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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.
The date appearing after the printed name on the paper is the date of the EXPIRATION of subscription.

How the "Grain Ring" Operates.

DIXIE, POLK CO., Dec. 29, '72.
Ed. Farmer: Old Polk is making preparations to sow about one-fourth more land than has ever been sown in the history of the county. There is already a great deal of grain sown on the rolling land, and plenty of land plowed now, to be re-plowed in the spring, upon which the farmers hope to realize sufficient to keep our little "grain ring" at Portland, and their numerous hangers-on up and down the classic Willamette, commonly known as warehousemen.— And while I am upon this subject, it may not be out of place to publish a few of the "instructions" which the owners of warehouses are compelled to follow, or be subjected to the displeasure of the mighty "wheat ring" at the metropolis.

1. Always say that you do not wish to buy.
2. When pressed to buy, say that you have but very little money on hand; and that you are authorized not to pay it out unless you can secure all the wheat which the seller has in the warehouse at that time, and at the price mentioned.

3. When asked if you can pay the balance of the money soon, say that you could not promise inside of sixty days, as all are wanting to sell at once, and that the Portland buyers cannot get money as fast as grain is offered. In a word, get control of all the grain with as little present outlay as possible, as the farmers have got an idea that we are, or have been, shipping off their grain last year before we had bought any of it. They might combine, and call for their grain, unless they were fixed in a position like this. I know whereof I speak when I say this is the substance of the instructions received this season, as I was one of the "inside" parties at one time, made such by the confidence reposed in me by an authorized buyer to whom I sold grain, while he was in a rather "corned" condition. I did not take his word, but read his letter of instructions from a prominent wheat speculator of Portland.

The only way that farmers can remedy this is to buy their own sacks, sack their grain, buy, build, or rent their warehouses, and store it on the river or railroad, each man branding his sacks, so that if he has a superior article of grain he can realize the more for it. This plan has been, and still is, in operation in California, and has proved to be of great benefit to the producer, enabling him to send samples of his grain to all the prominent grain-dealers, thus giving him the benefit of competition, if there is any. The commercial writers of the Portland papers are so plainly in the interest of the wheat rings that the farmers distrust even commercial reports that are reliable. In fact, they are a curse and scab on the farming community, and are detested accordingly.

WHEAT-TRADER.

Swollen streams greatly interfere with military operations against the Modocs.

HIGHLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

The Club met in session at T. R. Hibbard's on Saturday, the 21st of December, 1872. Vice President B. A. Leonard in the chair. Present, eleven members.

The chairman of the committee on market reports, R. C. Geer, made a verbal report that wheat had advanced to 75 cents and oats to 50 and 53 cents. He also stated that pork in the Western States of the Mississippi valley is very abundant and worth only some three cents per lb., which will keep our bacon down below present prices.

Question for discussion, "The best method of putting in grain."

Mr. R. C. Geer being called upon to open the debate, said that this is the all-important question, because many important results depend upon it. He did not feel himself qualified to speak authoritatively upon the subject, inasmuch as his experience with drill-sowed grain commenced last fall. He had, however, some very decided opinions in favor of the drilling method, and he had given them to the FARMER for publication. He would, therefore ask to be excused from speaking at length at the present time.

Mr. K. L. Hibbard said he felt like reiterating Mr. Geer's statement of the importance of a correct decision of this question, and hoped no false facts or loose statements would find their way into this discussion. He had had no experience with any other method than broadcast sowing, but he thought, from what he had seen and the statements of those who had tried the grain drill, that he could reason safely upon the subject before the Club. The first point of preference which he would call attention to is the saving of seed in drilling. About half a bushel to the acre, as near as he could judge, would be saved, and this on the twenty million acres of wheat in the United States would amount to ten millions of bushels, which now rot upon the ground or become food for birds. Many scientific agriculturists claim that three-fourths of a bushel of wheat is enough upon common ground, and, if this claim be correct, it proves that by the old broadcast method of sowing and harrowing we have been wasting from one-fourth to three-fourths of a bushel on every acre of land sown. It is claimed also that the drill sows more evenly, which he is inclined to admit, as wind cannot reach the dropping seed to disturb the distribution.

