



Salem, Saturday, Jan. 11.

#### REMOVAL.

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

**SUPREME COURT.**—The Supreme Court of Oregon met at Salem, pursuant to adjournment on Thursday, Jan. 6th. All the Judges were present.

**RETURNED.**—Mr. F. G. Schwab, Grand Representative from Oregon to the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., of the United States, returned to his home in Salem by last steamer.

**NURSERY.**—Read the advertisement of G. W. Walling & Co., Oswego, Oregon. They are still in the field, and have the choicest varieties of fruit trees and shrubbery. Send for a catalogue.

**STEAM PLOW.**—R. R. Thompson, Esq., of Portland, has sent to England for steam plowing machinery, to be used on his farm in Yamhill county. The machinery and apparatus will cost in England about \$12,000.

**PERSONAL.**—Hon. A. J. Dufur, one of the two U. S. Centennial Commissioners for Oregon, was in town this week and gave us a call. Mr. Dufur has just returned from Philadelphia, where he has been attending a session of the Commission.

**GETTING READY.**—Mr. Myers is making preparations to start machinery in the Agricultural Works. The tag factory of L. Cheesbrough is moved into the building, and we learn that Messrs. Cooke & Dennis will soon move into their sash, blind, and door factory.

**DEATH OF NAPOLEON III.**—Ex-Emperor Napoleon III., who has been suffering for years from stone in the bladder, lately had an operation performed upon him for relief, but it was of no avail, and on Jan. 9th he expired, in the 65th year of his age. He died at Chislehurst, England.

**LIAN COUNTY.**—The farmers of Lian county are moving in the matter of forming clubs, and several are being organized in the county. On the 27th, a farmers' club was organized at Cowan's School House, of which Martin Luper was elected president, James Finlayson, vice president, and Alfred Wheeler secretary. We will publish the proceedings in next issue.

**STATE CAPITOL.**—The Legislature adjourned, as is well known, without electing Capitol Commissioners, and it has since been a question whether the Governor has the power to appoint them. On this question, the *Bulletin* says:

The weight of opinion seems to be that the Governor has the power. Discarding all party feeling in a matter which concerns the whole state, as this matter does, we trust the Governor will go forward and make the appointments and let the work on the Capitol commence. The erection of this building is demanded by many considerations, and no great length of time should be allowed to lapse till it is begun.

**LIBERAL.**—The Oregon Steamship Company has generously removed the charge of 50 cents per ton drayage at Portland on all produce shipped down the river on their boats, but as a compensation has advanced the rate of freight one dollar per ton between Portland and San Francisco.

The following gentlemen were last Friday elected Directors of Lian county Agricultural Association, for 1873: Jason Wheeler, S. Montgomery, M. Luper, D. Froman, N. Price, J. Z. Crouse and C. P. Burkhardt.

**DIED.**—Near Vancouver, W. T., Jan. 8th, Seneca Knight, aged thirty-four years. Deceased was a brother of Rev. P. S. Knight, of this city, and was favorably known in his community.

**APPOINTED.**—John Minto, jr., has been appointed special policeman in Salem.

#### Our Future Trade.

The question often arises in a thoughtful mind, where is to be the chief market of this country in the future? Every one sees that when the producing and manufacturing resources of "this coast," as we call the great western slope, are fully developed, we will need a foreign market of considerable magnitude to consume our surplus. We will need to establish with some part of the world a regular system of commercial interchange, in order that those articles which we can produce in superabundance may be made to purchase for us those necessities or luxuries of life which we cannot produce.

We think any one who looks at the map of the world will recognize the absurdity of supposing that Europe is to be our chief market.

