



Salem, Saturday, Feb. 15.

APOLOGY.—Our desire to give the proceedings of the Board of Managers of the State Agricultural Society, and as much of the premium list as possible, in this issue, constrains us to leave out many matters of interest, both editorial and communicated.

MEDICAL SOCIETY.—A call has been published for the second annual meeting of the Third Judicial District, at Reed's Opera House, on Tuesday, March 4, at 10 a. m.

FARMERS' CLUBS.—William Wells writes to us from Buena Vista that the farmers of that section were going to meet on the 15th inst. to form a club. Willis Starr, of Dayton, Yamhill county, sends us word that the farmers of his neighborhood were also about organizing a club. Speed the good work.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Allan Cameron, of New Zealand, arrived in Salem this week, and made us a call. Mr. Cameron came from California by last steamer, where he has been for the last six months, and comes here to learn something concerning this valley as a place for introducing fine blooded sheep. We hope Mr. C. will be pleased with Oregon, and conclude to make it his home. His family are at present in San Francisco.

CONCERT.—On Friday evening of last week a concert was given at Reed's Opera House by the Salem Musical Society, under the direction of Mr. D. W. Prentice. There were at least sixty voices in the chorus, and the rendering of the different pieces was excellent, and proved the skill and musical taste of Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, under whose direction the singers were trained. The solos, duets, and quartets were also well rendered, showing decided culture in the pupils. Want of space prevents our giving a more extended notice of the concert, but we are pleased to state that the large hall was well filled with an intelligent and appreciative audience.

WOLF CLUB.

Notice to Sheep Raisers and Others.

ED. FARMER: By request of interested parties, I wish through the columns of the *Farmer*, to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Club or making a united effort to destroy wolves in this part of the country, and such other matters of interest to this community as the meeting may think proper.

The proposed boundary being about as follows, to-wit: The West half of Township 8 South, Range 2 West, and the East half of Township 8 South, Range 3 West; but if persons outside of this boundary wish to unite with us, we will be glad to have their aid and co-operation.

Meeting to be held at the residence of the subscriber at 2 o'clock p. m. on Thursday, Feb. 20th.

DAN L. CLARK.
Pleasant Point, Feb. 10, 1873.

ARRESTED.—The man Cox, Hasbrook's hired man, who was suspected of the murder of Hasbrook, in Yamhill county, has had a preliminary examination and been sent to jail. He was not allowed to give bail. The story he told of the two men is entirely discredited, and there is said to be strong circumstantial evidence against him.

NOTICE.—The farmers of Salem Hills and vicinity are invited to attend a meeting at the Pringle schoolhouse on Friday, Feb. 21st, at 1 o'clock p. m., in order to form a farmers' club.

MANY FARMERS.

A NOBLE STOCK COW.—A four year old cow, belonging to G. F. Simpson, Linn county, is the mother of four heifer calves, having had two at two years old, and two at four years old.

A REPUBLIC.—The King of Spain has abdicated, and gone back to Italy, and a republic has been proclaimed by the Cortes.

Warehouses at Astoria.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The question now agitated, and to be settled, is, how shall the producer get his products to market with the least waste and expense? In a former communication, I called the attention of the farmer to the great expense and reckless waste in getting his surplus wheat on board ship for a foreign market; and I intend now to make some suggestions relative to it, and the remedy.

It is evident to every beholder, that the present waste of wheat, in getting it on shipboard, is more than sufficient to defray all expenses, if properly and economically done.—Now, for the best and most saving way for the producer. Before the completion of that great work at the Willamette falls, it was a matter of necessity that wheat be shipped in sacks, and be handled over four times before it was on shipboard; now the way seems to be opened for business to be transacted in a different way, and for the great benefit of the farmer. Now to the point: let there be wharves constructed at Astoria, and warehouses of sufficient capacity to store all the wheat in transit, raised in the Willamette valley; with elevators to load and unload. Let this be done by capital in the valley, in the interests of the farmers, and not of speculators; then with small and not expensive warehouses along the Willamette river, the wheat can be placed on board a steamer, or suitable barges, under the inspection of the farmer's agent, and from thence transferred to the depot at Astoria, without waste, and at small expense compared with the present mode of transportation. The holders of real estate at Astoria look with favor on such an arrangement, and are ready to furnish all the ground necessary (I speak advisedly) for such wharves and warehouses at almost any point, between Tongue Point and Smith's Point, which includes the harbor. Wheat placed in store at Astoria is sure cash to the producer, for Oregon wheat holds the preference in the foreign markets, and if placed where vessels of heavy tonnage can reach it, there will be no difficulty in making sales.

