

Correspondence.

A CHAPTER OF ITEMS.

ED. FARMER: And now again comes your old friend with some items, which, if worth their room in your FARMER, are submitted to general readers.

CROPS.

From all I have seen and heard of the crops in our county, I estimate them as follows: Fall wheat, 30 bushels per acre; spring wheat, 20 bushels per acre; oats, 32; potatoes, 90; barley, 18; flax 8, and buckwheat 12. Hay, on old meadows, 1500 lbs. per acre. On new meadows—especially swales properly prepared and sown to timothy, 3,500 lbs. per acre. A larger acreage of grain will be harvested in Marion county this year than ever before. I think that fall wheat is a shade heavier, and the grain is plumper, than for ten years past. Spring wheat and oats will be well filled no doubt. The late heavy rains will add more than 50 per cent. to the quality and quantity of the spring sown grain and hay. There is a larger acreage of oats now growing in this county than usual. From all appearances this will be a prosperous year amongst our producers. And if the farmers flourish, all trades and callings of our people will feel the agreeable impulse.

PRICES.

From what I can learn from all parts of the United States, and China and Europe, comparing supply and demand, the prices of our grain will not rule in Western Oregon as high as last year. The very large supply of grain in California this year, and the lack of tonnage craft, will depress our sales in this valley. And another small item is, that there is perhaps 20 per cent. of the wheat and oats of last year's crop yet in the granaries, still awaiting a high price! In travelling over Linn county, and in this county, lately, I find that very many farmers are neglectful in taking and reading such papers as would keep them well posted upon the demand and supply of breadstuffs, meats, etc. I have so often written and spoken here about taking the "grip" on our surplus produce, and holding on to it at home or depositing it in the mills free of interest to the millers; but not free of interest on part of the amount to merchants and mechanics—former debts due them—that I need say no more. California does not pursue such a course. Many farmers seem afraid to sell at even a very fair price—lest the buyers should happen to make a profit on their investments! The bids on the new grain by November, will doubtless be equal to the safety of buyers, and we should then sell. How some of our wool sellers have been deceived this year in taking the grip on their wool!

THOROUGH FARMING.

In my late excursions, I have seen full tests of scientific farming. The susceptibility of our soils here to produce heavy crops, if well and properly tilled, is manifest, and needs no labored argument to prove it. Very deep plowing first, and then subsoil plowing in the fall, and making good ditches with the plows in the direction of the descent of the land; and then plowing in the spring, say eight inches deep, drilling in the grain, say two bushels of spring wheat or oats per acre, as early as the season will possibly admit, will, in nearly every case, abundantly pay the tillers of the soil. I cannot too much urge upon our people the great benefit to be derived by summer-fallowing their lands. By deep fall plowing, and thorough summer-fallowing, nearly all the sorrel, fern or other noxious weeds can be destroyed.

If Mr. B. has 100 acres in cultivation, and he follows 80 acres every year, and sows down the remainder in grain, he will sow only half the seed that he would on 100 acres, and reap over only half the surface, and yet obtain at least 20 per cent. grain over the 100 acres sown every year! Cattle and sheep may run on the fallow land to profit. I am satisfied that

the best plan of sowing fall wheat is to drill it or plow it in, in narrow lands with deep middle furrows. Low, wet lands should never be seeded down to fall wheat.

THE RAILROAD.

