

Correspondence.

CONCERNING OREGON.

NEAR SALEM, April 30, 1872.

ED. FARMER: In answer to many letters addressed to me, and especially one lately from W. K. Reed, who is one of your subscribers in Pennsylvania, I will endeavor to make some explanations of communications of mine in your paper. My statements, formerly, were supposed to imply that the brush, swale and marsh lands in Western Oregon, were the only good grass lands which we have. These are preferable for grass, as they produce more hay and pasturage, if properly set in tame grasses, than our rich, black or red lands do. But the last named lands will also produce moderately good grass, but should be run in grains, and gardens, and general root crops. With excellent railroads, and good navigation in our midst, and Western Oregon being the Egypt of this State, it is bad policy in us to run much grain lands in grass, and come in competition with our Eastern neighbors in rearing stock, as they can ever make two dollars to our one in raising good stock. Their millions of acres of prairie lie open to stock the year round, and such bunch grass as they have there, cannot be exceeded in America—without any seeding down or any expense. Not the twentieth acre there is good, arable land, while in Western Oregon, a large proportion of our hill and dale lands is excellent for cereals and gardens. The wild grasses in Western Oregon are mostly eaten out. A sufficient amount of cows and horses for domestic use, can and ought to be kept in the coast region of our State. Our tame grasses, and the vast amount of hay and root crops, can keep our cows and horses in fine condition the year round, with the addition of some oats and mill feed to the work horses. I repeat again that there is a strong inducement offered here to eastern dairymen. The price of good butter, commands the year round, on an average, 30 cents per pound in coin.

It is well known that all original land titles are good in Oregon. Buyers of lands here can always ascertain from the records of our courts, as to any liens or judgments against lands offered for sale. The low prices at which our lands can be bought in congenial distances from our railroads and navigable rivers, seem to surprise our friends in the States, and cause some doubts to arise in their minds, as to the truth and fairness of the matter. The government was lavish in donating lands to actual settlers in Oregon, formerly, and large land grants to the State, and the homestead and pre-emption lands in force, lands are more plenty here than people. The land grant to the O. & C. R. Co. here on both sides of the road, covering about 50 miles in width—odd sections—and the even section belonging to Government—being subject to homestead and pre-emption laws, are all sold at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, when applied for. Settlers' lands are held at from four to forty dollars per acre, according to quality, locality and improvements. There is not a section of country in the United States where better and surer investments in real estate can be made, than in Western Oregon. And those brush lands to which I alluded to in my letter in the WILLAMETTE FARMER, are here, and purchasable, and good for grass, and grain, just as I stated. We want good settlers of varied occupation and pursuits, but especially farmers, and dairymen and gardeners. Good mechanics, school teachers and a small number of clerks are also needed.

And here let me remark, and I do not wish to be misunderstood, Oregon is not heaven, and we are not all of us, angels, except most of our ladies. We have much misty weather from Nov. to April, and in that time the blues pester many persons here. But the delightful weather, roads, and beauty of the fields and landscape in

our dry season chase away that ordinary complaint. One thing is certain that three-fourths of those who succumb to the blues here, and move away, return again in one to five years, and permanently to remain here. Our worthy, obliging and excellent land agents in Western Oregon, especially in Portland and Salem, are ever ready to give all persons in the State every profitable information of our lands, climate, prices, health and prospects. We do not want any bummers or rummies here. If temperate, moral and industrious persons will arrive here by cars or otherwise, and not be too easily discouraged, but look around them, and use caution in locating themselves, they will all do well, and soon become contented and well-to-do livers.

The more capital that new comers can bring with them here the better for them and us. Yet we need a good supply and increase of nerve and brain capital. Under the isolated condition of our State, till lately, it is a matter of astonishment that Oregon now presents the grand appearance—wealth, education, religion, public and private improvements, manufactories, navigation, railroads and commerce—that it does. Contradictory statements on all these things are spread before the public in the East concerning Oregon. All do not succeed here well or alike. The unsuccessful look through a dark cloud, while the lucky ones look through a clear sunshine; hence these contradictory statements. DAVID NEWSOM.