I am glad, and rejoice, that the people are beginning to anticipate the advantages of a foreign trade, and show a disposition to break off the commercial fetters that have for a quarter of a century bound Oregon to San Francisco, and which has robbed her of one-half of all her agricultural profits. This need not be, if we but rightly understand the advantages which the God of nature has given us. The great "River of the West," with its thousand miles of navigable waters, draining a country whose agricultural capacities are sufficient to sustain an empire, having at its mouth, a safe and convenient harbor for ships of almost any tonnage; with such advantages, is Oregon in the future to pay millions of money to that proud metropolis, instead of bringing her trade within her own boundaries? We shall see!

I have made this article sufficiently long—sometime in the future, I will show if I can, our great mistake, commercially.

O. S.
Astoria, Feb. 5, 1873.

Farmers' Club in Yamhill.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

During the past two years a few farmers in this part of Yamhill county, have made several attempts to organize a farmers' club, and as often they have failed. But, notwithstanding these repeated failures, some two or three of our farmers (among whom Mr. John Laughlin has been by far the most efficient) have persisted in not giving it up, and last Saturday a good number of our best and most enterprising farmers were induced to meet at the North Yamhill Academy, and effected a temporary organization. All present seemed to realize the great importance of such a movement, each one expressing the opinion that a farmers' club could be made very pleasant as well as beneficial to any agricultural community. There is evidently springing up in

this part of our country a feeling, or rather a realization, of the situation of the agricultural interests of the country, and many are now disposed to act, and take some steps towards self-protection, this being I believe understood to be one among the important objects of the organization of farmers' clubs.

It is due to say that the *Willamette Farmer* has had much to do towards inspiring the farmers of this community with this feeling and inciting them to action, and that too with only a limited circulation here. The benefits to be derived from a good, reliable farmers' organ are certainly very great, as well to the individual interest of the farmers, as to the great agricultural interest of the country, and could every farmer in this valley and in all Oregon, be induced to take and read the *Farmer*, there would undoubtedly be a mighty waking up of the people, not only of farmers, but of merchants, tradesmen, and shippers, and even mechanics and the professions generally, for there is no doubt of the fact, that were the farmers of Oregon to be brought to a full realization of their present situation as compared with each of the other professions of the country, they would rise in their might and show to the world that they are really and in fact the "bone and sinew of the country." The farmers, I believe, conceded by all other classes and professions to be the might and strength of the country, and often do we hear pronounced great eulogies on the farmer and his occupation. But all this comes with a very poor grace, since it is a notable fact that those very persons and professions that are the loudest in their praise of the farmers are the most zealous in their labors and efforts to bind their hands, and force them to submit to become profitable only to a set of speculators, who care nothing for the welfare of people or country, only so far as either can be used to make his own speculation successful.

But, I started out to give an account of our farmers' club, and have evidently got somewhat off of the subject. I will return and give only a short minute of the proceedings of the meeting. The house being called to order, Mr. John Perkins was called to the chair as temporary chairman, and D. C. Stewart chosen secretary pro tem.

A. D. Rannels, John Laughlin, and D. C. Stewart, were appointed by the chairman to draft a Constitution preparatory to permanent organization. After some discussion on different subjects, participated in by Messrs. John Laughlin, Perkins, Grazer, Davis, Powell, Sparks, and others, it was suggested that we select a question for discussion at our next meeting. The following was agreed upon: "The propriety and practicability of general organization of the farmers of Oregon for the protection of their interests."

