

For the Farmer.

HIGHLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

After several preparatory efforts, we completed the organization of our Club on last Monday. The name, which we had some difficulty in selecting, is the "Highland Farmers' Club"; its objects are association and Union for the sake of mutual benefit, improvement, and protection, by, 1. the acquisition and diffusion of agricultural knowledge; 2. the promotion of acquaintance, social intercourse, and friendship, among neighbors; 3. the improvement of its members in conversation, composition, public reading and speaking, and in the management of questions according to parliamentary forms; and, 4. the improvement of farms, farm implements, methods, stock, buildings, and every department of agriculture.

Fones Wilbur is President, B. A. Leonard and W. Cranston Vice Presidents, K. L. Hibbard, Treasurer, and T. W. Davenport, Secretary. The regular meetings are the first and third Saturdays of each month. Special meetings weekly, except in the busy season. To get the full benefit of social intercourse, the Club meets at the houses of the members—circulates around, and hits every man where he lives. At present, it consists of fifteen members, but I predict that the time is not far distant when it will number over fifty, and be the principal institution of learning in this part of Marion county.

The subject discussed on last Monday was "Clearing brush land," and as there were some important suggestions made by practical men, I will give your readers a short synopsis.

Mr. B. A. Leonard had hired a man to chop the oak brush on twelve and a half acres, at a cost of \$40. The young sprouts were sprinkled with brine and kept down by the sheep, horses, and cattle, so that in three years the stumps were dead, many of them so rotten as to be readily turned out with the plow. He then sowed the piece to wheat, and continued it in wheat for three years. The second year it yielded twenty-eight bushels to the acre, but it was not a good stand of grain. In his opinion, freshly cleared land does not produce the best crop the first year, but requires more cultivation and a longer exposure to sun and rain. This experiment satisfied Mr. L. that cutting off oak brush and following with brine and sheep was the cheapest and easiest way of clearing land when three years could be allowed for the work.

In reply to the remark, "That kind of grubbing may be easy for a man, but the sheep might tell another sort of story," Mr. Leonard said that the sheep were not confined upon the piece, and ate only what they desired. They were not as fat as those upon prairie, but kept in as good condition as any running on wood and brush land. He had also chopped down the brush, mostly fir, upon forty acres, at a cost of about five dollars per acre, equal to \$200, and, after burning, had sold 12,000 poles at a cent apiece, had used over 7,000 in fencing upon his own farm, besides fire-wood used and given away, thereby proving that the poles upon fir brush land WILL PAY ALL THE COST OF CLEARING. After the poles are taken off, timothy or orchard grass is sowed upon the ashes, and comes with rapidity and certainty.

Mr. J. T. Cox, who lives in the brush and has had much experience in clearing, stated that he had found it best, when oak and fir are mixed, to cut all down together, as it is much easier to deal with the oak roots and such sprouts as may come, than with the deadened, rough, stiff, and charred oak saplings that remain standing after a burn, when they are not cut. The ground settles considerably after the burn, thus leaving the oak roots much exposed to attack by the grubbing-hoe. He expressed his decided opinion that grass seed should be sown immediately after the burn, before the poles

are removed. He thought that more of the seed would come, even though some might be carried away upon the poles. He concurred with Mr. A. Leonard in the opinion that freshly cleared land cannot be made to produce the best crop of wheat the first year. Timothy grass seems, however, to thrive and produce most bountifully.

Mr. K. L. Hibbard had had considerable experience in clearing land covered with fir and oak, mostly the former, and he had followed the plan indicated by Messrs. Leonard and Cox, viz: cutting all down and trimming the large fir trees. The cost of such clearing had been \$4 per acre and board, or a total of \$5.50. After burning, he had sowed timothy seed, which took with alacrity and produced a crop of excellent quality and quantity. He stated that the fire was so intense as to kill many of the oak stools, which was a clear gain—the rest had sprouted, but he intended to cut them off, or sheep them off, which is easier, and, according to testimony, equally as successful.

Mr. R. C. Geer said that his experience in clearing brush land extended from the time he was sufficiently large to pick up brush until the present hour, and if there was any subject upon which he had a decided opinion, it was in relation to this. More than forty years ago, in the State of Ohio, his father had proved that the cheapest—not the speediest—way to clear brush land, was to chop the tops, burn them, and then keep the young sprouts down with sheep. Once a week his father went over the clearing and sprinkled the shoots with brine, and the sheep did the rest. Hickory and walnut they would not eat, but he believed that there is no sprout in Oregon on which sheep will not feed. He knew that they will eat oak, fir, maple, willow, hazel, etc., etc. He entirely concurred with the remarks made by Messrs. Cox, Leonard, and Hibbard, and believed that the best way to clear ground of oak is to take out the roots with a mattock, and with no other power but man power. He did not think horse power was a success, taking into account expense, trouble of separating the roots so as to be portable and usable for fire-wood, and the filling up of the pits where the dirt had been removed on the roots by horse power.

