

From the Ranch Grass.

Your correspondent, after "swinging round this 'eastern' circle," has taken the liberty to impose upon your generous store of patience by writing you upon some of the interesting topics of this section of the country.

There was a time when to the native Oregonian a description of Eastern Oregon would have been an imposition upon "webfoot" knowledge, but, to one who has been a "webfoot" himself, and after watching the progress of events, which have almost changed the entire character of the country, as well as the personnel of the inhabitants, I cannot but think that among the readers of your paper there are those who, beset with every day talk of this wonderful country, and climate, would like to hear something about this valuable country, which is essential to the interests and welfare of Oregon as a State.

As the weary traveler toils across the mountains to retrace the step of the immigrant of 1852, and, after passing mountains, forests, and rivers, almost without number, or name, he finds himself landed out upon this ocean of grass, he is almost lost in bewilderment at the sudden change, the sudden transition from the succession of forest, hill, and vale, to a wide expanse of plain, bounded as it were by illimitable space upon the one side, and the bold and mountainous range of the Cascades upon the other, with the frozen boundaries of the British possessions upon the north, to the Mexican boundaries upon the south, interspersed only by the rolling and unique character of the country itself; still all the time possessing that valuable, asymmetrical, and monotonous characteristic, "hunch grass."

To the tourist no spot can possibly present a grander or more interesting view than the summit of Mt. Hood, which every school boy of the Willamette valley has so often seen with something of admiration, a feeling of something associated with a mountain of snow; still wondering if some day he will stand upon its highest top and view the wonders there stretched out before him, as a map on the wall, or as a set of paintings from nature's own hand—a mountain range, an ocean of mole hills upon the right, and a yellow harvest of rich grasses upon the left.

Eastern Oregon is pre-eminently a stock country. Her want of water, her diversity of soil, and, for the most part, a soil unfitted for agriculture, stamps it unquestionably and unexceptionably as the stock man's home and abundant harvest. Here in coming years will thrive the herder, the wool-grower, the dairyman, the trader, and the meat merchant. This will never be a home for the manufacturer, or the pure agriculturist. The soil is too sterile, and manufacturing facilities too scarce. If, in coming years, the Portland, Dalles, and Salt Lake railroad should reach the maximum of its expectations, it will open up this country to renewed activity commensurate with the vast extent of its natural resources, in its peculiar branches of trade and business. That this road will do much good toward opening up to the markets of the world a vast region of valuable country which otherwise would never repay the smallest outlay of labor, or justify a substantial settlement of its boundaries, no one who is well acquainted with the many disadvantages of the present market in this country can for a moment deny. It will be self-sustaining to the railroad, a profitable measure for the government, and a continual benefit to the settler. By all means, let us have a railroad through Eastern Oregon.

It was not my original intention to confine my remarks exclusively to Eastern Oregon. To the liberal Oregonian there are other lands and countries besides the verdant and productive Willamette, and the rich pastures of Eastern Oregon. Still traveling to the north, the beholder is dazzled at the boundless expanse of country stretching out on every side. A few miles more, and he is in the fertile valley of the Walla Walla. Here, and in the tuffa-tilla county, Oregon, does the lover of fruits and vegetables find a congenial home. Corn, potatoes, in fact vegetables of every kind, grow to perfection itself—100 bushels of corn, 200 of potatoes, and 1,000 bushels of onions, per acre, are not an extraordinary yield, and grains of all kinds are as good here as on any part of the Pacific coast, and, but for the general cry of "no market," this would be the agriculturist's delight.

To the fruit-grower, no other country offers so many inducements as the Walla Walla valley. Free, rich soil and a generous fruit climate, all go toward producing the finest kind of every variety of fruit. The growth of vegetation is very rapid, and the quality of the fruit not surpassed by any country in the world. Her grapes and peaches are as good as the best California, and her apples and pears are equal to Oregon's best. Here, too, cotton and sugar cane have been successfully cultivated, growing as natural as in the Southern States.

By all means, let us open up this fine country to the industrious people of this country, and let the fine waters of the mighty Columbia be turned from its source to its mouth, away from those natural barriers at the Cascades, and say to the grinding monopoly which is floating

upon its fine waters, "Stand back; your day has come, the might of your power is crushed, and henceforth you are to take a back seat in the inland commerce of our country." Let us profit by the lesson of the Willamette falls, and free ourselves from an unjust contribution, which would in a few years cut a canal at the Cascades. Land here is no object. It is scattered out far and wide on every side. The Walla Walla valley, the Snake River country, and across the Columbia into the Kliekkita, Yakima, and Atlatum, are equal in fertility and productiveness to any part of Oregon and Eastern Oregon; and with a cheap means of transportation would be a populous and thriving country.

