

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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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.

Value of our Salmon Fisheries.

A few weeks ago, when on board the steamer bound for San Francisco, stoppage was made at several of the most important salmon fisheries, and we took on board 5,000 boxes of canned fish and several hundred barrels of salt salmon. At that time we made enquiries as to the value and importance of the Columbia river fisheries, and were surprised to realize that the trade had doubled within a twelvemonth, and not at all surprised to discover that the reputation of Columbia river salmon had become so well established as to warrant the increase of the trade to that extent. The salmon catch lasts about four months, and closes about the tenth of August. We were unable to compile any statistics relating thereto to give satisfactory details of the operations, but computed the value of catch as carefully as was possible, to conclude that the salmon in cans and barrels leaving the Columbia river the present season will bring the owners of the fisheries at least one million dollars. Of course the attendant expense is great, but much of it is for wages paid on the spot, and for material, lumber, barrels, &c., manufactured along the Columbia river.

A correspondent of the *Bulletin*, who seems to be personally interested in the business, gives interesting details, which we are pleased to use, and have no doubt are reliably correct. They will surprise many of our readers, for the extent of the salmon fisheries on our great river is not known to even the people of Oregon. The wheat surplus of last year billed at Portland prices, with inferior freight included, did not reach in value over a million and a quarter of dollars, for the total surplus has been computed at 1,300,000 bushels, or at least the shipments reached that amount. It seems that the salmon fisheries have shipped fully three-fourths that value.

"C. M.," in the *Bulletin*, says: It has been stated to us that at one, and perhaps the largest of the fisheries on the Columbia River, 32,000 cases, viz: 21,000 1-lb cans and 11,000 2-lb cans of fish have been put up the present season. About 200 bbls, and 100 kits of salted salmon have been put up at the same place.

The next place down the river has done almost the same amount of business, and the fishery standing next in order of capacity to those mentioned, has put up and sold 22,000 cases, viz: 15,000 of 1-lb and 7,000 of 2-lb cans, and 200 bbls, of salt salmon. Also, here have been put up 100 kits, of 50-lb each, of salmon bellies. It is estimated that another fishery, about as large, has put up 20,000 cases, of 48 pounds per case. Some of the fisheries pack the salmon in barrels more than in cans, and occasionally one does no canning business at all. Such a one has put up 16,000 barrels, salted, 600 barrels of which go to Germany for smoking purposes. To save coo- perage, tierces of 300 pounds each are some- used instead of barrels.

At another barrel-packing fishery, 300 barrels, of 200 pounds, have been packed, and at the fishery bring \$6 to \$8 per barrel. Barrels of fish from the one previously mentioned are worth \$9 on the wharf here. At a canning fishery, not as large as those mentioned, 2,000 cases have been put up. Two other fisheries, of similar capacity, have each put up 6,000 cases, of 48 pounds to the case. There are still other fishing points on the river—half as many more, probably—but having uncertain information concerning them, we make no estimate about their year's work.

Sales of the fishery mentioned amount to \$224,000. Much has been sold in England, as is the case with all the fisheries. It has been stated that the proprietor of the fishery mentioned next in order, would put \$30,000 in his pocket as net profit from his season's work.

The third one the list has sold \$150,200 worth. Say 18,000 cases at \$7 per case of 48 pounds, to Cross & Blackwell, London; and 4,000 cases to Allen & Lewis, Portland; 200 barrels worth \$18 and 100 pounds at \$4. At this fishery a can is worth 13 to 14 cents.

The other fisherman have sold as much

in proportion. An indication that business has been good is that they are quietly "enlarging their boundaries" and preparing for three times as much business next season. Others are taking the hint and new fisheries are being built.

One box of tin costs about \$42, and by the manufacture of the cans at the fishery each one costs 5 cents. A barrel for salmon costs \$1 75; there are 14 white oak hoops on each one. A fish barrel of spruce with oak hoops costs also \$1 75; half barrels cost \$1 25. Liverpool salt, the only kind used, costs \$30 per ton at the fisheries.

The help employed about all these fisheries is either white men or Chinamen. The first fishery named employs all white men, and saves by the operation. It seems to be a general comment that Chinamen are wasteful and must be watched. White men are paid here about \$40 per month and board.