For the Willamette Farmer.
DOG TAX.

Under the above caption, the Cincinnati Weekly Times, of March 28th, has the following sensible paragraph in relation to taxing the sheep-killing dogs of that State:

"A petition will be put in circulation on election day, asking for signers, and praying the Legislature of the State of Ohio to pass an act, levying a tax of one dollar per head on every dog in said State. Said tax to be used as a sheep fund to pay for what sheep may be killed by dogs. Richland and other counties are moving actively in this matter, and we hope that every county and township in the State will heartily co-operate in this wise matter."

Now, Mr. Editor, why should not the sheep men of Oregon be equally alive to their interests? Have they not lost sufficient by these worthless curs in the last year, to not only excite the interest of sheep men in their own behalf, but to call down on the devoted heads of worthless runabout curs, that which their acts would justly bring, an unrelenting warfare of extermination?

There is not, or can be, the slightest objection to such a law.

That a good, intelligent and faithful dog is a benefit to all men, and especially the farmer, we do not deny. Yet that men should hold really valuable property without paying taxes thereon, we do not think can be justice to the tax-payers. A man has a horse, a cow, a sheep, or a pig, he is taxed according to its value. Not so with the dog; his value is not considered, if it be a thousand dollars or a thousand mills. So much for the value of our canine friend. Of course we shall have some opposition to such a law, but such opposition will not be, cannot be, upon principle. It is only selfish opposition for selfish ends. Those men who have so many five hundred dollar dogs killed, will oppose it. Yet on principle why should they? It certainly seems to me that one dollar on five hundred is cheap taxation.

Hoping, and knowing that this law will be a universal necessity staring in the face of our next legislature, let us look about us for some means of drawing the attention of that body to it. Why not imitate our Ohio friends; circulate our petitions and get such a wholesale endorsement of it, that honorable members sitting at their ease may not scoff thereat. Who is there who will "move in this matter"? Won't our Mintoes, our Thomas Smiths, our Geers, our J. L. Parrish, our Dufurs, think of it. While they are thinking, and we

hope acting, let every man who has a voice raise it in favor of this measure.

Would it not be well, while imitating our Ohio friends in the spirit of the law, to benefit by the difference of our position in appropriating this "sheep fund" toward helping along the meritorious objects of our wolf-scalping societies. Let us not grudge the ugly curs the value of their ill earned meal, but apply it in such a way as to cause a less number of such repasts in the future, by offering a bounty, if need be, on sheep-killing dogs.

Again, while those engineers, through the orders of Ben Holladay, or at least with his silent approval, are dashing train after train through the many flocks of sheep on the unfenced line of the Oregon and California Railroad, they are only assisting the curs in their attacks upon one of the most useful branches of husbandry of this State. Farmers, let us not forget them at the polls next June. Keep this stone rolling until it is covered with a verdict of justice to the sheep owners. J. V. B. S.

LETTER FROM MULTNOMAH.

ED. FARMER: As I contemplate starting in a few days to attend a meeting of the United States Centennial Commissioners to be held in Philadelphia, May 22d, perhaps a few words from one who owes much to the fertile soil and generous climate of Oregon, may be read with some interest by my old farmer friends who have labored with me for the last ten years to advance the industrial interests of our State.

