



Salem, Saturday, July 13.

THE MOUNTAIN RANGES OF OREGON.

Now, when there seems to be an almost general mania for the grazing lands of Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory, it seems to us a fitting time to call the attention of such of our readers as have stock-raising interests which seem to require them to fall into the current moving eastward, to the possibility of their reaching fresh stock ranges at a less cost than by a total break up of their interests in Western Oregon, to secure that result. All along the western slope of the Cascade mountains, and throughout the Calapooia and Coast Range, are found tracts of open land, generally covered with a dense growth of tall fern, under which is a green and succulent growth of grass, pea-vine and other forage plants. A few farmers of this valley have tried the experiment of summering their stock on these lands, and judging by the way they pursue the business, they are well satisfied with the results. Could not many do what a few are doing? There is ample room for many more than as yet engaged in it. As every county of Western Oregon has a large portion of this kind of land within its borders, so there are opportunities for the stock-raiser in each county to secure portions of these fern opening for purposes of summer pasturage without the cost of driving a long distance over toll-roads or across fences. These costs alone are sufficient to prevent the taking of stock to Eastern Oregon, to be returned to the Willamette valley the same season by wintering over. Hence it is that when a farmer here gets a surplus of breeding stock, no matter how profitable it may be to keep, he is compelled to colonize it east of the Cascades, where it will do well or ill according as he has a good, bad or indifferent agent to take charge of it.

Aside from the fact that the lands we are calling attention to are more convenient of access than those of the east side of the Cascades, we should not be surprised if it should turn out that those mountain slopes would afford green and succulent pasturage when the now luxuriant grass lands of the adjacent plains are brown and bare from over-pasturing by bees and the treading of lesser cattle. Indeed, with proper attention to the sowing of grass seed on these up-lands, we have no doubt such will be the case. A region of country producing hemlock timber has always proved a good dairy region. The hemlock belt is invariably found a few hundred feet at most above the level of the Willamette valley, and wherever it has yet been tried with the cultivated grasses and clovers, it has uniformly (as in the vicinity of Portland and Oregon City) proved that the hemlock lands of Oregon are no exception to the rule.

We here merely call attention to these lands as affording openings for enterprise, and invite correspondence from parties who have had experience in their reduction to usefulness.

ANNUAL ADDRESS.—We learn that an invitation has been extended to Rev. Thos. Condon, of the Dalles, to deliver the annual address before the next State Agricultural Society at the Fair in September. We hope Mr. Condon will accept the invitation. His long residence in Oregon, and his attainments as a scholar, give him advantages that few others possess.

GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS.—The Secretary of the State Agricultural Society informs us that Messrs. Titcomb and Williams, of San Francisco, are now making dies for striking gold and silver medals for the use of the Society, as special premiums, and that the first gold medal made will be presented to Mr. V. S. W. Parkhurst, of San Francisco, for his exhibit

of scales at the fair last year, in accordance with the order of the Board of Managers. The dies alone will cost the Society about \$250.

Agricultural Machinery Trade.

A gentleman who is practically interested in the manufacture and sale of agricultural machinery has made an estimate of the amount and value of the importation of this line of merchandise, and offers us figures that explain in a measure what has become of the vast amount of money realized of late years for Oregon grain crops, as well as where much of the coin dispensed in railroad building, finds an outlet. During the late month of May a single house in Portland sold agricultural machinery to the value of \$176,000; the sales of another house for the same month aggregated \$100,000, and the sales of others in that city were large enough to bring the total of business in agricultural machinery in the city of Portland for the month of May only, to three hundred thousand dollars. Outside of the city of Portland there are dealers in this same line, and some importations are made into Southern Oregon via Crescent City and other ports, which swell considerably the sum total. May is a busy season in this line of trade, and the estimate is that one third of the total sales for the year are made in that month, and upon these figures it is calculated that the total trade for imported farm machinery in Oregon for the present year will aggregate one million dollars, while considerable is also manufactured at home. Seventy-five per cent. at least of this million is cost and freight paid abroad, and when we realize that this trade is increasing rapidly, and make an estimate of what this outlay with a moderate computation of interest will amount to in ten years to come, we discover that home manufacture of these implements will greatly add to the wealth and population of Oregon, by introducing mechanics and their families to do work, and retaining in our midst millions and tens of millions which are sure to be thus expended here, the year 1882.

This subject opens up quite a field for investigation which cannot be fully stated in this article, and we shall attempt to set forth in some future issue the facilities which exist in our State to carry on all such manufacturing, or we believe that the native resources of our State afford the very best of material to use in the construction of machinery and when improved will render us independent of all other markets in every respect.

THOROUGHBRED STOCK FOR THE FAIR.—S. G. Reed, sq., of Portland, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, announcing his desire to place on exhibition at the next State Fair a large number of his thoroughbred animals, provided he could have suitable accommodation furnished them. The Executive Committee has informed him that the best accommodations will be furnished him and all other stock-raisers who may desire to exhibit at the next fair. From Mr. Reed's letter we learn that he contemplates bringing the specimens of his Short Horn, Ayrshire, and Alderney cattle, Cotswold and Leicester sheep, and Berkshire and Essex pigs.

