



Salem, Saturday, Dec. 21.

REMOVAL.

The *Farmer's* office has been removed to Stewart's block, Commercial street—up stairs, first door at the left.

REMOVED.—H. D. Boon has removed his stock of books, stationery, and musical instruments to the building formerly occupied by Gill, Steel & Co. on State street.

PAID UP.—Wm. Groves, Esq., Treasurer of Benton county, came down last Wednesday, and paid over to the State Treasurer the amount of taxes due the State from Benton county. The total amount was nearly \$9,000.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—John G. Wright, as usual, displays a fine stock of holiday goods. There is nothing to please the little folks that cannot be had at his store in the line of toys. Give him a call.

SOLD OUT.—Gill, Steel & Co. have sold out their entire stock of books, stationery, and musical instruments, to Walter Jackson, Esq., who will continue the business in Patton's block on State Street.

DISCUSSION.—Rev. T. F. Campbell, President of Monmouth College, and Prof. Chaney will soon commence a discussion on the origin and character of the Bible. Portland is to furnish the arena for the intellectual conflict.

NEW TERM.—Monday last was the commencement of a new term at Willamette University. Calisthenic and exercises with dumb-bells have been introduced.

FOR THE EAST.—E. L. Applegate, Esq., is on the point of starting to the Eastern States, where he proposes to make a lecturing tour, for the purpose of laying before the people information concerning the climate, resources &c., of Oregon.

LITIGANT ORGAN.—Gov. Grover has appointed the *Dallas Republican* as litigant organ for Polk county, a franchise heretofore enjoyed by the *Monmouth Messenger*. A change of ownership in the latter paper, we presume, necessitated another appointment.

THE MODER WAR.—The Statesman publishes the following dispatch to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. It is the latest information we have from the scene of the Indian difficulty:

"Jacksonville, Dec. 17.—Express arrived last night. Kelly's command within ten miles of the Indians. Col. Green will not permit attack until all the forces can be concentrated. Infantry will probably arrive there today. The Indians are entrenched on the south side of Tule Lake, and a fight will certainly take place within a week."

CALIFORNIA.—The Oakland Transcript says of the crops:

It is not premature to speculate on the crops of the next season. Already the early rains are proving of the very greatest benefit to our agricultural interests. The earth retains much of the moisture of last year's rains, so that, with less than the usual quantity of rain during the ensuing winter, fair crops will be secured. In some counties the grass is already up and growing finely. Farmers will doubtless sow more grain this year than last.

REVIVAL.—A religious revival is now progressing at Jefferson, under the auspices of the United Brethren. Great interest is said to be manifested in the meetings.

The *Macomber* says that a prospecting party has returned from the vicinity of the Three Sisters, in the Cascade mountains, with fifty ounces of gold and some precious stones. The party will return next summer.

The little child of Mr. Fristoe, at Muddy, Yamhill county, came near drowning by falling into a spring. When found it was entirely unconscious, but after several hours labor was resuscitated.

WHEAT.

We have before stated that almost the only article for which Oregonians do not send abroad is bread. Of that article we have a small surplus which we are disposed to sell when we can get a good price. We think every one who looks carefully at the present condition of things must see that wheat is to be the main dependence of the country. Whenever our soil produces a sufficient surplus of that article to pay for all the articles that we import, money will be sufficiently plenty in our valley to keep the wheels of business in motion. But when we fail to balance our account in that way, the scale will turn against us and money will be scarce and business slack. Of course there are some other articles that may be produced with profit, and exported. Bacon and dried fruit, butter and cheese, and some other products of the farm and garden, may yield small returns. But we believe bread is to be the staff of life to this valley in more than one particular.

The problem of our growth and prosperity then, is to a great extent, in the hands of our land owners. If the people of Oregon must dress well and enjoy all the superfluous luxuries that foreign markets offer, the products of the soil must pay the bill. The soil is our capital and the yearly crop is the interest it yields. If the interest is not collected regularly, hard times are sure to come. Hard times will come whenever we fail to produce the usual surplus, or whenever the prices are so low that the surplus is not sold or does not bring a sufficient return. The past season we produced our usual surplus, or more, but prices are low. The wheat sold has not brought a fair return and many farmers have not sold. The consequences are felt in every channel of business.

And now a new danger stares us in the face. Because of the present low prices many farmers are feeling that it will not pay to sow. And if we produce next year less than our usual surplus we will have the same difficulties, though the prices may be better.

What is the conclusion of the whole matter? Evidently it is that the true policy is to plow and sow without any regard to present or prospective prices. The farmers of Oregon must realize that as yet their influence is barely felt in the world's market. A million bushels of wheat is really but a small item. It is only as our resources are developed, and our surplus runs up into the millions that our influence will be felt and our produce sought. It is only as our thousands of acres of idle but fertile land are brought into cultivation, that we can hope to reach the final proof of our material wealth and the full realization of our hopes.