The constant attempts being made by the political papers of both parties to divert the mind of the producing masses from their true interests, is in strong contrast with the efforts of the WILLAMETTE FARMER, and its contributors, to develop the immense resources, and draw the attention of immigrants and capitalists to the natural wealth of Oregon, and will be duly appreciated by every right minded citizen, and especially by the farmers through our entire community. Although I sometimes hear it stated by tender-toed politicians that they are afraid the FARMER is meddling with politics too much, I for one cannot see the impropriety of every agricultural paper, in fact I believe it to be their imperative duty to urge every farmer, without party distinction, to be as particular about the representation of their own interests in State and National legislatures, as they are to secure the best seeds for planting and sowing, the most profitable manner of cultivating the soil, or the choicest breeds of cattle, sheep and hogs, to be adopted for general breeding throughout the State. The bold and independent stand taken by the FARMER in this matter, and the liberality that paper has always manifested in allowing a free interchange of opinions by the farmers through its columns of everything connected with their general interests, will, I think, result in correct conclusions being arrived at without impugning any one's motives, or ascribing to them any of the clap-trap phrases that fill the vocabulary of both political parties, and seems almost to be the entire stock in trade that either has at the present time to bring before the public. The question of cheap, quick, and easy transportation of agricultural productions to market as well as freight of all kinds, is a subject of the most vital importance not only to the farmers and mechanics, but also to every one wishing the development and future prosperity of our young and growing State. In discussing this subject, it seems to me that some of your correspondents in their efforts to caution the farmers to be on the alert, and guard against future imposition by Ben Holladay and R. R. monopolies, have not fairly considered the immense benefits our State has already obtained, and must inevitably derive from the gigantic system of R. R. enterprise already incorporated in our midst. And while I would caution the farmers and mechanics against allowing

combined capital in any form by legislative enactments, to obtain power to control and suppress the industries of the people, still we must remember that R. R. cannot be built without a combination of capital, and that the price of farming land, mineral lands, coal, stone quarries, mill-sites, in fact all the natural resources of every State, and especially this of ours has been advanced in proportion to the R. R. enterprise manifested and sustained in their midst. The rapid advance of lands of every description, and the thrift manifested in every department of industry in our State for the last few years, are too apparent to be slightly overlooked, and while the farmers and mechanics in both State and National legislatures should see that guards are placed to protect their interests against the encroachments of combined capital, they should be careful not to obstruct the course of that capital which is distributing millions of dollars in our midst, and bring improvements and wealth to our own doors. A. J. DUFUR.

Multnomah Co., April 25, 1872.

For the Farmer.

WHEN TO KILL FERN.

BY PROF. W. H. CHANEY.

In reply to numerous letters of inquiry, I will inform the readers of the FARMER that the Sun enters Leo July 23d, in the year 1872, at which time the Moon is transiting from opposition to conjunction, which occurs Aug. 4th, that is, "new moon," as you will see by your almanac. Hence, from July 23d, till Aug. 3d, inclusive, will be a favorable period for destroying fern, oak grubs, and all noxious vegetable life. But Aug. 3d will be by far the most fatal day, for then both the Sun and Moon will be in the sign Leo, and "in the dark of the Moon."

By way of inducing people to avail themselves of this opportunity to kill weeds, grubs, etc., and who are inclined to treat my prescription as a superstition, I copy an extract from a letter recently written by W. S. Gilliam, Esq., of Walla Walla:

"I saw Mr. Pitts a few days since, and he is anxious to learn the right time for killing fern this year. He tells me that the fern which he plowed at the time you designated has died. Such knowledge is certainly very valuable, if it always proves reliable; in fact I would like to know myself."

Mr. Gilliam is a son of Col. Gilliam, formerly of Oregon, and a very intelligent agriculturist. Naturally sceptical, he demands facts instead of theories. Hence, the fact obtained from Mr. Pitts was of more value to him than a thousand of my theories. Mr. Pitts is also of a similar type of mind. When men like these become enabled to accept of a new truth, their influence in its behalf is worth far more than that of the overcredulous, who believe too readily. This reference is made solely with a hope of inducing men of their type to test the theory offered, before pronouncing it a whim and superstition.

EAST OF THE CASCADES.

WILLOW CREEK, UMATILLA CO., OREGON, April 21, 1872.

