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School Talk Papers—No. 7.

ED. FARMER: It is held that the property must educate the masses, and that public education is public economy. While that is correct, every parent should regularly, promptly and cheerfully send his children to the schools thus supported, and in cases where parents are absolutely too careless to see that their children attend school the law should be so framed as to provide a means of compelling them to send them.

Not but that every parent has a right to control his own children but this right must be subject to the good of the public and society. Every child has a right also; and this is, that he shall have such a course of education as shall fit him for usefulness in an enlightened community; and the right of the parent is never advanced more than when it brings the child to enjoy those privileges, and means of improvement which this State so liberally furnished.

an appreciative public sentiment. The opinion is too prevalent among those who never visit the schools, that five or six hours a day in the school room, with all the rest of day for relaxation or amusement must insure to the teacher a delightfully easy mode of life. They little know the thousand perplexing cares and anxieties which help make up the teacher's daily experience; they little know the forbearance, patience and skill required to manage from forty to sixty children of different ages and dispositions, to say nothing of efforts to instruct them; they little think how much of the teacher's work is necessarily done outside of the school-room.

Yours truly, THEO. HALD.

Trip to North Yamhill and Vicinity.

PORTLAND, Aug. 21, 1875. I have just returned from a brief visit to the beautiful grain fields of Yamhill and will say, that one can only be impressed with the wonderful richness of soil and adaptability of climate of that portion of Oregon, by being surrounded on every side by fields of grain not equalled on the Pacific slope. The harvest is well commenced and activity is apparent on every hand.

At the residence of David Thompson, in Lane county, June 22d, 1875, of pneumonia, Henry B. Hamilton, aged 30 years, 10 months, and 25 days. The pioneers of Oregon are fast passing away. We came to Oregon in the year 1845. My father is living yet and in good health. He is now in his 71st year.

Angora Goats.

EDITOR WILLAMETTE FARMER: We are now passing Oakland with our little band of Angoras—we started with 2,400 head, but we have lost a few and sold a part on the road, and now have left 1,800 for the Willamette, will stop at Albany Fair on our way to Salem, and will be at the State Fair with a full turnout of dressed pelts, manufactured goods of mohair, in different styles, also all the different grades of pure bred Angoras, and hope to enjoy your Fair as we did last year, and will be able to make a much better exhibit.

I have visited most of the flocks on the way. Did not see Mr. Herzog's at Ashland but he said they were fine and he was sanguine of a success on his place; had lost a few kids with vermin. I saw Mr. Marks' goats near Ashland they were the fattest goats I had seen for years, and showing a fine fleece. Mr. Ammerman has a lot near by him but did not go there, but learned from Mr. Marks that they were fatter than his and that Ammerman raised 107 per cent. of kids, counting his whole band to breed. Next I visited Mr. Mack's goats near Jacksonville; found his looking as fine as animals could look and looking far better than the same goats did in California, he is delighted with them. Next I went to Kerbyville and saw Mr. Nancke's and Mr. Woodcock's, they were in about the same condition as the others and had saved about 130 per cent of kids, and Mr. Nancke said if he had understood handling kids he now does, he could have saved over 150 per cent of kids. Mr. Sawyer has near Kerby 130 head of ewes and kids for which he gave Mr. Tolman 100 head of cattle last spring, they are also looking well. Next I came to Judge Smith's at Roseburg, saw one of his wethers dressed it was remarkably fat, almost too fat to eat, there the Railroad Hotel purchased it and the waterfrier in the morning pork steak, beef steak and angora chops, and I saw it passed in freely and heard many compliments passed on the goat. Judge Smith saved 120 per cent. of kids or about that. I did not see Mr. Master's goats, though he said they would look as well he thought as any I had seen. All the goats I have thus far seen are running at will in the brush without a herder, come home at night to their salt and sheds without driving. I have seen one other little band I did not mention at Rocky Point belonging to David Burdette; they live on the brush near his house and are not gone he says more than 2 or 3 hours of a day and are fat summer and winter they eat but little or no grass at all, he says he made a shed for them and put in a rack and filled it with hay last winter and he thinks they did not eat 50 pounds of the hay during the winter. I sold him a fine pure bred buck for them, also one to Woodcock, one to Sawyer, one to Bell, one to Chaviner and one to Smith and one to Barnum, and to others. We have with us now 18 head of pure bred bucks and 4 head of pure bred ewes, and think we will have another lot of pure breeds sent up by steamer to Salem Fair. The sheep on the road are generally looking well; have seen many flocks of handsome long wools, Cotswold and Leicester, have not space to describe them. Hon. Thos. Smith, of Roseburg has a very fine little flock of Spanish Merinos. The feed for sheep is abundant in the California line, and I feel for the poor Californians whose sheep are now dying for want of grass and the hard part of the season not near at hand, while there is feed enough going to waste and will decay in Oregon to save millions of their dying stock if they could get it, though the leech is killing many sheep in Umpqua Valley. Respectfully Yours, WM. M. LANDRUM.

EASTERN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Description of the Walla Walla and Palouse Country, and the Inducements for Immigration.