Mr. Henry Allen said that he had had some inclination to purchase a capstan and ropes for grubbing purposes, but that after a comparison of the two methods of horse power and all man power with the grubbing-hoe or mattock, he preferred the latter. He and his boys had worked with mattocks on one side of a line fence, while his neighbor had worked with a horse capstan on the other side; and after a careful comparison he had reluctantly adopted the conclusion that horse power in grubbing is not a saving of labor, time, or money, and that the man with a mattock is our resource at last. He hoped, however, that something could be devised to save the hard labor of clearing our oak land. He thought eight hours a day as long as a man ought to work at that business, which was fully concurred in by all present.

Mr. Volney Leonard reported that a neighbor of his had been using a hand capstan, worked by his children, which seemed to promise some advantage in the use of power. He promised to examine its operation, and report to the Club at some time during the summer.

Club adjourned to meet on the first Saturday in June. Next meeting will be held at Fruit Farm, the residence of R. C. Geer, on the third Saturday of June, 1872. T. W. DAVENPORT, Sec'y.

THE women of Damascus, Illinois, take part in the discussions of the Farmers' Club meetings. A recent subject of discussion was, "Should we dress for comfort or for show?" It was of course decided to dress for comfort, but at the next meeting each appeared in a "three-decker" hat and a Dolly Varden suit.

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It has been with great difficulty that I have been able to restrain those strong party men from condemning the course of the FARMER in exposing the specious schemes of corrupt, designing politicians, in showing the crushing, blighting power of oppressive monopolies, and in advising the people to break loose from all party ties and party prejudice, and vote only for men of known integrity and incorruptibility of character. But your expose of the "Littigant act," the "Swamp Land act," the "act giving away 90,000 acres of Agricultural College lands to one institution, without consideration," the "act giving \$200,000 for the construction of the Canal and Locks, when the same might have been done for \$125,000," your exhibit of the great advantages to the people of this valley in the free and uninterrupted navigation of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, the necessity of the State possessing the locks at Oregon City, and the folly of a country opposing railroads, when its very life depends on their introduction; all go to show, to every unprejudiced mind, that the FARMER is not lending its influence in the interest of any one political party, but is working for the general good of the whole people. VINCEIX.

JEFFERSON, June 10th, 1872.

THE Louisville Journal thus sums up the case: Female book agents calling at private houses demand to know: I. The name of the family. II. Where you were raised. III. What business the head of the family is engaged in. IV. How much is the salary of the head of the family. V. How long have you lived here. VI. How much rent you pay. VII. If you do not pay rent, how much 'the place' cost you. It is always best to answer in a pleasant way these simple interrogatories, and not try to dodge any of them. If you exhibit any indisposition to prevaricate, ten to one the questions would be doubled on you. If you can possibly spare the money, subscribe cheerfully; otherwise the refined and sensitive person before you will go off mad as a hornet, leaving upon your mind an impression that you have committed some foul wrong. Book agents, like other people, have rights, and the fact that sometimes nineteen of them call on the same day is no reason why they should not be treated courteously."

BEANS FOR STOCK FEED.—A Canadian farmer says, although white beans are of no value for fattening stock, yet they are the best things that can be fed to young animals, as they contain the necessary materials for making bone and muscle. For a young colt, one pint of beans and oats crushed together will be found much better than oats alone. A neighbor of mine, a few years ago, fed his store ewes with a regular allowance of beans and peas crushed, during the winter, and as a consequence the next spring never lost a lamb. They were so strong that they were on their feet and tried to suck almost as soon as they were dropped.

THE celebrated German chemist, Baron Von Liebig, regretfully confesses that the Americans now make—or will soon learn how to make—better beer than the Germans themselves. He says: "It is a peculiarity of the Americans to make everything better than we do. I am convinced that the American beer will in time be better than German. With us everything remains as it was. The worst beer brewers are in Bavaria, though it was earliest the best. And why? Look into our brewery system."

IN Oatka Falls, Kansas, the farmers' wives have organized a club, and meet regularly at one another's houses, and discuss various topics relating to domestic economy. Their husbands frequently accompany them and stroll around the farm of their host, looking at his cattle and crops until tea time, when they all assemble around the festive board and have a good time.

D. R. FISKE. C. H. HALL. DR. FINE & HALL. OFFICE—NO. 1, MOORE'S BLOCK. SALEM, OREGON.

J. G. WRIGHT, AGENT FOR

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON.

CHOICE FAMILY GROCERIES ALSO, KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A FULL AND WELL SELECTED STOCK OF Grookery and Glassware, Willow and Wooden Ware, Plated Ware, Tobacco and Cigars, Toys and Notions, Lime and Salt.

DANFORTH'S NON-EXPLOSIVE PETROLEUM FLUID Commercial street, Salem.