Adjourned to meet at North Yamhill, on Saturday, February 15. Six new subscribers for the *Farmer* were secured out of the attendants of this meeting.

D. C. STEWART.
North Yamhill, Feb. 10, 1873.

NOTICE.

The farmers of Linn county are hereby notified that there will be a County Convention held at Albany on Saturday, March 8, 1873, at 10 o'clock, a. m. for the purpose of a general organization for their mutual protection, taking into consideration the best feasible plans for building local warehouses; also the construction of a large warehouse at Astoria; and to devise ways and means for building said warehouses; also to form a copartnership or an incorporated company.

It will be necessary that we have a good representation; and in order that we have it, it will be highly expedient that each Club appoint a committee of three or more to attend this convention. And, furthermore, we earnestly recommend the early organization of Clubs in every district and community in this Valley, that they may send their delegations to this convention. We, as a Club of farmers, feeling deeply interested for the cause in which we are engaged, extend our call and invitation, and earnestly desire that adjacent counties send up their delegates to the Linn County call, so there may be a full hearing and thorough investigation of the contemplated plans and arrangement.

It has been said that farmers were not a united people, neither could be; but if these gain sayers were to visit this part of the moral vineyard, they would be constrained to say, "United they stand, and still wind their way upward."

By order of the Club, McFarland School House, District No. 25.
G. F. SIMPSON, Sec'y.
Feb. 10, 1873.

LETTER FROM PORTLAND.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12, 1873.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

It seems to me that nothing could better illustrate the history of the human race struggling slowly onward and upward, seeking for light under a dense fog, and trying to eliminate the false from the real from a mass of ideas floating in space, than have some of the late efforts of agriculturists to discover a remedy for their present sufferings. I read your last paper carefully, and laid it down almost discouraged in attempting to lift the masses out of the quagmires into which they are continually plunging, until the people are thoroughly educated. I mean no "shallow draughts at the Pierian spring," no common-school "larnin," but a thorough university course, that will so discipline a man's mind that he can now and then see an issue, see it clearly in all its outlines, in spite of all the irrelevant trash that interested parties and weak minds may throw around it. I have no disposition to tread on the corns of a venerable divinity, or do violence to the feelings of a single hopeful "mother in Israel," but, for myself, I have about lost all faith in a millennium, short of the period when every mother's son of Adam shall know all of science that can be learned in this world. Till that day, the jaws of monopolies, the iron hoof of demagoguery, and the slow-grinding "mills of the gods," will masticate, trample on, and grind into powder enough voluntary victims to make the jaws, the hoofs, and the mills paying institutions to those who own stock in them.

But then I am encouraged by the fact that the farmers have become sensible that something is wrong financially, and that this conviction is causing them to hold meetings and investigate. It is too much to expect that all of them will at once see the best way out of their difficulties, if indeed they should discover in just what their difficulties consist. By a careful examination, a part of them may discover the real state of the case, though even some of their leaders may miss the mark entirely, and go off half cocked, in mixing fact and fancy in an inexplicable jumble of prose and "poetry." The fact that stares us in the face is that there is now a financial crisis upon us. Money is scarce, farmers are hard pressed, and most of them can truthfully say, "He that steals my purse, steals trash." The thing to be looked after is a remedy—a remedy for the farmer, a remedy for the people,—not for merchants and traders particularly, nor for steamboat companies, nor for millers, nor, as James Finlayson seems to think, a remedy for Ben Holladay. If merchants, traders, and transportation companies cannot get rich without sucking the life-blood from the veins of the farmers, they ought to content themselves for the present with more moderate incomes. The question among farmers is simply one of self-defense, not of how much they are willing to be fleeced to pay a debt of gratitude they owe men who built mills, steamboats, or railroads, or started stores in their neighborhoods. The question would be different if capitalists made investments out of benevolence, instead of a design on the farmer's twenty-dollar pieces.—Now, the man who clearly understands the real issue before the farmers, will be amused to see the view taken of it by Mr. James Finlayson, in his "essay" read before the Linn County Farmers' Club, January 25th.