It cannot be presumed that you, Mr. Editor, should be held accountable for the views of your correspondents, unless their statements should be of a personal and slanderous character. I lived in the valley of the Mississippi in an early day, before railroads were built, and also afterwards for a while, and I saw what these roads were to that country, and since I came out here I have been well posted in the matter there. And now that railroads are being constructed in our State, the people should hail the event in joy and approbation. It may be that some of the owners or employees of these railroads are not perfect in all things; and, having the carrying and passenger business nearly all in their own hands, they put on pretty heavy tariff duties; yet they are under State and National law, and under the laws of trade, production, and transportation, and these matters will all settle down to a level with other countries. We had not the capital in our State to build long, connecting lines of these roads. And if Congress in their liberality saw fit to grant liberally of the public lands along these lines of roads, and if foreign capitalists came forward and build these roads at enormous expenditures, and spent large sums of gold amongst us, and are developing our vast, dormant resources, and attracting multitudes to our fair State, and furnishing us means of internal transportation to ship landing, should we raise the war cry against them? Our timber, coal, lime, iron, lead, copper, marble and all farm products will have a vent shortly, to the great outside world. And we hope that Congress will yet remember us; and that the present lines of railroads will be but the prelude of others yet more important in our State. We must admit, and I for one glory in the prospect, that Portland will be the center from which a half dozen of railroads will radiate in many directions. That city will soon teem with fifty thousand good citizens. And will not she accord to the City of Peace—Salem—a half million State House, Penitentiary, Insane Asylum, Inebriate Asylum, and two or three railroads? Our growth and prosperity will not in any wise detract from theirs. I hope that our next Legislature will pursue a wise course, in reference to these great State measures.

VARIETIES OF GRAIN.

Our old fall white wheat has never been displaced yet by any sent here from the States; but it remains the pride and boast of Oregon, and the wonder of New York and Liverpool. I think that the smooth Chile spring wheat will displace the common club wheat here; on account of yield, and the softness of the straw, and the cleanness in threshing it out. Its quality is excellent, and it attains a fair length in its stalk. The old side oats has never been excelled here in all respects. The surprise and excelsior oats, when well acclimated, may succeed well on poorer lands, being strong in the stalks. Barley well put in on rich lands succeeds well here. From all I saw of flax in Linn county, and since in Marion county, I must say that it is not a paying crop here. I wish it were otherwise. Rotation and variety should be our aim. Very rich land, deeply plowed and well pulverized, and sown to flax very early in the spring, might produce fair profits. Old ground or any thin lands should not be sown to flax. Rye is a most excellent crop here, and will do well on nearly all soils if well put in. For pastures it is superior.

GRASSES.

I have never found any grass in Oregon equal to timothy, both for meadows and pastures. Orchard grass is worthless for meadows, though it stands the drought better than timothy; but stock will not eat it if they can get at the timothy.

Red clover mixed with timothy—one quart of it to three of timothy, and sown on well prepared land in the spring, and well rolled, makes excellent hay and much of it, and makes the best of pasture. On very high and dry land these grasses do not succeed well, unless irrigated.

GARDENS AND FRUITS.

The gardens in this county since the late heavy rains are doing well. The fruit crop is nearly a total failure in this county. But there is in the valley plenty of fruit for home demand. The wild and tame blackberries are plenty, and will of course assist in making up our lack of orchard products this year in the northern part of the valley.

HEALTH.

Throughout the State at large, the general health is good. Our drinking water, and water power and general health are the wonder and boast of the State. Foreigners should note this.

CONCLUSION.

A bright future is before us. Wise legislation, temperance, industry and good economy will insure to us peace, wealth, honor and general prosperity. DAVID NEWSOM. July 22d, 1872.

Rock Point Farmers' Club.

ROCK POINT, MARION CO., July 13, 1872.

The Club was called to order by Mr. Udell, the President.

The Secretary being absent, the Chair appointed Dr. F. S. Matteson Secretary pro tem. The Society's books being locked up and the key in the Secretary's possession, no minutes were read.

The resolution, which had been offered at a previous meeting, "to elect the Secretary at the next regular election, for one year, and until his successor is elected and qualified," was taken up, and on motion adopted.

Notice was given of two resolutions to be offered at the next meeting, as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to revise the constitution and by-laws of this Society.

Resolved, That this Society take the necessary steps to procure a charter.

On motion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. G. W. Hunt and F. S. Matteson, to visit the Highland Farmers' Club, and confer with that Society in reference to the marketing of the coming wheat crop.