TO ADVERTISERS. Through the columns of the FARMER the advertiser is enabled to present his business to all classes of the public—an advantage possessed by no other paper in the State. Terms of advertising on eighth page.

Free Advertisements. Oregon & California Railroad TIME TABLE.

Table with columns: BOUND SOUTH, STATIONS, BOUND NORTH, Pass'g't, Freight. Lists stations like Portland, E. Portland, Milwaukie, Marshfield, Oregon City, Rock Island, Canby, Aurora, Hubbard, Woodburn, Gervais, Brooks, Fair Grounds, Salem, Turner, Marion, Jefferson, Miller, Albany, Tangent, Rhedd's, Halsey, Harrisburg, Junction, Hallett's, Eugene.

SPECIAL NOTIONS. WILLIAM DAVIDSON, REAL ESTATE DEALER, Office, No. 64 Front Street, PORTLAND, OREGON.

REAL ESTATE IN THIS CITY and EAST PORTLAND. In the most desirable localities, consisting of LOTS, HALF BLOCKS and BLOCKS, HOUSES AND STORES; also, IMPROVED FARMS, and valuable uncultivated LANDS, located in ALL parts of the STATE for SALE. REAL ESTATE and other Property purchased for Correspondents, in this CITY and throughout the STATES and TERRITORIES, with great care and on the most ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS. HOUSES and STORES LEASED, LOANS NEGOTIATED, and CLAIMS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS PROMPTLY COLLECTED. And a General FINANCIAL AND AGENCY BUSINESS transacted. AGENTS of this OFFICE in all the CITIES and TOWNS in the STATE, will receive descriptions of FARM PROPERTY and forward the same to the above address. Feb'y.

The City Boot Store has long been Headquarters for the sale of TIRREL'S CELEBRATED BOOTS, of which I have EXCLUSIVE SALE. Parties are cautioned to examine and find my name on them, as the country is flooded with a ROTTEN BOOT, in imitation of the genuine article. Every pair of Tirrel's Boots sold at my establishment is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction. Remember that the above house sells no buff or split goods. No Shoddy palmed off upon its customers for a superior article of French Calf! All repairs, returned within a reasonable time, repaired free of charge. [Dew.] J. W. GILBERT

Thoroughbred BERKSHIRE PIGS FOR SALE!

THE SIRE AND DAMS OF THESE PIGS are all imported, or bred from imported stock, and were selected from the FIRST PRIZE PENS at the "Great Chicago Swine Exposition" and the "St. Louis Fair" of 1871. PEDIGRES FURNISHED. Price, per pair, from 6 weeks to 2 months old, boxed and delivered in Portland, on steamboat or railroad, \$100. For further particulars, address S. G. REED, Portland, Or. Wm. WATSON, Five Oaks Farm, Hillsboro, My 18-72.

ELECTRIC, CHAMPION AND LIGHTNING CROSS-CUT SAWS!

HOWE'S Platform & Counter Scales

Kangaroo SHEEP SHEARS.

SHELF AND BUILDERS' HARDWARE!

FOR SALE BY JOHN R. FOSTER, CORNER STARK AND FRONT STREETS, PORTLAND.

Singer Sewing Machine

WILL SEW EVERYTHING NEEDED IN A FAMILY, FROM THE HEAVIEST TO THE LIGHTEST FABRIC. IT DOES MORE WORK, More Kinds of Work, AND BETTER WORK Than any other Machine. Send for circulars and samples of work at A. N. GILBERT & CO.'S Boot and Shoe Store, Salem, Oregon.

EGGS FOR HATCHING From the Finest Bred FOWLS IN AMERICA!

TWELVE FIRST PREMIUMS AT THE Sacramento State Fair. Light Brahmas, seven different strains. Dark Brahmas, imported from England and Ireland. Houdans, direct from France. La Fleche, direct from France. Silver Spangled Hamburgs, said to lay 240 eggs a year. Golden Poldans, non-setters and fine layers. Silver Poldans, non-setters and fine layers. White Cochins, Buff Cochins, Duck Winged Bantams. Golden Seabright Bantams, Japanese Bantams. Heathwood Game, the finest in the world. Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks. Eggs and Fowls for Sale. THOS. E. FINLEY, Manager, California Stock and Poultry Association. Office—No. 113 Liederdorf street. Yards—Corner Laguna and Washington sts., Mar 29-72 San Francisco.

WANTED. 20,000 POUNDS OF LIVE GREEN FEATHERS for which one dollar per pound will be paid. HURGEN & SHINDLER, Dealers in furniture, and bedding and mirrors, corner of Salmon and First Streets, Portland. May 15, 1872-7f.

YOUNG CASHMERE BUCK GOATS FOR SALE.

INQUIRE OF CARPENTER & HAMMER, SALEM, Oregon. The hanties to be seen on Wm. Syphert's farm, six miles South East of Salem. Value, usefulness, and eccentricities explained at Salem, or on the farm. Mays 1872-7f.