Eastern Oregon no longer forms an unimportant integral of the State of Oregon. Her resources are beginning to be known and felt—her bleating flocks and lowing herds are looked to with peculiar interest, by both the manufacturer and lover of good beef and mutton. If the Willamette can produce the best wheat, Eastern Oregon can raise the finest calves and the sweetest beef. On our rich bottom land we can produce as fine vegetables as can be found in any market. Corn does much better here than in the Willamette. In this section fruit has not been tried yet. Many are planting fruit trees this spring—apples, peaches, pears, plums and cherries, which promise to do well.

The lack of mail facilities is the great drawback of this country. And if the Postal Agent, Mr. Underwood, is not wantonly ignorant or wilfully negligent, he at least treats us with shameful indifference.

By your permission, Mr. Editor, I wish to present the facts as they re-

ally exist in relation to our mail facilities.

There is a tri-weekly mail from The Dalles to Pendleton which follows around up the Columbia leaving the settlements far in the interior, and supplying not a dozen persons with mail between The Dalles and Umatilla and leaving destitute of mail, at least a thousand settlers, none of whom get their mail nearer than 20 miles and at an average distance of 40 miles. Now, Mr. Editor, I appeal to you and your readers, if this is not simply shameful?

The settlements destitute of mail, comprise Butter Creek, Willow Creek, Lone Creek, and north fork of John Day's.

We have petitioned and remonstrated, but all in vain. Besides the annoyance of never getting our mail, it is very inconvenient. I have got but two numbers of my paper since November—what do you think of that? Many of our stock raisers like the FARMER, and would take it, if they had any assurance of getting it. All we ask for is a weekly pony mail passing through these settlements. The cost would be but a trifle, but the advantage to us would be great.

Allow me now in conclusion to say that we not only ask it as a favor but demand it as one of the dearest rights of our Republican form of government. T. H. WILSON.

GERMANS.—A writer in the Agriculturalist sums up the characteristics of Germans in this wise:

Their great forte is saving. I have a German neighbor, a well-to-do farmer, who always has money in the bank. But if he owes you anything, he never thinks of giving you a check—not he. He knows a trick worth two of that. He sells something from the farm. After he has done his day's work, in the evening, he picks up a few apples, or potatoes, or squashes, or a few heads of cabbage, a basket of eggs, and a little butter or lard, or perhaps a bushel or two of nice hand-picked beans. These he puts in a spring-wagon, and the next morning before I am up he is half way to the city, and by the time I am through breakfast he is back with the money. It is far easier to give a check on the bank. But that man would run in debt for a hundred-acre farm at \$150 and pay for it. I couldn't. I can raise as good crops as he does—perhaps better—and the receipts from my farm per acre are larger than his, but he and his family do all their own work, and when one of his bright, active boys wants to get married, there is money in the bank to make the first payment on a small farm and give him a start in life.

HOPS.—That good hops are now very scarce is well known. That the crop of 1872 will open at high prices may be considered certain. That it will be sold for, at least, fair prices is almost certain. Should there be a general crop, the supply would undoubtedly fall far short of the demand. But if there should be a fair crop generally in the hop growing regions, there seems to us no need of fears of a hop famine. That those who have hop yards will secure a large money return for good care given them this year is doubtless true, but we should be sorry to see any revival of the "hop fever." Let those who propose setting out new yards, do so only after carefully considering the whole matter.—Western Farmer.

The Superintendent of one of the largest and most celebrated railroads in this country, says in his last report to the Directors that "the bridges are, with a few exceptions, in good condition and considered safe." As a chain is only as strong as the weakest link, so it would seem that a railroad is not worth much for safety, so long as "the bridges, with a few exceptions," are safe.—New York Observer.

THE President of the Northern Pacific Railroad company denies the statement that a quantity of railroad iron had arrived in New York from England for the above company, and says that it is the intention to use none but American iron on that road.

A new telescope, with a thirty-five inch object class, has been built at York, England, but it will be necessary to take it out of that country to give its power full scope. With every increase of magnifying power it becomes essential to secure a greater purity of the atmosphere.

Mrs. Sarah J. Hale is still, in her 84th year, at work on *The Lady's Book*, with which she has been associated during half of her life.