On motion, the subject for discussion, "Fruit Culture," was then taken up and discussed.

Mr. Hunt said he had planted many varieties, and found but few profitable. For apples, he preferred, for family use, the Early Harvest, Red Astrachan, Gravenstein, Yellow Bellefleur, White Winter Pearmain, and Virginia Greening.

For pears, he would choose the Madeline, Bartlett, Fall Butter, and Lawrence, for baking, Dix, Winter Nellis, Beurre Easter, and a few Pound pears.

Of plums, he named Imperial Ottoman, Peach Plum, Imperial Gage, Washington, Helm's Seedling, and Coe's Golden Drop.

He can raise only one peach, the Early Crawford.

Of cherries, he would plant Belle de Choisy, May Duke, Red Carnation, Royal Ann (sparingly), and Late Duke (freely).

Of raspberries, he pronounced the common wild Oregon Black Cap, and its seedlings, best.

The Kirtatimy is the best blackberry for high land.

Of grapes, he had found the Black July, Concord, and Royal Muscadine, good varieties, but the Delaware is best of all.

Of strawberries he knew but little, and therefore would not speak of them, but would wait and hear from his friend the Dr.

"His friend the Dr." experience in this direction was limited. He had planted but few varieties; had found them easily cultivated, and profitable.

Mr. Udell had been but a short time in Oregon, and could not speak

from experience in fruit culture here. He proposed, however, to make that branch of agriculture a part of his future operations.

Remarks were also made by others, but the Secretary's paper ran short, and made reporting them impracticable.

Mr. G. W. Hunt gave notice of a resolution to be introduced at the next meeting, to change the name, and partly the objects, of this Club.

On motion, the question, "How best to get rid of Squirrels," was chosen for discussion at the next meeting.

F. S. Matteson was appointed to read an essay before the Society at its next meeting.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to report the proceedings of this Club to the WILLAMETTE FARMER.

On motion, adjourned to the second Saturday in September, at 2 o'clock p. m.

F. S. MATTESON,
Sec'y pro tem.

BRIEF OF AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSION.—Alderman Mechl writes that the diminution of England's sheep stock to the enormous extent of nearly 4,500,000 head is a great agricultural and, in some degree, national calamity, not only because of the direct loss of capital suffered by the owners of flocks during the seasons of drouth, but because the food producing power of the country has been seriously diminished by being deprived of the manure from so many animals. Flock masters, however, are now, he says, receiving some remuneration by the greatly enhanced value of this stock, and non-breeders will be compelled by the high prices they have to pay for lean sheep to do something themselves toward remedying the evil. This, he thinks, will be an advantage, and he adds: I have always held that farmers should mix breeding with arable farming. Practically, I have found no difficulty in rearing my own sheep, irrespective of permanent pasture, which I am more and more convinced is a great loss to the country, and no longer adapted to the new and improved circumstances resulting from the use of steam for cultivation and the introduction of artificial manures and abundant foreign feeding stuffs. The pastoral age is fortunately fast becoming an affair of antiquity.

REV. PETER CARTWRIGHT, D. D.—A correspondent writing from Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, Ill., under date of June 8th, says:

"This place is intimately associated with the name of the Rev. Peter Cartwright, whose residence is only about three-fourths of a mile from the pleasant village. The venerable man is still living, but in a very feeble condition, and his death at any time would not surprise his friends. The family of this aged pioneer of the Methodist church are in receipt of letters almost every day from various portions of the country, the writers of which are anxious to learn of the state of the health of this good old man, who now only recognizes his friends at intervals. No hope is entertained of his recovery. He was born September 1st, 1785, in Amherst county, Virginia."

The fact that five young farmers in Michigan were recently poisoned—three unto death—by eating what they supposed to be sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), a fleshy root with a spicy, agreeable flavor, but which was probably wild parsnip or cowbane (*Achennora rigida*), should suggest caution against tasting roots, plants or fruits which are not known beyond peradventure to be non-poisonous.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Western Rural*, gives the following sensible cure for hollow horn: In addition to a feed twice a day of good clover or timothy hay, give the afflicted animal from four to six quarts of corn or oat meal daily, and the hollow "in a horn" will take care of itself.