It is understood by almost every one that for slow freights sailing vessels are still, and no doubt always are to be, the main stay of commerce. With all our continental railways it will not pay to ship grain to Europe that way. It must be taken from our own ports in sail vessels. Now look what a route a sail vessel must take to go from the mouth of the Columbia to Liverpool! Even that neck of land called the Isthmus is too wide for a sailing vessel to jump over. Away to the south, so far that the friendly north star no longer serves them as a guide, the mariners must steer their craft till the cape is rounded, then back again against storms and buffeting head winds to a full degree north of their starting point, twenty thousand miles, and more. And then look at the map of England. What a little speck it is. It cannot be that all the surplus bread of Oregon and California in the coming years is to find consumers in that little island. As to manufactured articles England has no need. She has a growing surplus of nearly every thing but bread. And many other regions on the continent of Europe, produce a surplus even of bread. France produced a surplus last year.

So we see many reasons for believing that the Liverpool prices will not always rule our grain market. Where do we look next? How natural that we cast our eyes towards the setting sun. What a straight, broad, clear highway from here to Japan and China and the Indies. These countries are nearer to us than Europe, they are more populous, they are more wealthy. Forty millions of people in the little Empire of Japan, more than three hundred millions in China, one-third of the human race, with only the smooth Pacific between us and them.

And how suggestive have been some of the movements of those nations in the past few years. With all our boasted progress and achievements, we as a nation have done nothing in the past ten years to compare with what Japan has done, in reforming evils, changing modes of government, and providing for popular education.

In this connection consider the fact that the Japanese are fast adopting the American and European modes of dress. This may seem to be an item of little moment, yet it has a bearing on the question we are discussing. Suppose that forty millions of people in twenty years from now should all dress as we do. Is it probable that they would produce within themselves, as they have for a thousand years, all their articles of clothing? If instead of their wooden clogs and straw slippers they should adopt the American style of boots and shoes, what an increase would there be in the leather trade, what a market for the hides of the cattle on a thousand hills! If their ladies, in addition to being as particular as ours about following the fashions, should be as fickle in changing them, who can estimate the amount of hoarded wealth that even such a change would throw into the channels of commerce? And these changes are not only possible, but probable. They are indeed already

initiated. There are now seven hundred Japanese students in the various colleges of this country. In ten years they will mostly return to their own country to fill various important positions. They will have our language and customs, and will be more or less imbued with our spirit and principles. They will not only be a leaven of change in their own country, but will do much to create a sympathy for us and prepare the way for our commerce into those hitherto secluded regions.

In addition to all this, it is more than probable that the people of Japan and China will become to some extent a bread eating people. If instead of sending a constant stream of gold to China to be hoarded and as good as lost, we can pay for our teas and rice and silks by a mutual interchange of the necessities of life, very much will be gained. But if in addition to this the hoarded wealth of twelve centuries that lies buried in the flowery kingdom should be unlocked and sent drifting over the seas, who can tell what a stimulus would be given to trade and what streams of wealth would pour upon our shores?

And we do not believe that he who thinks such thoughts as these is wildly dreaming. Our national position leads us thus to look to the west whenever we think of our probable future, and the present condition of things in the empires named removes these reflections from the realm of fancy.

We are looking at facts, and we want all who read to do the same. One thought strikes us stronger and stirs us deeper every day: We cannot hope much longer to prosper as a people if we are to have no other article to export but wheat, and no other market than that of Europe.

We confess that we can see but little use of our becoming a great producing and exporting people, if all our exports must go to the north of us by way of the south pole.

But we look hopefully towards the west, and greet those nations whose almond eyes gaze inquiringly at us across the blue Pacific. The rays of the setting sun are yellow as gold. Omens are they of the wealth that shall flow to us when the ships of our future commerce go and come through the gates of the evening.

#### HIGHLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

Club met at Henry Allen's, Saturday, Jan. 4, 1873. Vice President B. A. Leonard in the chair; present, 15 members; four farmers joined the Club. Officers elected for the ensuing year, are: R. C. Geer, president; K. L. Hibbard and L. F. Mascher, vice presidents; T. W. Davenport, secretary; B. A. Leonard, treasurer.

Mr. Geer, chairman of the committee on market reports, read an article from the *Oregonian* to prove what he had frequently stated, viz: that that paper was in the interest of the Portland merchants instead of the farming community.

