

Correspondence.

[For the Willamette Farmer.]
Destroying Wolves.

I see in your issue of Dec. 7th, a discussion by the Highland Farmers' Club in regard to the killing of wolves. As the speakers nearly all differ in regard to the mode to be adopted, I propose with your consent to give them my experience through the columns of the FARMER.

For three or four years after commencing to keep sheep I was not troubled with anything but dogs. They would break in occasionally and destroy from six to twenty sheep at a time, then from that time on until the spring of 1867, I was troubled with wolves and dogs both until it became such a tax on wool growing, that I had strong thoughts of giving up the business, but finally concluded to try a year or two longer. In the meantime, the coyotes had become so bad that I made a standing offer to any one that would kill a coyote within certain limits, and those limits extended for some miles, that I would give \$25 for every coyote scalp brought to me. In the meantime, I set my wits to work to fix upon some plan by which I could succeed in destroying them. I tried poison for a long time, but do not know that I ever succeeded in killing but one and that was young. I went to the trouble of building me a yard that was dog and wolf proof, about a mile from home, and right where the wolves appeared to range the most, and putting my sheep in it every night and putting poison around a short distance from the yard, but I had no success only to kill some of my neighbors' dogs, although I frequently saw two or three coyotes of a morning when I went to turn my sheep out, but could never get near them when I had a gun, but at other times when about my work, they would come with a few steps of me.

Happening to be in the lane one evening, when an acquaintance of mine was passing with a brother of his that had lately arrived from the States, I mentioned my troubles to them, and the new comer asked me if I could get them to eat any kind of meat if there was no poison in it. I told him I did not know, as I had never tried them. He told me that when I killed a beef, mutton or a hog, to take the offal and stake it down so that the wolves or dogs could not get it away, in some soft soil that was just muddy enough so that I could see by the tracks what ate it, and if the wolves, to let him know and he would bring his traps and learn me how to catch them. I had just killed a beef that day, so I took the head, liver and lights, and went and staked them out on a small branch that runs through my place. I went back next morning to see if the wolves had been about, and to my surprise every vestige of meat was gone and the bones of the head was picked as clean it was possible for it to be done, and there I had been trying to get them to eat meat with poison in it for years. I sent for my friend, and he came with his traps and gave me instructions how to set them. He selected a still place on the branch where it was quite shallow and about six feet wide, and we staked down our bait as near the center of the creek as we could, and set a trap on each side of the bait with a chain and clog to each trap which we buried in the bottom of the creek, that is, we buried the chain and clog, but we set the traps on the mud under the water and I succeeded in getting nine coyotes in less than three weeks, in fact I cleaned them all out for the time being, and did not see one about for several months, when I saw one passing through the country and she continued to pass through occasionally for about eighteen months, and then took up her abode in the same range that the others had formerly occupied, and as soon as she was seen two days in succession in that range, I set my traps, and the first night I caught her which was four years ago,

since which time I have not seen one in the neighborhood.

The worst difficulty to be encountered is when they pass through a neighborhood occasionally and commit depredations and are off, as the bait is probably rotten before they come back. The bait must be staked fast but must be mostly above the water, while every thing connected with the traps must be below the water. The shallow edge of a pond or lake will do equally as well as a branch, and then you can put all your traps between the bait and the shore. If I have not made the above matter plain enough for all to understand, by asking questions through the FARMER, I will endeavor to make it so all can understand.

THOS. SMITH.
Roseburg, Jan. 1, 1873.

Scarcity of Money—Taxes—Bad Laws.

[Continued.]

Look at our school law. A law containing and embodying only evil. Why a Superintendent? His salary, travels, office, &c., will cost, perhaps \$5,000 per annum. What is he for? A thing of a Board. The board is the State and Church. State and Church unite in the law. The Board meets; it says certain books and rules are alone the standard. The sectarians embody and direct that certain books and regulations—throughout the entire land—only shall be used and followed. The Superintendent talks to County Superintendents, these to School Directors, these to teachers, these to the schools, or the children of our whole county. Here is centralization. The education of the youths of our State is under the control of a Board. This Board is Church and State. But more. The law is so framed as to permit the levying of school taxes in the districts to an unlimited extent. Four per cent. has been levied and paid. Is this right?