A national convention of Short-Horn cattle-breeders will be held at Indianapolis on the 29th November.

ENGLISH FARMING.

Professor George H. Cook, State Geologist of New Jersey, after his return from visiting some of the best farms in England, made remarks on English farming before the New York Farmers' Club, as follows:

Of all the other crops, the great wheat crop surprised me most. The English farmer may justly pride himself on his knowledge of this kingly cereal. Their wheat straw is stiffer than ours, and stands up better; the head is large and the color bright and clear. The uniformity of their fields is remarkable; not bare, thin places; no wet places or winter kills. Some fields that I saw would average thirty, some thirty-six, and others forty bushels per acre; sixty and sixty-four are often reported. One large field that I saw gave an average of forty-four, and I heard of an average of sixty-eight bushels per acre. That wheat I did not see. But I am well satisfied that the yield is from fifty to one hundred per cent. beyond our American average. Now, how is this done? First—the English farmer does not expect good wheat except on good land, well manured. Second—he pulverizes thoroughly and makes the best possible seed-bed for wheat. He plows, cross-plows, then rolls, then harrows with a fine-tooth pulverizer; then drills the seed, and covers from an inch to two inches deep, and if the soil is sandy, he rolls lightly again. On poor spots he sows a few hundred weight of nitrate of soda; and this special fertilizing brings up the thin places, and makes the crop even from side to side of the field.

J. J. Mechl, on a farm of 170 acres, makes more wheat and vegetable crops according to the size of his farm, perhaps, than any other farmer. He has grown eight quarters—sixty-four bushels—of wheat to the acre, on a field of seven acres. All his stall manure is kept under cover, and in the spring he cultivates between the rows of wheat and applies 300 pounds of salt and guano to each acre.

PROTEST OF A CHRISTIAN HORSE.

The Ballstown (N. Y.) Democrat says: During the recent Sunday School Convention, held in this village, one of the delegates hitched his horse in front of S. H. Luther's at an early hour, and that horse stood there in the hot sun from eight o'clock in the morning until after five in the afternoon (nine long hours) without food or drink. It was a black, small pony, with one white hind foot, hitched to a black, gold mounted top buggy, in which was a white blanket trimmed with red. During the afternoon some one placed a card on the horse on which was printed: "I belong to a Christian; have stood here since morning without food or drink."

AN unauthenticated story is that the sheep in Colorado have long wool, in which dust accumulates during summer. Then when the grass has gone to seed, the wind carries the seed into the meshes of the fleece. In winter the rain falls, the dust is turned to mud, in which grass grows, and then thousands of sheep may be seen traveling about in verdure clad, and with their pastures on their backs.

APACHES AT WASHINGTON.—Gen. Howard took with him to Washington nine Apache chiefs, representing six different bands of tribe. The object is to show them something of the numbers, wealth, power, and civilization of the white people, and then to form a treaty, with a prospect that it will be more faithfully observed than the old ones.

SOME time ago a small parcel of oats, known as the White Shonan, was received from the Patent Office at Washington, and John G. Mackey, of Camp Seco, California, sowed a small patch. The stalks are six feet high, and the heads 18 inches long. Some of the heads contain 340 grains.

ALDERMAN MECHL, of England, in "How to Farm Profitably," says:—"It is precisely because British farmers have their customers—the British manufacturers—almost at their doors, and that other corn producing countries have not any manufacturers, that British agriculture is rich and thriving."

It is said that by the expenditure of \$30,000,000 for levees on the Mississippi river, 7,000,000 acres of cotton land and 2,500,000 acres of sugar land would be reclaimed, the annual product of which, it is estimated, would amount to \$150,000,000 gold.

It is the end of art to inoculate men with the love of nature.