CALLED.—M. Wilkins, Esq., President of the State Agricultural Society, favored us with a call on his return from the celebration at Portland. Mr. Wilkins is quietly working for the interest of the Society and the success of the coming State Fair, and thinks that the present indications are good for the largest Fair, both as to the attendance and exhibitions, of any yet occurring under the management of the Society.

ALFALFA.—Mr. J. N. Durban, residing two miles north of Salem, has shown us a sample of alfalfa clover, grown on his farm, the longest stem of which is six feet two inches in length.

ABOUT TAXATION.

We contended last week that railroads should be assessed at their true value, and the Statesman of Tuesday objects. Its objections are founded upon the grounds that other property is only assessed at part of its value—half value; that the indebtedness of the railroad is outside of the State, and hence not entitled to any exemption for such indebtedness, and that by assessing it at its value we discourage other similar enterprises, etc.

In the first place, the Statesman is badly mistaken in supposing that "other property" hereabouts is assessed at half its value. The County and City Assessors endeavored to assess real property in this city at two-thirds its value, and we venture the assertion that the two-thirds value placed upon the property of a majority of our citizens by these Assessors, was more than the property could have been sold for under the hammer—by a forced sale.

That the indebtedness of the railroad is outside of the State, we admit. But is there any more injustice done the railroad company in denying them the exemption than is done to hundreds of our merchants and manufacturers who are indebted for their goods and machinery to San Francisco and Eastern dealers, in denying them exemption for their indebtedness. Of course there is not. There is certainly no justice in letting a railroad company off from taxation, and at the same time compelling our merchants and manufacturers and other business men who are under a similar condition with the railroad company, to pay their taxes. The law provides that no indebtedness outside of the State can be deducted from one's assessment, and we must either enforce this statute in all cases, or count it as a dead letter and enforce it in none.

Perhaps taxation discourages the investment of capital in any kind of enterprise; but we would ask the Statesman in what community railroads are not taxed? If one will look Eastward he will see that the taxation levied upon railroads there does not discourage capital from investing in new enterprises of the same kind.

While we recognize fully the benefit derived by our citizens from railroads, yet we contend that there are other enterprises which also benefit the people, and we find that they are taxed the same as other property, and no whining plea set up that they are not paying expenses. The numerous manufacturing establishments of the State we believe pay taxes on the value of machinery, etc., owned by the proprietors of each; each merchant pays taxes on his stock of goods, etc.; each farmer pays taxes upon his land, live stock, grain, etc.; and why not make the railroad company pay taxes on the property owned by it? If the value of the road (and by value we mean the price at which it could be sold for at a forced sale) be three thousand dollars per mile, let that be the assessed value; if it be ten thousand dollars per mile, fix that sum as the valuation, or if fifteen thousand dollars per mile be the value, by all means let us have that sum as the valuation; and let the company pay taxes upon the amount assessed, as any other corporation or individual would have to do. And let us have a Board of Equalization who will see to it that each manufacturer, land owner, railroad company, merchant, money-lender, farmer, stock-raiser, or owner of property of any kind, is assessed justly and made to pay taxes upon the true value of the property assessed.

AID TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Legislature of Wisconsin cannot be accused of neglecting the State Agricultural Society of that State. The Society has issued ten yearly volumes, for the publication of all which the State has paid, except one. As far back as 1853, the State gave the Society \$1,000, and for several years has given it \$3,000 and furnished rooms in the Capitol for the office of the Society. The Oregon Legislature has never, we believe, extended any aid to the State Agricultural Society.

LAND SPECULATING.

It is not a good thing for farmers to speculate in land. And for that matter, it is not a good thing for any one to do so. Land bought on speculation is apt to be held for the rise only, and is not used, or at most, badly used; so that brush and briars soon get the upper hand of prospective bargains. If a farmer is out of debt, and has money at interest, and desires to purchase land, when offered low, for homes for his children, then it is wise and prudent for him to make the purchase. But to buy land and hold on to it for the sole purpose of selling again at a higher price, is a very risky business. If a farmer does not want land for children, then he don't want an acre more than he can cultivate and use for his own farming operations. Land may advance, and it may not. If you have money to invest in order to make a profit out of it, then our observation is that the best investment is the loaning of it on good security to some other industrious farmer. Buying land and renting it out, either on the shares or for cash rent, in nine cases out of ten, never produces as much income as the interest on the money. A farmer can make, and ought to make more on his own farm than interest on the money invested. But then he is at home, where he can see to his own property, where he can put in every spare moment, where the trees which he plants are to be his, and where he can push the farm work, and these things make all the difference in the world, on the profits of a farm.