Further, taxes and representation should go together, but this law ignores that principle. A man owns land in two districts, in one he lives and can vote, in the other he cannot vote; but is yet taxed, and without representation, too. Is this right?

The law is so framed that a parcel of lazy vagabonds, constituting a majority in the district, and having but little property themselves, may levy a heavy tax—they not feeling it themselves, for they have but little to pay—and a few intelligent and wealthy citizens of that district, will have almost the whole school bill to foot. Is this right? My eyes are poor.

A man toils for a quarter of a century and makes a good home, so he may be comfortable in his old days. Under this law, a batch of lazy, drunken, worthless cursers, can in a few years steal this under the form of law—man's little all, his beautiful home.

Men talk about the public good of public schools; of free schools. There are no such things as free schools. Somebody has the bill to pay.

That public schools judiciously managed are a blessing, is clear. That all are interested in the public good is also clear. But this school law is one of unmixed evil in all its bearings.

Bad as this law is, it would be useless for any one to appeal to the Courts; for, the Courts, the civil power, and the ecclesiastical power, are all one—as "the powers that be," are the Courts, and "she understands herself; or, she thinks she do." "Procul, O procul este, profani."

Where is the necessity of such heavy taxes "to keep up our government." If a government costs more than it comes to, why have one? That governments are, economically managed, the main movers in civilization is clear. Any government is better than anarchy. But in this country we need never fear anarchy. Because a government is necessary, it does not signify it should be oppressive. Our taxes are certainly very oppressive. This is no complaint, but a fact.

Jails, Penitentiaries, Asylums, "Locks and Dam swindles," Court Houses, roads, bridges, and other public works may be necessary, and might do if we had a population of 400,000, or 500,000. But for a people like us to attempt to keep up with the age by making a great show, and

going beyond our means, is like trying to turn over old Hood. Too big a job; no wonder we are "scampered."

Bad legislation, improvident expenditure of the public money; attempting to do too much; want of a home market; want of home manufactures; combinations and monopolies, all, have done the work and brought on these heavy—enormous taxes.

I am an old citizen, have been here near thirty years, and expect to lay my bones here. My children are here. I am a permanent and landed citizen; and certainly—if anybody does—feel a deep interest in the prosperity, honor, and glory of our native magnificent country.

What are the results of such heavy taxes? Some of them are these: Property must depreciate, emigration here will be very limited, because no one desires to own property which is unprofitable by reason of high taxes. It is even now exceedingly difficult to sell property.

In many instances, men who laid by in times past, a little money, have had to use it to pay taxes on property which would not realize the taxes on it now. We need a population; but who will come here in such a state of affairs? Very few. Why cripple the energy of a noble people? Why stunt us in our growth as a young State? We are far worse off than when a Territory. The natural progress of things has been great it is true; but not increasing with increasing taxes. We voted down the proposition to become a State twice. We hated taxes and oppression; having left the heavily taxed Western States to be free from the galling yoke of heavy State, city, county, and school taxes. But even after we became a State—which was through the wiles of politicians and office seekers—we paid our taxes freely, because they were then reasonable. I often went to the Sheriff to pay my taxes before his list was made out. How now? Are our taxes reasonable? And they have a decided upward tendency. Upward and onward.

Farmers' Organizations.

ED. FARMER: In talking up the question of a farmers' organization for shipping purposes we have hardly met with a single farmer but that is in favor of some efficient plan of organization for the above purpose.