Walla Walla, Jan. 20, 1874.

THE MARKETS.

Wheat.

All orders on European account close with the month of February, and vessels are now hurrying to get their cargoes afloat during this month. Messrs R. C. Kinney & Co., of Salem Mills, are loading three vessels with flour and wheat, having disposed of their entire stock, or nearly all of it, for foreign shipment. At the present time the steamers Alice, Fannie, and Albany, are all three running for them, taking wheat from Eugene and points on the river below there. The Salem Mills make no calculations yet for work after this month, but will probably find plenty to do, as there is still an abundant supply of wheat in the country. Most of this was purchased by speculators months ago, and the farmers got their money for it at good prices, while the wheat buyers have it on hand and have to take their chances for shipment and to realize on it at good prices, which is not certain unless it reaches Liverpool before the English harvest. This goes to prove that for once the farmers have rather the advantage of the speculators. There is still considerable wheat along the river from Harrisburg to Corvallis, belonging to producers. Along there they held on for a dollar a bushel, and the price lacked a few cents of reaching that figure, so it has not yet changed hands, but the great bulk of wheat now on hand has been paid for and the farmers have realized handsomely for it.

It is very probable that tonnage will be plenty and freights go lower as a consequence, and that wheat buyers will do well with their stocks in hand, and it is to be hoped that will be the case, as they deserve to make a profit for their investment.

The San Francisco Commercial Herald says there is good reason to believe that the cereal and other crops of California for 1874 will be unprecedentedly large, and that the wheat yield alone will be in the neighborhood of 40,000,000 bushels.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—Flour—\$2 10/100, jobbing extra. Wheat—Market continues quiet at about \$2 15. Barley—\$1 25, 25, as extremes. Oats—\$1 00, 10.

Wheat in Liverpool—Average California, 10s 3/4. Club, 10s 1/2.

SALEM MARKET.

Table with columns for FLOUR, GRAIN, & C. and MONETARY. Includes items like Wheat, best white, 1 bushel, 90; Oats, 1 bushel, 45; Corn, 1 bushel, 40; Flour, best, 1 barrel, 10 1/2; Buckwheat Flour, 1 barrel, 12; Bran, 1 ton, 10; Shorts, 1 ton, 10; Middlings, 1 ton, 10; Oil Cake Meal, 1 ton, 10; Hay, 1 ton, 10.

Table with columns for FLOUR, GRAIN, & C. and MONETARY. Includes items like Sugar, San Francisco refined, 1 barrel, 10; Tea, Japan, 1 barrel, 10; Coffee, Costa Rica, 1 barrel, 10; Rice, 1 barrel, 10; Beans, 1 barrel, 10; Salt, Carman Island, per cwt., 10; Liverpool, coarse, 10; Bay, 10.

Table with columns for FLOUR, GRAIN, & C. and MONETARY. Includes items like Apples, green, 1 bushel, 10; Peaches, dried, 1 bushel, 10; Plums, 1 bushel, 10; Beans, 1 bushel, 10; Potatoes, 1 bushel, 10; Onions, 1 bushel, 10; Cabbage, 1 bushel, 10; Carrots, 1 bushel, 10.

Table with columns for FLOUR, GRAIN, & C. and MONETARY. Includes items like Butter, fresh rolls, 1 barrel, 10; Eggs, 1 dozen, 10; Cheese, Oregon prime, 1 barrel, 10; Lard, 1 barrel, 10.

Table with columns for FLOUR, GRAIN, & C. and MONETARY. Includes items like Linseed Oil, boiled, 1 gallon, 10; Lard Oil, 1 gallon, 10; Coal Oil, 1 gallon, 10; Nonstarch Oil, 1 gallon, 10; Tallow, 1 barrel, 10.

Wool, Hides, &c. Wheat Sacks, Liverpool burlap, extra, 100; Hides, dry, each, 10; Deer Skins, dressed, 10; Sheep Skins, wool on, each, 10.

LEATHER, &c. (Corrected by J. W. Gilbert, dealer, Salem.) Harness Leather, 10; Saddle Leather, 10; French Calf, 10; Peppercorn, 10; Cal and Oregon Calf, 10; Santa Cruz Sole, 10; Hides, dry, 10; Deer Skins, dry, 10; Sheep Skins, 10.

Willamette Farmer. CLARK & CRAIG. Terms of Subscription: One copy, one year (12 numbers) \$3.00; One copy, six months (6 numbers) 1.50; One copy, three months (3 numbers) .75.