More than this, when a man gets into a speculating mood he often neglects his own legitimate business. He neglects his farm, things begin to go at loose ends, fences to decay, orchards to die out; he wants to stop and talk at the "grocery," or "move to town," while family expenses are increasing in every direction. "Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee," says poor Richard's Almanac; and so also on the farm. Stick to the farm, to the "old wheat in the mill," and give the speculators a wide berth.

SUMMER FALLOWING.

This system of culture is an excellent and very reliable plan for securing large crops of wheat. North Yamhill has become proverbial for large crops of wheat, and we learn that this season is no exception, but that large crops will be harvested in that vicinity, notwithstanding the drouth. The land in the North Yamhill region is rolling prairie, and is not, naturally, superior to the ordinary Oregon prairie. But the farmers of North Yamhill are generally thorough in their culture. There are there some of the best and most prosperous farmers in the State. To secure their large annual crops, their reliance is in summer fallowing. The plows are kept at work nearly all summer. With them, as it should be everywhere, it is not enough to plow the ground once and put in the wheat in June. They plow, cross plow, plow again, stir it, and thoroughly harrow in the seed. In this way the ground is not only thoroughly pulverized to a good depth, so as to give the wheat plants a deep hold of the soil, but also, every particle of the soil is brought up and exposed to the chemical operation of the sun and air. In this way the soil absorbs nitrogen, and other gases, as well as ammonia, from the atmosphere, which are in themselves the best of manures. This kind of culture, therefore, shows us the strong growth of the wheat, the long, heavy head, the large grains, the many bushels, the extra quality, and a full purse. Everything which is worth doing at all, is worth doing well, says the old maxim, and we know of nothing to which this so well applies as in "summer fallowing" for next year's crop. This is beginning to be more and more understood every year, and farmers can be found all over the State whose crops produced by his culture is an honor to refer to.

CHANGED HANDS.—The Democrat of Times, Jacksonville, is now conducted by Thos. B. Kent and Jas. A. Miller.

LETTER FROM DOUGLAS COUNTY.

GARDNER BOTTOM, Douglas County, July 6th, 1874.

MR. EDITOR: I have been thinking that a letter from this section would be of interest to the readers of the FARMER, and sulking the action to the thought, I take up my pen to "dot" you a few items. We have just had a fine rain storm, which, though too late to benefit the grain materially, has been of very great benefit to gardens. Farmers, generally, had their hay in the mow previous to the coming of the rain, so it did no damage to hay, except to a few small lots. Our farmers are all busily engaged in putting their machinery in order preparatory to entering upon the harvest, which season will fully open in a few days. Some grain has already been cut, and much more is now ripe and ready.

From all present indications, there will be no more than half a crop in this valley take it on an average all over. Though the crops in the river bottom are much better than owners anticipated they would be two or three weeks since. I know one man, who at that time, offered a piece of barley containing about twelve acres for the price of the seed that was sown on it, and couldn't make the bargain, and the same piece looks now as though it would yield thirty and perhaps forty bushels per acre. The principal portion of our harvesting will be done by headers, as our farmers consider this the cheapest and best manner. Several new ones have been purchased in Portland by our farmers and brought by rail to this valley.

"The Glorious Fourth" passed off "gloriously" quiet in this section. The patriotic citizens of Oakland, announced to the people of Umpqua a few weeks before the 4th, that a grand celebration would be given at that place; thus attracting many pleasure seekers in that direction to witness a grand "phizzle" instead of a celebration, and with this exception I believe no public demonstration was attempted in the county. A grand ball was given at night by a patriotic Oaklander, which was the most attractive feature of the whole affair.

Quite a force of men are still kept upon the railroad between Oakland and Roseburg, and there is still good reason to believe that the road will be finished to the latter place some time during the summer. Mr. Sackett finished his contract of six miles, and left last week with his crew and outfit for the West Side, where he has taken another contract. He left behind him by his square, upright dealings with farmers and laborers, a reputation for honor, veracity, and business talent, unexceptional, so far as we can learn.

The school at Wilbur closed the academic year last week. The commencement exercises were quite interesting. The address to graduates was delivered by Rev. Mr. Ladd of Roseburg, and was an interesting and able address. The graduates were only two in number, Mr. Vandenberg and sister, of Coos co. The former delivered a well prepared and sensible oration upon the subject of "Benefits of Education." Miss Vandenberg read an essay, with the "Sourings of Genius" for a subject, which was well written. After the presentation of diplomas to the graduates by Rev. Mr. Alderson, the pupils of the school who had attended regularly during the entire year and acquitted themselves properly, were the recipients at the hands of their teacher, Professor Herron, of a nice present each. The next term of this excellent institution will begin on or about the third Wednesday in August. ROLGAN.

PUBLIC INSTALLATION.—The officers of Olive Lodge, No. 18, will be publicly installed at the Opera House this evening by Grand Master Apperson. Prof. S. C. Simpson will deliver an address on the occasion.

ACCIDENT.—Miss Nancy Yocum was thrown from a buggy while returning from the celebration near Dayton, on the Fourth, and sustained a severe fracture of the arm at the elbow.