In our recent call meeting at Salem, it was concluded by the few farmers then present that the object was a good one, and that we ought not to give it up, but renew the call and if possible effect the grand object contemplated. I have therefore concluded to issue a call for the farmers of the country, and especially the raisers of wheat, to meet at the Court House in Salem, Saturday, Jan. 25, at 10 o'clock, and if possible mature a plan of organization by which we may be able to extricate ourselves from the ruinous state of things forced upon us by the unprincipled combinations at work. I am well aware that it is hardly legitimate business for a farmer to turn shipper, but it is legitimate for him to live at his calling, and when a gang of unprincipled men combine together to force the market price of his produce down to ruinous rates, so that he cannot live at his calling—it is time then for him to do something else or adopt some plan to break the spell. And I tell you seriously fellow farmers, we have got this to do sooner or later, or give up our calling.

Just now the price of wheat is advancing, and farmers who have held their wheat are enjoying a pleasant anticipation of the return of paying prices. But this may all be an illusion—like a ray of sunshine after a fearful tempest; but it may cloud up again ere another harvest and our horizon be darker than ever, and if so, we will be illly prepared to weather the breakers unless we right up our shattered craft and pull together like men till we reach the sunshine of paying prices.

It may be well enough here to state that we do not contemplate an organization for the purpose of shipping our present crop. Farmers move slow in such things, and it will of necessity take some time to organize, and we should therefore begin now, and if possible be in readiness for the next crop.

We want precinct organizations in every precinct in a county, and want representative men from every precinct to meet in county convention at least once a year, and there after discussing questions of general inter-

est, adopting laws, &c., for the organization, elect by ballot a County Board to consist of about five of the shrewdest and best farmers of the county, one of whom should be president of the county board, another treasurer and a third corresponding secretary, etc. And I would have all the county boards meet in State convention at least once a year, and there, after discussing questions of interest to the organization and the adoption of a general plan of operations, choose a State board, to consist of five of the shrewdest and best farmers we can muster in the State, one of whom should be president, one vice president, two secretaries, one of whom should keep the accounts of the organization and the other attend to the correspondence, and also a treasurer. The business of the State board should be to thoroughly post themselves on the condition, present and prospective, of the various markets of the world, as well as the statistics of our own surplus crop and the amount of tonnage necessary to export it to the place they shall decide that it shall go. They should also have the power to choose financial or commercial agents, to charter vessels, to superintend the loading of cargoes, the sales, and faithful transmission of the funds thereof to the State board.

I would also adopt some plan to relieve the poorer and hard pressed farmers of the country, who perhaps are victims of the credit system and are forced to sell immediately after harvest. You know that it is the custom of wheat dealers to force the markets down, even to ruinous rates, then, if they want more wheat, they will raise to paying prices to draw the wheat from such as are able to hold their wheat against unreasonably low prices.

We not only ought, but we must do something to relieve this class of farmers. It is by far the greatest evil we have to contend with, it has a very deleterious effect upon farm life, and is doing the best of us far more damage than we are aware of, and if we wish to dignify our occupation so that it may rank before the civilized world according to its importance, we must remedy this matter. So you may as well think of it and of other matters herein suggested, and if you can hit upon better plans, let us have them by January 25th.

Remember that there is \$1.30 due you on every bushel of wheat you have to spare over and above sacking, transportation, insurance, and commission, at present Liverpool prices, provided you did your own shipping. More hereafter.

WM. RUBLE.
Polk County, Jan. 6, 1873.

EDUCATION.

An Address read before the Rock Point Farmers' Club, by GEO. ASHBY.

Education is the subject on which I would offer a few thoughts. "Tis education forms the common mind," is an old adage, and a true one. So, consequently, not only the refined and highly cultivated, book-polished minds have the privilege of expressing his or her thoughts upon so important a subject as education, but the common mind, the common man, or the common woman, such as we all may claim to represent that are here to-day, may give expression to our views as well as others. And now, in justification to myself, allow me to say that it is for want or feeling the need of a liberal education that brings me to the appreciation of its worth. The casual observer can not fail to notice the contrast between the educated mind and that of the uneducated. No matter how much native power or gigantic intellect the individual may possess, if there is not brought to its help that cultivation called education, it is but little less than a cipher in the world, so far as making a mark among men and things. Native talent may be compared to the gold in quartz. You may behold its glistening particles, but it must go through the mill and the mint before its real value is ascertained. So the mind must go through the mill of education in order to real success in the world.