The question for discussion being, "Resolved, That raising grain for market is not the best policy for farmers in the highland district," considerable time was spent in sparring over the unfortunate statement of the question, which was intended to embody the issue as to whether the highland farmers in this district should depend in the main on grain-raising or stock-raising for a living. The Secretary proposes to omit all criticisms upon the question and attend to giving the important points as far as practicable.

Mr. R. C. Geer said this question is being discussed in various parts of the State, an evidence that the people are beginning to wake up to their real interests. We have here a fine soil and most favorable climate for the production of wheat and oats, and for the last twenty-five years we have been continually cultivating those grains for shipment and sale, until now the yield per acre, with the same amount of labor and time, is reduced to about half what it was in the first settlement of the State. Crop after crop of wheat and oats has given us a multitude of noxious

weeds, an exhausted soil, and is destructive for other reasons. With the remark that we ought to depend on a more diversified industry, or what is called mixed husbandry, he proposed to listen to the remarks of his neighbors.

Mr. Warren Cranston criticized the statement of the question at considerable length, and maintained that we should raise wheat for sale. He is one of the principal dairymen of the State, and, making use of his cows to crop the weeds from the summer fallow, every second year he raises a good crop of wheat for sale. He did not propose to sell wheat until the price would justify. Fifty cents or sixty cents will not pay, but whenever he could get one dollar or near it he would let it go, he did not care where. Some said feed it to hogs, but this is not a safe business, as wheat is seldom low enough to justify it. If wheat could be obtained for fifty cents a bushel generally, then it might do. In fact, his rule is to feed it to stock when the price is low. If the question were to raise grain exclusively for shipment, he would take the other side.

Mr. Geer asked Mr. Cranston if he did not get his wheat ground and feed the bran and shorts to his cows, which interrogatory Mr. C. answered in the affirmative; whereupon Mr. Geer claimed that that is the very thing he was contending for, only Mr. C. did not feed all the wheat, but a part of it. He was sure Mr. Cranston had about the same views as himself, but they were separated by the bungling statement of the question.

Mr. K. L. Hibbard was opposed to raising grain, as a principal business, to sell in the bushel, for the reason that when we do that we cannot keep stock, and not being able to store our grain for a rise in the market, must almost always be at the mercy of the merchants or speculators. As for himself, he did not propose to raise grain for sale in the bushel, as he had generally succeeded in getting a dollar per bushel for his wheat by feeding it to hogs, and he had the manure besides, a little something to be returned to the soil. A hog that will neat 200 lbs. when fat, can be bought nearly every fall for \$3, and after feeding him eight bushels of wheat, can be sold for \$12, which will allow \$1 per bushel for the grain and one dollar for each head for the expense of feeding, &c. He had the evidence of other farmers to the same effect, and L. Griffith was feeding to cattle, wheat raised the previous season, 1500 bushels, which would bring him about \$1 per bushel.

Mr. Henry Allen believed in mixed husbandry, and in turning every thing into that which would pay the best. Raise grain to sell, but not at a price below that which will give the farmer a fair remuneration for his labor. Never sell for fifty cents a bushel, for that is the severest cost of production, and any farmer following it is sure to become bankrupt. Keep it or feed it, but never sell at such a ruinous figure. "We are told that our wheat crop is the bank of the State, which I believe, but I do not believe in selling it for just what the speculators and millers are inclined to offer for it." He thought Mr. Hibbard had rather overstated the profits of the hog business, and whenever he buys a hog that will neat 200 lbs. after eating eight bushels of wheat, he is getting him for less than the true value. That is not producing, but speculating. He is then a middleman. Hold grain for a fair price, even if you get no more than legal interest on the money, but keep it in your own granary.—Whenever you store in the merchants' mills the speculators have got you, for when the millers have all the wheat they will be the last people in the world to raise the price.