The aim then of every land owner, great or small, should be to break up his wild acres and make them do their duty. We do not say that men should go beyond their means in laying out work. But we say all available strength should be employed in developing our resources. No hand should be idle that is strong enough to work, and no eye should be blind to the true cause of our difficulties, and the true way out of them. No matter what the prices are, we must produce wheat, and sooner or later we must sell it, whether it be high or low. Different things will make prices vary, but nothing can cause a variation in the law that is finally to govern the prosperity of this country. It is useless for farmers to sit in their houses or get together in the country store and grumble about "corners," "monopolies," "speculators," &c. Even if all these things were as they suppose they are, they are facts over which they have no more control than over the winds and tides.

If there are not ships enough to cause healthy competition in carrying our wheat to Europe, and freights are high in consequence, we can only accept the inevitable and do the best we can. We make no direct suggestion as to the disposal of the present supply of wheat, but as a rule

we believe the best policy for the individual, as well as for the country, is to sell each crop of wheat at the time it is gathered for the best price it will bring. We believe individuals have lost by storing and saving their wheat oftener than they have gained, and we are sure the country at large is not benefitted by the policy which saves one crop and refuses to raise another because the prices are low.

THE WEATHER.—Nearly all the prophecies about weather have failed so far. There has not been in this valley the usual amount of rain, but the weather has not been so severe as many expected it would. The wind has been variable, often going round the compass several times a day. The vanes on our church steeples have been kept busy.

By the time this paper reaches its readers the days will have "begun to lengthen," and if the cold does not soon "begin to strengthen," we will slip through the winter as usual with no use for sleighs or skates and little inconvenience to stock. East of the mountains there have been several severe snaps, and stock has suffered considerably, though there have been no severe losses. We know several persons who have bands of cattle in that region without food, who are quite uneasy about them. It would only take a few days of severe weather in January to cause serious losses to some. Our provident friends must hold their breath and wait.

THE OVERLAND.—The people of this coast, at least those having literary tastes, have reason to be thankful to the proprietors of the *Overland Monthly* for furnishing every month a feast of just such dainties as are suited to their tastes and sympathies. There are two things we believe this magazine honestly tries to do: To represent the interests of this coast in its pages, and to encourage young and promising writers who have grown up here. For these reasons it deserves the patronage of all magazine readers on the coast. We are glad to note the evidences of its growing merit and popularity.

BLOOD WILL TELL.—Philip Bowers, near Silverton, in this county, killed a three-year old steer the last of November, that weighed 950 pounds net. The animal was of Grand Admiral blood, bred in and in, and had not been fed a bushel of grain in his life. R. C. Geer, of the same neighborhood, also killed a steer one year old, which weighed 416 pounds net—one-fourth Devon and three-fourths Shorthorn, of Grand Admiral blood also. Both animals were raised on grass and hay only, and those who ate of the meat pronounced it superior beef for any country.

HUGE COUNTRY.—McCormick's Almanac puts the area of the District of Columbia at fifty-five thousand square miles. If the rest of this country is to be stretched out in proportion, we should not like to travel across it on foot, or to "foot" the bill for building a railroad. It is a mystery to us how any proof-reader should have overlooked so egregious a blunder.

MANUFACTORY.—A manufactory for all kinds of implements required by farmers will be ready for operation in Salem next year. By patronizing this worthy home enterprise the farmers of Oregon will cause the large aggregate of money hitherto sent out of the State to be kept in circulation and put to good use among our own population. And in countless channels the money thus diverted will enliven trade and cause industry of every kind to flourish.—The truth is Oregon does not manufacture a tithe of what she ought to, in order to better enjoy the products of her own great natural wealth.—*Bulletin.*

WATER PIPES.—The Salem Water Company are now laying main pipes along Court street in front of the public square.

A CHANGE.—Steamers will hereafter land at Uzafova's wharf, which has been leased for that purpose.

DRILLING VERSUS BROADCAST.

ED. FARMER: I read an article with the above caption in your paper of November 9th, and admired all that the writer said, excepting the left-handed dig he gave the grain drill. I am not a manufacturer of grain drills, or *broadcast grain sowers* either, and consequently can tell "what I know about sowing grain" without prejudice, fear, or favor. I am in favor of *drilling*, for at least four reasons: 1. It saves seed. 2. It puts the grain in better, because it covers all the grain the proper depth. 3. It is the cheapest. 4. All (or nearly all) good farmers that have once used the drill, continue to use it.—Mr. Finlayson gives no reasons why he is opposed to drilling, but, being an inventor of a broadcast seed-sower, he sows his objections broadcast; but that will not do, Friend Finlayson; you must give us something more tangible.