Mr. Calvin Geer said he had but little personal experience with the drill or drill-sowed grain, but had seen a good deal of grain that was sowed in that way. He had just come from Howell Prairie, where he examined the wheat fields and talked with farmers upon the merits of broadcast and drill-sowed grain.— The uniform testimony is in favor of drilling, for reasons, some of which had been presented and others that he would name. Drill-sowed grain stands freezing weather better, also dry and windy weather better, and while all admit that more of the drill-sowed grain sprouts and makes good growth, some continue to sow one bushel and three-fourths to the acre, and don't think there is any

saving of seed. Everybody knows that the harrow cannot cover all the seed, and he has had enough experience with the drill to know that generally the seed is all out of sight and well covered from one to four inches in the ground. Where the soil is too wet to harrow, the drill succeeds well, and the wind has nothing to do with it, two circumstances that are frequently of immense importance to the grain-grower, inasmuch as a week's difference in the time of seeding will often make one-fourth difference in the crops. It is generally supposed the drill will work reasonably well only where the soil is thoroughly pulverized, in excellent order, and free from stones, sods, weeds, stubble, &c., but this is a mistake. Of course, the better the ground the better the work; yet the drill will accommodate itself to inequalities of surface; will do in stony land or open sod, if the breaking be laid flat; and will perform well in stubble.

Mr. Allen Simpson said he had found by experience that there is some danger of going to extremes in favor of farming implements or new methods, and that we ought to be reluctant to abandon the old until the new is well proved. There are hundreds of new farming implements thrown aside after a season of trial, and new methods are abandoned also because they do not meet with successful results. Now, it is not every man who can sow grain evenly by hand, in fact a great number of farmers are poor sowers, and this may account for many objections against the broadcast method. Where the seed has been put on evenly, as any good sower can do, and then well covered with a cultivator, as it can be, he should be inclined to doubt the superiority of the drilling method. Certainly where grain is sown in rows from six to nine inches apart, the claim of even distribution is rather forced. He did not wish to resist any just claims for the drilling method, but to subject them all to a wholesome criticism.

Mr. W. Cranston desired to say something about broadcast sowing, and would introduce his neighbor Alex. Thompson as the machine that could sit in the hind end of a wagon and sow thirty acres a day as evenly as a drilling machine. Mr. Thompson sowed with both hands at the same time. Where grain is well sown broadcast, and covered with a cultivator, he thought it more perfectly done than when sowed in drills six inches apart. As to the rest, it appears to be in favor of the drill, and in the low land the drill may be preferable on account of frost, but on the hills the frost does not interfere with grain. On the Jones farm, in Salem Prairie, there were two pieces of wheat, side by side, in the same field, one sown broadcast and the other with a drill, and as he passed every week or oftener to Salem during the spring and summer he had kept watch of those two fields, and he could not see any difference in the stand of the grain or in its growth, and hence he concluded that there is nothing to be gained in the yield of grain. At this point he was informed by Mr. Geer that the threshing machine had discovered a difference of three bushels to the acre in favor of the drilled grain.

Mr. A. B. Leonard had heard Mr.

Shaw of Howell Prairie say that much of the wheat drilled in was too thick, and consequently the heads and grains were small.

Mr. R. C. Geer said that Orange Judd, of the "American Agriculturist," favors the drill for the same reasons we have given in the Club. He estimates that one bushel of grain drilled in is as good as one and a half bushels sown broadcast and harrowed.

The Secretary said that under the most favorable conditions wheat sown broadcast and well harrowed would likely produce as much as that sown in any other way, but, as those conditions seldom occurred together at the time of seeding and the early growth of the wheat plant, and as the drill is in the main independent of those conditions, he thought the latter had gained the day. He then presented the principal points in a tabular form which were generally affirmed: 1. The drill distributes the grain more evenly upon the ground. 2. Deposits at a proper depth more uniformly. 3. Can be performed in windy or rainy weather. 4. Can be performed in more conditions of soil. 5. Is less laborious. 6. Requires less seed to the acre. 7. Gives larger yields of grain. 8. Withstands early drought better. 9. Withstands freezing better. 10. The straw not so liable to fall. 11. Gives a more even growth. 12. Costs less by three dollars for every ten acres; this last includes the interest on the cost of the drill.

Question for discussion next meeting: "Resolved, That raising wheat for market is not best for the farmers of this district."

Club adjourned to meet at Henry Allen's on Saturday, Jan. 4, 1873, at which time officers will be elected for the ensuing year.