Grange News. H. N. Hill, Deputy for Lane county, writes us that on the 20th of January he organized the McMinn Grange, with 30 charter members. G. R. Hamersley, Master, Camp Creek P. O.; W. A. Wheeler, Secretary, Springfield P. O., Lane county. Mr. Hill says the snow at that date up Camp Creek was twelve inches deep.

Edward Forbes, Deputy for Clackamas county, on February 7th, 1874, organized Springwater Grange, with 18 charter members. The following were installed as officers for the ensuing year: John H. Lewellen, M.; John M. Reed, Secretary; Branch Tucker, O.; Henry Dubois, L.; Wm. Lewellen, S.; B. C. Howell, A. S.; G. A. Crawford, C.; J. E. Crawford, T.; Carroll Howell, G.; Miss Hattie Hughes, L. A. S.; Mrs. Sarah Lewellen, C.; Mrs. M. J. Crawford, P.; Miss Maggie Howell, F.

Concerning Peoria Grange, Judge S. D. Haley writes us that it is "progressing finely. On Saturday, Feb. 7th, we conferred the fourth degree on a class of ten, at which time we enjoyed a harvest feast and had a good time generally. We also accepted the agency of A. J. Dufur. The officers of the Grange are as follows: S. D. Haley, M.; H. A. McCartney, O.; H. W. Murphy, S.; Samuel M. Gilfree, A. S.; T. L. Porter, L.; James Yantis, C.; F. A. Watts, Sec.; James Garrett, G.; Mrs. McCartney, Ceres; Mrs. Brattain, Pomona; Mrs. Armstrong, Flora; Mrs. Garrett, L. A. S."

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

DIRECTORY. OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE. Master—Dudley W. Adams, Waukon, Iowa. Overseer—Thomas Taylor, Columbia, S. C. Lecturer—T. A. Thompson, Plainville, Minn. Steward—A. J. V. Groves, Minn. Anti-Slavery—G. W. ... Treasurer—E. M. McDowell, Corning, N. Y. Secretary—O. H. Kelley, Washington, D. C. Gate Keeper—J. H. ... G. A. ... Mrs. D. W. Adams, Waukon, Iowa. ... Mrs. O. H. Kelley, Washington, D. C. ... Mrs. J. C. Abbott, Clarksville, Iowa. ... Mrs. C. A. Hall, Washington, D. C.

Officers of Oregon State Grange. Master—Daniel Clark, Salem, P. O. Secretary—J. H. Smith, Harrisburg. Overseer—Wm. Cyrus, Seio. Lecturer—George Hunter, Walla Walla. Steward—B. P. ... Anti-Slavery—Mrs. Chloa Oida, ... Assistant Steward—W. M. Powers, Seio's. Chaplain—Anthony Skopon, Corvallis. Gate Keeper—Frank Seio, Walla Walla. Treasurer—B. A. Witzel, Turner. ... Mrs. Jane Cyrus, Seio. ... Mrs. M. Powers, Seio. ... Mrs. L. C. Reed, McMinnville. Executive Committee—Daniel Clark, Salem; R. M. Garner, Ten Mile, Douglas co.; Orley Hill, Walla Walla; G. A. Wells, Bovea Vista; Thomas Mankers Seio; A. B. Henry, Lafayette; H. N. Hill, Junction.

Officers of Central Grange Association. President—W. F. Alexander. Vice President—James Tatom. Secretary—A. J. Stannard. Treasurer—C. P. Burkhardt. ... F. Shedd, E. Powell. Gate Keeper—Ellis Fanning. Agent—J. B. Stump.

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IT IS SAFER, BETTER, AND VASTLY CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER EFFETUAL REMEDY FOR THE TREATMENT OF SHEEP. Improves the Health OF THE ANIMAL, AND THE QUALITY OF THE WOOL.

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DR. H. SMITH, DENTIST, SALEM, OREGON. DR. SMITH has fitted up a new Office, where he will be found ready to wait on his old friends and customers, as usual. Office in Starkey's block, over Farrar's store, in front of Post Office, August 20, 1874.

Willamette University, SALEM, OREGON. THE OLDEST AND LARGEST INCORPORATED School in Oregon. Classical, Commercial, Technical and Scientific Courses of Study. For full information, address the President, T. M. GARRETT, Sep. 8, 1871. Secretary Board of Trustees.

For Sale! MERINO AND LEICESTERSHIRE M SHEEP, bred by JOHN MINTO, Salem, Oregon, Aug. 5, '74.

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