In 1839, I saw the first grain drill, and two forty-acre fields of wheat that had been sown with it, in Clark county, Ohio, in the best wheat-growing district of that State, and it looked fine. In the fall of 1846, I again saw the same fields in wheat, and the nice straight rows showed that the drill had again done the work, and in the fall of 1870 I again passed these two fields, and it was certainly the finest prospect for wheat that I ever saw. The stumps had all disappeared, and the rows of wheat were as straight as an arrow and as rank and green as a leek. I told the man who was with me at the time that if these fields of wheat were in Oregon our climate would make them yield at least sixty bushels per acre, but he said that twenty-five or thirty bushels was all they could expect there. The farmers all used drills there, unless they sowed corn ground; then they used gang shovels, and left the ground rough, to protect the wheat in winter.—Now, there was a test of thirty-one years, and the result satisfied me that the drill was a success in Ohio. In Oregon, the ten acres of wheat that took the first premium at the State Fair was drilled, so I am informed by Davis Shannon, on whose farm it was raised.

The best and cheapest way to raise wheat in Oregon is what we (the farmers) all want to know, for on this knowledge depends our success as wheat-growers. We have the soil and the climate: now for the best and the cheapest *modus operandi* in raising and harvesting.—We have sown about eighty-five acres this year; we plowed the land once only, and that last spring and summer, and pastured sheep on it until the wheat came up last fall. We sowed about twelve acres in September broadcast, one bushel and a half per acre, and harrowed it both ways, lapping the harrow one-half each time. Two or three weeks later we drilled in the balance of the field with a six-inch drill one and a quarter bushels per acre. It all looks well, but the drilled looks best, and next harvest I will be able to judge by experience which is the best. I know that drilling is the cheapest, as one hand can put in ten acres per day with one span of horses, and do it well and easily.

In regard to drilling, I am some like the boy I once heard of, who said his mother must be a very mean woman, for everybody said she was, and what everybody said must be true. Now, every person who tries drilling wheat says it is the *cheapest and best*. I am compelled to believe it, friend Finlayson to the contrary notwithstanding. R. C. GEER. Fruit Farm, Marion Co., Dec. 16.

OATS.—A few days since farmers were selling oats, delivered at the railroad, for fifty cents a bushel. The grain was intended for shipment to California. The price at the latter market was \$2@2.25 per hundred pounds.

The North-western Stage Company have put on a four-horse stage coach between Dallas and Umatilla, to run every other day.

Letter from Washington County.

FOREST GROVE, Dec. 14, 1872.

ED. FARMER: The farmers of Washington county have now a large breath of land sowed to wheat, and many have sowed a good quantity of fall oats. They also have improved the excellent weather for the last two weeks in plowing, and should a good season favor, Washington county may be expected to give a satisfactory report the next harvest. This is the right kind of pluck to see in farmers. That whether prices be high or low, crops full or short, to see the farmers push right on, unwavering and undiscouraged putting the steel a little deeper each plowing, plying the harrow a little more thoroughly, rolling a little more smoothly, and sowing only the best of seed *thoroughly cleaned*. And here let me give the expense of an old silver gray in cleaning seed as I have yet seen but few good fanning mills in this State.

Take any ordinary mill, and uncouple the pitman so as to give the fans a high motion, then remove all the screens except the lower one; then put a stout boy to the crank, and a man on the other side with one hand hold of the shaker and the other hand to adjust the feed. Then start in with motion enough to carry everything entirely over the tail board on to the floor except the largest and plumpest kernels of wheat, which you will find coming down the spout in good order. This is far more expeditious than the slow process of screening, and does the job much better.

I must here repeat my surprise, mentioned in a former letter, at the few agricultural papers taken by the farmers of Oregon. I have called quite extensively on the farmers of this county, and can persuade but few of them to take your excellent paper.

The most general reason assigned, is the lack of means these hard times and low prices. Brother Farmers, you mistake the ends of economy or the best means to secure it by refusing to read your agricultural paper. Knowledge is economy itself. I have never known an instance where a farmer took an agricultural paper and read it, and observed the benefits derived from it, but would acknowledge that he was enabled thereby to save much more in cash during the year than the price of the paper, and I am confident that an exception to the case cannot be found in the State of Oregon.

Farmers of Oregon, let me tell you in all candor that you have a grave question to solve! Wheat is your staple crop, and the history of the wheat plant every where demonstrates that the essential ingredients of its food are easier lost, and harder to be restored to the soil than that of any other grain. There are whole counties just east of the great mountains, that when first cultivated yielded 25 to 35 bushels of wheat to the acre, that in twenty years would not average 10 bushels per acre, and in a few more years must cease the cultivation of it altogether. It is a fact patent to every observer in this State that "wheat does not yield as it used to do," and the only remedy offered is "better culture"—"deeper plowing." But deeper plowing has its limit. Keeping stock over the mountains does not furnish you manure, neither is it at hand in the market. What is to be done? Can hands without a head solve the problem? I tell you farmers place in your families your agricultural paper first, then the best others published, and read them closely, and see that your sons and daughters read them also.

W. L. CURTIS.

BEEF.—The lovers of good beef have had no cause for complaint thus far the present winter. The butcher stalls are well supplied with as fat and tender beef as the most favored season of the year could produce.

The steamer *Shoo Fly* and *Success* touched at the Salem wharf a few minutes on Monday, on their upward-bound trip. This is the first trip the *Shoo Fly* has made for some time.