We should notice the word education in its broadest sense; not simply the instruction of children—for we all live to learn. And now allow me to congratulate this Society on the fact that the time has passed by when it was thought necessary only to give learning to the professional class—to the child you would have

to be a lawyer, a doctor, a banker, or a merchant—if you had one very good, but not very bright, son, you would school him for a preacher. But the one for a farmer or a mechanic it was not good economy to educate. But now (thank fortune) the American watchword is, "Educate the masses." With such a motto, and such legislation as shall secure at least a common school education to every one, rich or poor, high or low, we may rest assured in the hope that we shall as a people stand, under the kind hand of Providence, as a beacon-light in the world. But, again, it might be said there were two kinds of education—one theoretical, the other practical. And it applies to all classes. 'Tis true, one may exist without the other to some extent, more or less. But, in order to real success in the world, we should obtain both, because one is the alphabet of the other. Take, for instance, if you please, the doctor: there was a time in his history when he was perfectly familiar with the science of medicine, and with honor to himself as a graduate from some medical college, could tell you from theory of its power or effect on the human system, and had a correct knowledge of the composition of the human body, could give in detail the number of bones in the human frame, or could with ease delineate the many blood-vessels or arteries found therein, so much so that he was justly entitled to M. D. Then he was theoretically educated. But, to complete his profession, he must acquire a knowledge by practice; he must visit the sick, and administer the medicine, and watch its effect, judging by symptoms, and he himself hearing the groans or complaints of the sick room, and thus test his skill by his practice, before we called him doctor or practitioner. So with the cadet or the military student: he is not the general or soldier and warrior simply because he understands the tactics of war; but he must enter the battle-field and smell the powder or wield the glittering sword, before his education is complete. Likewise with the banker: his knowing how to keep books is not sufficient, but he must have practice behind the counter in some banking house, before he can be trusted to do business in that line. So we may say of the lawyer: his correct knowledge of law does not constitute him a lawyer, but he must be admitted to practice at the bar before a court of justice. And now what is applicable to the professional class, is also to the laboring class, the mechanic, and the farmer, upon whom depends the prosperity of all classes; they should be such practically; but in order to success, theory and practice must go hand in hand. A farmer ought to know the philosophy or principle upon which every farming implement works, and also the condition of the soil, and judge the quality of seed, yet with all this knowledge meet with poor success for want of that knowledge gained by practice. A city man in the East went on a farm; he had the theory, and thought it sufficient; took farming tools, his stock, and two agricultural papers. His stock yard laid on the river side (the river fenced one side); in trying to drive a calf in the yard, it being contrary, he caught it by the tail; the calf took fright and ran around until at last it took for the river, the man hanging on, the calf jumped down the bank, man and all, the man got hung by his suspenders, but the calf swam across the river and was never heard of, and the gentleman sold all out and went back to the city, just as you might expect.

And now to the ladies of this Society who have the schooling of young ladies: It is commendable that our girls should not only have thorough book-learning, even equal to that of the other sex, but also a practical learning, such as can be obtained by doing all kinds of work belonging to housekeeping, kitchen work as well as in the parlor. And then we will have practical women as well as practical men. If, forsooth, a young man is on the marry, he wants a practical housekeeper, or if a woman is on the marry she will choose a practical farmer, or doctor, or practical lawyer or merchant. A woman is not set in the parlor like a piece of furniture, neither is a man to be all theory and no practice.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY.—We copy the following from the Bulletin:

Another effort, we learn, will be made to obtain funds to erect a new building for Pacific University at Forest Grove. This is a much needed enterprise, and should receive assistance. The endowment of Pacific University now amounts to about \$100,000, but this is not available for buildings. No other institution in the State is endowed so well, and none has better claims upon the general public.

At Siski on November 30th was the annual city election, and at which the Hon. Geo. A. Edes, Collector of Customs, was elected Mayor.