Mr. Allen Simpson had, long since, come to the conclusion that it is not best for the hill farmers in this district to depend, for a living, upon raising grain to sell in the bushel, for when we do that the merchants and the millers have us at their mercy. Every farmer ought to be in such a condition as to be able to choose be-

tween feeding or selling, and in order to do this he must be a stock-raiser. Sometimes it will pay best to feed grain to sheep, sometimes to hogs, and sometimes to cattle, occasionally to poultry.

Mr. Geo. W. Shell said "what will pay in other parts of the world will pay here." Up the valley he saw a man with a large band of hogs, and he kept the same number yearly.—His plan is to feed his grain to hogs; as soon as they eat up one field they are turned into another, so that but little of his grain is required to be cut and threshed. He says some grain is wasted, but not enough to bring his receipts below one dollar per bushel, and then a very important consideration is that the land is enriched by the crop of straw and the excrements of the swine. In Alesia, the farmers are in better circumstances than we are, and they do not, cannot, ship any grain—it is all fed to stock. The Alesia farmers think they realize about a dollar per bushel for their wheat. Mr. Shell, being an old and experienced miller, counseled the farmers not to put their grain in the mills to store; when it is put in there, you may as well take the money for it, for when they have your wheat in store they can control the price as well as if they owned it.

Mr. B. A. Leonard had not raised much wheat for sale, but had fed his grain to stock. His figuring had always been in favor of the hog, and he could get more for his wheat in the shape of pork than to sell in the bushel. He had practiced turning hogs into the standing grain, and while they waste some, there is no cost for cutting and threshing, and the scattered grain produces fine fall feed for cattle or sheep, besides it is the best way he knows of for enriching the soil.

The Secretary said it is claimed by many farmers and all the newspapers that we must rely in the main upon our wheat crop for shipping, to supply ourselves with imported articles from Europe, Asia, and all the rest of the world, that from it we are to make good the balance of trade; they call it our bank, and try to stimulate production, so that the bank may be full, and I suppose they would call this good advice. If something, and particularly wheat, could be made from nothing or drawn entirely from the air, or if our soil were inexhaustible, there might be some sense in raising grain continually without making some return to the soil. Franklin printed a maxim in Poor Richard's Almanac, which was intended for general application, but the newspaper men do not seem to understand it so. "Always taking out of the meal-tub and never putting in, soon comes to the bottom," with them, only applies to the meal-tub in their pantry. Our farms are real meal-tubs, and for the last twenty years we have been taking out and never putting in, and yet many people wonder why we do not get our dippers as full as at first. From 25 to 40 bushels per acre yearly, then; from 10 to 25 bushels per acre bi-yearly, now. Suppose we continue this remorseless stealing from the soil for another score of years, how far, do you think, we shall be from the bottom of the meal tub? Of course, those who expect or intend to emigrate as soon as they have exhausted the soil, will care little for the future, but those of us who expect to make Oregon our permanent abiding place and bequeath the soil to our posterity, will look with abhorrence upon such a foolish and suicidal system of agriculture. Truly scientific agriculture improves the soil and increases the yield per acre, as it has in New and Old England; unscientific and thoughtless agriculture wears out the soil and emigrates to a new field. The latter might do if there were another New America just out in the Pacific Ocean or limitless new fields in any other direction, but Americans may as well come to the conclusion that they are about done emigrating, and try to do the best with what they have. The Indians construct their wigwams on a piece of ground and remain there until the soil becomes too rich with excrements to be agreeable to their olfactory, when they pull up stakes and move to a new and pure place, and so on around the country. In time the whole of the American continent became very rich, and thus you see how fortunate and providential that the aborigines preceded us. If we go on impoverishing and moving, it will be necessary to ropeople the continent with Indians, and thus establish the cycle for another Columbus. As a practical question, I say it is absurd to carry production to that point where the supply exceeds the demand to a considerable extent. There must always be less unless there can be a diversion or a change, and what the interest of the Oregon farmer demands is that he shall be in that condition where he