The third fishery has about 125 men, about 30 of them white men; 95 Chinese received on an average \$1 per day; 20 Chinese tanners received \$50 per month; Chinamen cleaners at \$23, and fillers at \$30. Of the 30 white men, 10 tanners received \$52.50 per month, and the other 20 \$1 per day; though of these two boilers had \$3.50 and \$4.50 per day. Sixteen men had eight boats and a steam tug; they brought in 700 fish per day for 75 days.

Another fishery has 80 men employed, 70 of whom are Chinese. Still another has 25 Chinese and 10 white men. The other fisheries named and those not mentioned employ Chinese labor to a greater or less extent. Usually Chinamen board themselves, while white men are boarded.

The salmon do not diminish in the river. Those sand islands near Knappa are said to have immense quantities of spawn on them each year.

The market for next year is, in a measure, assured. Orders came too plenty this year for fulfillment, and, in addition to those surplus ones, still others from England engage the entire catch of some fisheries.

Those acquainted with this business know it to be a great one, and by means of these facts all who read them may have enlarged idea of the immense "undeveloped resources" of the State. The latest estimated value of the salmon canned and salted this year is \$900,000, and this estimated is made by one engaged in the business. Five new large canneries will be put up for next year, besides the increase of the older ones.

"WILLAMETTE FARMER."—We are pleased to note the enlargement and improvement which has taken place in our valued exchange, the *Willamette Farmer*, during the past week. An unusually large amount of interesting and profitable information may be found in the columns devoted to the dairy, the apitary, home and farm, domestic economy and other agricultural departments. The young folks have their corner, and throughout is scattered choice selections of miscellaneous reading. The editorial articles, from the pen of S. A. Clarke, Esq., are sly and pungent as ever. The *Farmer* has all the evidences of a healthy growth. We wish it abundant success, and take pleasure in recommending it to our readers on the farm and elsewhere, as an earnest, reliable agricultural journal and a teacher of sound morals.—*Oregonian*.

"WILLAMETTE FARMER."—This excellent agricultural paper comes to us today considerably enlarged and improved in every particular. It now completely fills the wants of the farming community and is especially adapted to agriculture in our State. Its columns are well filled with able articles upon various scientific themes, all of which are calculated to interest and please, not only farmers, but the thinking world in general. We wish it unbounded success, and continued prosperity.—*Daily Evening News*.

ASTORIA HARBOR.—A gentleman of wealth and standing in Portland writes to us to know if it is true that vessels drawing twenty-four feet can come up to the docks, be loaded to that depth, and lie in safety, in the harbor. We answer positively: "Yes, sir, at all stages of the tide there is twenty-four feet and water to spare, from Astoria harbor to the Ocean." This is one of the facts that we have been trying to impress upon the public—one of the incontrovertible facts and we are pleased to see that this gentleman has got the idea clearly in his head. We shall be glad to hear from others concerning this harbor.—*Astorian*.

BROTHERLY LOVE.—A large number of Granges near Lawrence, Kansas, recently turned out to assist a poor and sick Patron in doing up his farm work. Seventeen teams were on the ground with willing hands to man them.

Dr. Livingstone has been seen again. It is said Mr. Sterne, an English traveler parted with him in Central Africa July 1st. He was in good health.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Government and Railway Corporations.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

There is no class of people in a state or nation so great in numbers as that of the tillers of the soil, nor so necessary to the prosperity and even existence of every other class of people and the healthful development of every material interest. And yet it is not saying too much to affirm that no class of persons has been so thoroughly overlooked in legislation. Special laws have been made having for their object the promotion of the interests of inventors, artists, authors, fishermen, and of men engaged in almost every branch of commerce and manufactures. But the farmer has been persistently overlooked, and the great staples his toil has produced have never received that protection and encouragement given to the products of almost every other branch of industry. In short, American husbandry has grown to its present vast proportions in the cold shadow of governmental neglect. It has done this, too, although the encouragement given to other branches of industry has been at the expense of the farmer, who, as consumer of the articles especially protected, paid the duties levied for the purpose. All this has happened although the essential character of agriculture as a most useful art has constantly been pressing itself upon the attention of the best governments, and notwithstanding the best minds of the world have been and are even now laboring to advance the interests of agriculture, because it is the source from which comes the material of all commerce and manufactures. That this is strictly true will at once be seen by any one who observes that it is the business of operative industry to produce, transform, and distribute all such materials as are essential to supply the necessities of man, and that these material objects are produced mainly by the husbandman, and in a less important sense by the fisherman and miner.

