreme Court will adjourn from Thursday next to the following

Monday, and from May 6th until October 28th.

The Senate, in Executive session to-day, confirmed the nomination of ex-Governor Francis Thomas, of Maryland, as Minister to Peru.

Brooklyn reports 100 cases of small pox and 22 cases of cerebro spinal meningitis last week.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The bill for the admission of the State of Deseret, was not presented in the House to-day.

The Salt Lake delegations in this city, Mormon and Gentile, are steadily enlarging. The interest of both sides in the decision of the Supreme Court upon the validity of McKen's proceedings, which is expected next Monday, without fail, is intense.

At Winchester, Illinois, on Saturday last, Tobias Claywell, a saloon-keeper, was shot dead by a man with whom he had refused to drink, because he had already drunk.

Earthquake in California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 26.—Some thirty towns have been heard from to-day, extending from Red Bluffs to San Diego, and east to Virginia City, all of which report heavy and severe shocks of earthquake this morning between three and four o'clock. In some places shocks were felt at six and one-half a. m. No report of damage has been received occasioned by the earthquake, with the exception of Visalia. At that place, and in the vicinity, shocks appear to have been more severe. Several brick buildings were badly cracked. One building had the front wall moved out one inch on its foundation. The Tulare flouring mill had the gables thrown down, and the earth in clay localities shows fractures or cracks in many places. Rumors at Visalia are that east of that place in the mountains, rocks and trees were rent and uprooted.

SAN JOSE, March 26.—Twenty minutes past 2 a. m. had a sharp shock of earthquake, which aroused every one. Clocks were stopped and people badly scared. At a quarter past six a. m. had another slight shock.

ANTIOCH, March 26.—A slight shock of earthquake was felt here about 2:50 a. m. Clocks were stopped but no damage was done.

MARTINEZ, March 26.—A slight shock of earthquake was felt here about 2:20 a. m. No damage done.

CHICO, March 26.—The Presbyterian Church, a large new brick edifice, and Gen. Bidwell's brick mansion, were considerably damaged by the earthquake this morning.

MEXICO.

NEW YORK, March 22.—City of Mexico dispatches of the 11th instant state that the Government forces are triumphing over the revolutionists everywhere. General Rocha, on the 2d instant, with 6,000 troops, defeated the united revolutionary forces numbering 9,000 men, killing and wounding 700, capturing 7,000 and all the artillery except three guns. A victory is claimed, and that the death-blow to the revolution has been struck there can be no doubt, but anarchy will prevail for a long time.

William Cullen Bryant and W. H. Hulbert have received many honors and ovations at the Capital. They leave for Vera Cruz on the Government furnishing a special escort of one hundred men.

Martial law exists in twelve States.

DEATH OF A PIONEER.—Dr. P. Prettymann died at his residence near East Portland March 27th, after an illness of six weeks. He was 76 years and 6 days old, and was one of the pioneers of Oregon, having come to this State in 1847. At his request he was buried on the farm, where he had lived since 1849.

AT SITKA.—George Edes, Collector of the District of Alaska, has reached Sitka and proceeded to perform his official duties at once. Mr. W. Chapman, who accompanied him, will, it is understood, fill the official position of Inspector of Customs for that District.