T. W. DAVENPORT, Sec'y.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The steamer James A. Adge arrived on Saturday with ten men for the Albany penitentiary, convicted of Klu-Klux outrages. Among the prisoners is Rev. John Ezell, a Baptist clergyman of South Carolina. Three others confess being concerned in fourteen assassinations.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—Thirty steamboats are locked up in the frozen river, exclusive of ten ferry and harbor tow-boats. They are so protected to be secure from harm when the river breaks up.

TOPEKA, (Kan.), Dec. 26.—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad was completed to the west line of Kansas yesterday. This company has built 362 miles since March last. In August fifty miles were laid, the largest month's work on any road in this country. The entire length of the road, including branches, is 479 miles, all graded, ironed and equipped since 1869.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—A Washington special contains the following: "Information of a diplomatic character just received here from Mexico is construed by members of the diplomatic corps to be indicative of a revolution in that Republic, and the impression is that by or before January 1st a revolution against the new Government of President Lerdo de Tejada will occur. The previous reports given in this correspondence, of uprisings in the States of Coahuila and Chihuahua were decidedly anticipated. The fact that the people of Mexico are to a great degree turbulent is not disguised or denied."

speculation here in official and diplomatic circles. Governor McCook of Colorado, who was Minister-resident at Honolulu prior to General Grant's Administration, is of the opinion that if our Government wants to annex the island it can be done now without much difficulty. If our present Minister there shows any sort of magnanimity he can have control of matters. The English and French Ministers are absent on leave, and there are no foreign vessels-of-war in the Hawaiian waters except American, and in all the departments of the Government the Americans have the ascendancy.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Near Pittsfield, Illinois, on Friday last, William and Thomas Clarkson, brothers and well-to-do bachelor farmers, were found frozen to death in their house, having been dead one week.

Thomas Lo Valiquette, one of the oldest operators in the Western Union Telegraph office in this city, died yesterday of smallpox.

ROCHESTER, (N. Y.), Dec. 31.—Yesterday afternoon fourteen of the women held for illegal voting at the late election gave bail to appear at the Albany Court. Susan B. Anthony refused to furnish bail and was remanded.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—In Stokes' trial to-day, Commodore Vanderbilt testified that Fisk was a reckless man. He had his opinion of him from the start. His knowledge, however, as to Fisk was based on hearsay. Vice-President Devan of Erie county also testified concerning the character of Fisk.

A gas-meter exploded in Powers' Chemical Works, Maiden Lane, this morning, creating excitement, but no serious damage, except smashing all the glass in the building.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 30.—The ice gorge above the city broke at ten o'clock this morning, sinking two steamers and a number of barges and damaging others considerably.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—A Washington dispatch states that Sumner's physicians say his condition is very bad. He has frequent occurrences of acute pain in the region of his heart—a relief of spinal difficulty which has afflicted him for the last fifteen years. Three attacks were very violent and prostrating, but of short duration.

Since it has been established that the salary of the Nicaragua Minister-ship is fixed the applications for that position have increased in a wonderful manner. The names mentioned as applying for the place are two Governors of Territories and several Senators whose terms expire the present session.

The Journal's Washington special says there is no truth in the report that Secretary Boutwell has tendered his resignation. He has written no letter of resignation, but states that he cannot remain in the Cabinet after the 4th of March.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Advice from New Orleans state that the excitement has nearly subsided, the people generally acquiescing. A prominent official here remarks that but for the newspapers it would not be known in Administration quarters that there was any wide-spread dissatisfaction.

The statement that Attorney-General Williams will retire from the Cabinet is groundless.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The Journal's Washington special says an Executive order will probably be issued to-morrow, addressed to the Federal officers in various States warning them not to interfere with Seale matters in any way whatever, but to confine their efforts strictly to the performance of their legitimate duties.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—A fire this morning destroyed a fancy-goods establishment, the broom factory of Wilson, Wood and Co., the boot and shoe factory of Ames & Millard, and an adjoining warehouse. The firemen saved the surrounding buildings with high Massard roofs. The thermometer was fifteen degrees below zero, and water froze wherever it fell.

VICTORIA, Dec. 31.—After January 1st tea and coffee imported from the United States will be subject to ten per cent duty ad valorem.

H. M. S. about sailed at daylight for the Sandwich Islands, and will be followed by the Chamelion on Thursday.