Still, in the face of all these facts, agriculture as a business has hitherto failed to secure that sort of protection and encouragement which the other great departments of industry and enterprise have received at its hands. Many of the great railroad corporations have received vast donations of land, which, being thus segregated from the public domain, the farmer could afterward get only by paying a hundred per cent. on its former price. Even then these railroad monopolies, by combinations to possess themselves of the carrying trade, were enabled to oppress the tillers of the soil to an extent that rendered their situation little superior to that of serfdom in Russia, as it existed there until abolished within a few years.

But it could not be expected that this neglect on the part of the government and this oppression by railroad monopolies would always be borne without a spirit of self-assertion sooner or later manifesting itself among the farmers in a manner that would plainly indicate an invincible determination to apply a remedy. The beneficial effects of this spirit of self-assertion and of a determination to maintain their right to be protected against the terrible oppressions to which railroad monopolies have subjected them, is already seen in the action of the political conventions of several States, hitherto controlled by men who make politics a trade and who regard neither private nor public virtue as a qualification for official stations. The speeches made in these representative bodies and the platforms they have put forth are great improvements upon the old political utterances as we have been accustomed to hear them fall from the lips of professional politicians, who, until the farmers, feeling that the oppression of railroad monopolies could no longer be endured, inaugurated a combined

movement which will soon develop in our legislative assemblies a complete remedy for the wrongs of which they have so long and so justly complained. To discover and apply this remedy will be the work of time, and doubtless mistakes will be made, but these will be corrected by knowledge derived from experience. The late law of Illinois regulating the rates of transportation is probably a failure in this respect, although it was framed in the interest of the farmers; and railroad men point to it as a signal proof that all legislation on the subject must necessarily fail of its object. But it might as well be said that the charges for ferries cannot be regulated by any other power than that which runs the ferry. The law of Illinois will be modified by the suggestions of experience, and the law-making power of other States will be instructed by Illinois, and such enactments will be made as justice and the mutual rights and interests of all parties may demand. This remedy may, in some instances, be found in the government constructing new lines of transportation or in buying and running old ones along the principal route to the seaboard. There are even now not wanting indications that the government at Washington is already considering the expediency of advising Congress to provide for the purchase or construction of lines of road sufficient to accommodate the producers of the country. The *Republic*, issued at Washington City, is generally regarded as reflecting with considerable exactness the policy of the general government. In a late number it expresses warm sympathy for the farmers in their present struggle for deliverance from railroad oppression in the form of exorbitant freight charges. And while it predicts a failure of all present methods of "organized warfare of agricultural interests against railways," as unequal to the removal of the evils complained of, it suggests that the only remedy that will prove equal to the removal of the evil is the purchase or construction by the Government of lines of road sufficient to accommodate the tillers of the soil. This may probably be regarded as significant of what is being gravely considered at Washington as the great necessity of the times.

This article has grown under the hands of the writer beyond what he intended, and yet he would, before concluding, suggest that had the State of Oregon purchased the canal and locks at Oregon City last autumn, when the offer of sale was made, it would not now be possible for the Oregon and California Railroad Company to become the proprietors, and thus have the power to make such charges for transportation that the farmer, instead of getting a dollar a bushel for his wheat, would not realize more than sixty cents. If this patent fact be duly considered, it will inevitably lead every thinking man who has at heart the interests of the great mass of the people that the canal and locks at Oregon City ought to be purchased by the State at the earliest day possible. That the writer is correct in this opinion will at once appear to every man who will seek an answer to the question as to what would be the condition of the farmers of the Willamette valley and Douglas county, if Ben Holladay now had control of the canal in question. J.

A tannery near Salem was burned down last Sunday morning. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been incendiary. Being within one mile of town the Salem Fire Department arrived on the ground in time to render valuable aid in saving other property. The tannery belonged to Mr. Clark.

Lafayette and vicinity were, on Tuesday night of last week, visited by a little more frost than many classes of vegetation could bear. Potato tops, tomato tops, and several other tops bowed in dutiful obedience to the exacting visitor.