Yes, Mr. President, when the first engine with passenger cars came to the city of Albany, you remember how many of us assembled at Albany to praise and welcome Ben Holladay for what he had done for us and for this valley in general. I am astonished that there is a single farmer in this valley who would prefer the removal of this railroad from us, and go back to that old river monopoly.

One would here naturally suppose that the question before the farmers now is how much "praise and welcome" and patronage shall be given to the president of the railroad to prevent the "removal" of it. I first

thought friend Finlayson was joking when he held up his scarecrow of the great danger farmers were in of having the railroad "removed."—But on reading along down I find he is in "yearnest," so much so that he breaks out, and gives vent to his feelings in "poetry":

"Now, farmers, take care, and be wise. Suppose all would ship by the river. And Ben move the railroad away. The farmers would soon be astonished."

We rather think they would be, more "astonished" than were the Philistines when they saw Sampson carrying off the gates of Gaza. Luther rejected the Epistle of James as spurious, because James made too much of works, and not enough of faith. The epistle of our Albany James, from which I have quoted, is not liable to Luther's objection; for who could ask more faith in "Ben" than that of the James who declares his belief that "Ben" could, and probably will, shoulder the railroad and carry it off—perhaps to Missouri? The railroad gone, our "poet" sees a "monopoly, the river," charging heavier freights than the railroad now charges. Just how the removal of the railroad will affect prices on the river, when the same monopoly owns both the railroad and the boats, and how a decision of patronage between the land and water transportation would help the farmers, and induce "Ben" not to carry off the railroad, and not to run his boats over the falls, is not quite so clear to us, perhaps, as it is to our Albany "poet." Those who really believe that the railroad ought to be permitted to do a part of the freighting at its own price, either out of gratitude or through fear of its being "carried off," will, in such case, have the privilege of responding to the call to "come and reason together." After the railroad is "done gone," our "poet" describes, in vision, the farmer as saying—

"Come, now, let us reason together. And get back old Ben Holladay. Oh, Benny, dear Benny, come back, sir: We are sorry we drove you away; We'll give half of all that we've got, sir. And promise no more to go astray."

The effect of this feeling stanza is no doubt much of it lost in reading it. Its full force was probably only felt by the Linn county farmers who heard it read—saw the tear that stood in the eye of the "poet," and witnessed the throbbing of a great heart that just for the moment forgot to yearn for the "poor down-trodden farmer," and began to boo-hoo for "poor Benny."

History tells us that the Widow Bedott, also a "poet," being desirous of giving vent to her gushing affection for Parson Potter, wrote "seven and forty verses," which she sent to the Parson, "pasted on top of an amazing great cheese." The "poetry," instead of being addressed to a parson disgusted with his stipend and walking off with the meeting-house on his shoulder, seems to have been a poetic prayer that the Parson should properly honor his office:

"Teach him for to proclaim Salvation to the folk; No occasion give for any blame, Nor wicked people's jokes."

The writer tells us—"The Parson was wonderfully pleased with it—used to sing it to the tune o' Hadden."

The Albany "poetry," whether pasted on top of an "amazing great cheese," and sent to "poor Benny," or not, ought by all means to be set to music. It would be a capital thing to sing after the wine begins to work at the dinner table. Will our "poet" set it to music? We suggest as a very appropriate tune—"Had 'em."

In the mean time, I hope the farmers will not all conclude that freights are low enough because they are less than one fourth what they were in 1850, nor conclude that it is better to patronize a foreign company that annually drains the Willamette valley of about six hundred thousand dollars, to send to Europe to pay interest on bonds, than to patronize Oregon men, who will put their money into immediate circulation at home. Let our farmers go slow.—There will soon be a way for them to get all their produce to market cheaper than they can build boats and put it there themselves. Don't let them believe that the best thing they can do is to sow their money "broadcast" so that it shall fall on European soil. Better "drill" it into their own pockets. ARGU'S.