Monday of last week, three gentlemen passed through Lewiston, en route to Canas Prairie, with fifteen hundred head of fine sheep. They came from Douglas county, Oregon.

A Company is about to be organized in this city, with a capital stock of \$125,000 for the purpose of bringing the water of Young's river falls into this city for domestic and fire purposes. Twelve miles of pipe will be laid, and two massive reservoirs erected.—*Astorian*.

Ben Holladay has contracted with the party who constructed a model and superintended the building of the beautiful tugboat *Essort*, to furnish him a model of that vessel that he may have one her exact counterpart constructed to ply upon the Columbia and Willamette river.—*Platender*.

NEWS ITEMS.

Beef cattle are now selling at four cents a pound, on foot, in Eastern Oregon.

Mr. O. S. Savage left upon the Mountaineer's table a few specimens of his large free stone peach one of which measured 10 1/2 inches in circumference and 2 1/2 ounces. They were raised in his garden in the Dalles.

The cars now come into the Dalles from Celilo loaded with grain. The Company has put one extra boat on the upper river in order to bring down the wheat before the close of navigation.

The average yield of wheat in Benton County this year as furnished by Mr. T. G. Mulkey will be about twenty-five bushels to the acre.

The Democrat says: On last Thursday, on Clark's creek, a man by the name of James Tollman committed suicide by shooting himself through the head with a yager gun.

Presley Hall, who was sentenced to the Penitentiary for a term of ten years, for manslaughter, in 1859, from Yamhill County, has been pardoned by the Governor. Hall has returned to his former home in Chehalis Valley.

The Hemlock tannery of Upper Astoria shipped about \$500 worth of leather up the valley at one time, last Wednesday.

Wheat is coming into Eola in very large quantities. The warehouses are full and the grain is stacked on the bank of the river. Nearly an acre of ground is covered with wheat stacked up in sacks, with no shelter over it.

A few days ago, as a man named Huffman was oiling a threshing machine near Dixie, in Polk county, his hand was caught in some of the machinery, and the third finger of his right hand was taken entirely off. The second finger was thrown out of joint, and the flesh all torn off. It will probably be saved.

The Statesman learns from a gentleman just arrived from Coos Bay that Mr. Lane, who had his shoulder dislocated in Salem a few days ago, has met with another accident, by which his arm was broken in two places.

The Eagle Woolen Mills, at Brownsville, are turning out a first class quality of goods. Last month they turned out some \$3,000 worth, and as the demand increases the mills will increase the quantity. The blankets, cassimeres, cloths, etc., manufactured at these mills rank with the best on the coast.

Twenty acres of wheat cut and six hundred bushels threshed, in six hours, including stop, with a 12 foot header and a Pitt's 14 inch cylinder separator. The work was done at Mr. B. C. Looney's, near Sheds Station, on the O. & C. R. R., in Linn County, by the Bateman Threshing Company.

The Plaindealer has been shown four very fine fleeces of wool, two of which were from yearlings, and weighed respectively 14 and 14 1/2 pounds; one from a two year old, weighing 19 1/2, and the last from a four year old, 18 1/2 pounds. They were from Spanish Merino Sheep, imported into Douglas county a short time ago by Col. Peter Saxe.

The body of Helen Huntly, who was drowned sometime in May last, was found on the banks of the North Umpqua near the residence of James Nixon, last Sunday. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was rendered in accordance with the facts of the case.

The warehousemen of Corvallis are crowded from early morn until long after nightfall. The wheat now coming in is of the very best quality.

Robert S. Wellman sold his one-fourth interest in the Wagner Creek Mine to E. K. Anderson and A. J. Rockfellow for the round sum of \$2,561.

Harvesting on the Yaquina Bay is over, and, with the exception of the potato rot, the crops have been large. Potatoes, except the earlier varieties, are almost a failure.

Dallas is improving and property has an upward tendency. The vacant buildings are all fast filling up, and from present indication the academy will be filled to its utmost capacity.

There are quite a number of miners prospecting for quartz on Wagner creek, Jackson county, with fair success. The country thereabouts promises to be the mining section of the State.

Several thousand bushels of flax seed have been raised in Benton county this season, the yield being enormous. J. Holgate, of Abscon Valley, had a field that produced over thirty bushels to the acre.

Rich quartz veins are believed to have been lately discovered near the head of Hood's Canal, on Puget Sound.