ED. FARMER: The Walla Walla region is a large country, estimated to contain one million acres of good farming land, and the average yield of wheat throughout it is placed at about forty bushels to the acre, ninety bushels of oats, and fifty bushels of barley. Flax also grows well. It is most undoubtedly the best vegetable country on the coast, and as a stock country it cannot be excelled in the world. Cattle-raising is carried on upon a large scale. The sheep business is, however, at the present time the best in all that country. Men who have been engaged in sheep-raising any length of time occur to me who are willing to be named in this connection, so I will quote a few of those who are successful sheep-breeders. Mr. J. Fraser, of Birch Creek, Umatilla county, has 14,000 head, and is worth \$40,000, and commenced seven years ago with 1200 head. The Adams brothers, of Wild Horse Creek, in the same county, have made \$60,000 in the past ten years; Jerry Despain has in ten years made \$50,000 in the same business, and various others have made large sums of money at it.

The available grazing area of Eastern Washington and Oregon has more than ten times the extent of the Willamette valley. The Palouse country north of Snake river is one hundred miles square, and is all the richest soil, fit for cultivation, and the tops of the hills even have a deep, rich loam. This country invites thousands of families, and offers the greatest inducements to permanent settlers, as it contains an amount of arable land as rich as and more extensive than the Willamette, which will be reached and developed by the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad that now promises to be soon built, and will pass directly through it. The only drawback to this interior region is that the cold is sometimes great there in the winter time, but that does not materially detract from its value for settlement. The wheat crop of the Walla Walla valley for the present year is estimated at a million bushels of excellent quality. The towns are all prospering. Walla Walla city has 3,000 inhabitants, and business is transacted there to the amount of \$1,500,000 per annum. The town of Waiilatpu is a good trading point. Dayton has an active business. Weston and Pendleton in Umatilla county, Oregon, are thriving points.

A residence of five years in the parts of Eastern Oregon referred to enable the writer to speak with knowledge of its resources, and I am convinced that beyond all doubt it is the best country for immigrants or persons with small means to get a home. As a fruit country also it cannot be surpassed. The boats of the O. S. N. Company will be put to their utmost to transport the surplus products of this upper Columbia region to market the present year. A great deal of complaint is made of the charges on that route, and no doubt freight and passage are ordinarily high, but to any immigrant wishing to inspect the country they extend half fare rates, and heretofore the products of the Walla Walla valley have been transported to Portland at a rate that, considering the distance and the difficulty of navigating it, does not compare unfavorably with the charges made in this western part of Oregon.

I desire through your paper to call the attention of new-comers with small means to the advantages offered by the region I have described in part. JAMES WHEELAN.

Warehouse at Turner.

We called at this new warehouse the other day and found it almost completed and ready to receive grain. By the time this issue reaches our readers the building will be completed and put to practical use. We found Mr. Jacob Coaser, the architect and master builder, there when we called.

The Willamette River.

"DAM THE WATER!"—THE SORRY CRY OF AN AGONIZED SOUL.

I wish to allude to a brief space on the stupidity and lack of judgment which has so far characterized the action of government officials, concerning the improvement of the upper Willamette river. The appropriation of \$25,000 is likely to lapse from inaction. The owners of the light draught boats have concluded to suspend attempts to penetrate farther than Salem, and the best of the river is left in a state of nature, a deplorable condition on their return from a trip to Albany, justifies that conclusion—wheels wrecked, and hulls badly damaged. In the meantime Red Tape blindly insists in other, and valuable time which now and for the past six weeks should have been utilized in the improvement of the river, is wasted. It is reported that a government survey is making of some of the bars, but surveys are not what is necessary. A well ordered lakes can see where a bar is wanted, without the necessity of triangulation; and a government official ought to be equally as penetrating and encompass the observation without using a compass. For the present state of affairs, natural indignation gives way to propriety, and a good vigorous cussing ought to be administered, instead of prayers, for "those in authority over us," who are guilty of the folly and stupidity that has so far impeded the work. I call on you to "make Rome howl," or else know whose interest it is to do nothing. Is it consideration for the railroad? Is it political policy, or is it only red tape? Steamboat men grow livid sweating at the condition of affairs, and the interest of the government should feel in the morals of the people ought to induce it to progress with this work now, when it is so much needed. Excuses are not justifiable. The work should have been commenced six weeks ago, and still the government official reposes. Would that we had Gabriel's horn, and standing one foot on Rocky rapids and the other on Bightman's bend, could call in such steatorian notes as would even awaken Red Tape himself. "DAM THE WATER!" Like the Irishman who was "six weeks speechless in the long month of June, my sole cry is water! water!" To those whom this ought to concern, but whom it doubtless only "may concern," I subscribe myself, YOURS TRULY, Oregonian.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE—Harry Spedden, a young gentleman, aged about 25 years, son of the County Clerk of Clatsop county, and a clerk in the custom house, made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide at Astoria on Thursday evening. About 9 o'clock on the evening mentioned, the young man went to the Good Templar Lodge, which was in session. He was met in the ante room by a young lady and a young gentleman, who were standing near the door engaged in conversation. When young Spedden entered the room the girl turned round and made the remark: "Why Harry, you are late this evening." Without answering her, Spedden turned to the young man and young lady, and hearily with him. An instant later he drew a small derringer from his pocket, and pressing the muzzle against his breast, discharged the weapon. The ball took effect below the left nipple, passed just under the heart, and ranging upward and backward, grazed the right side of the spinal vertebra, and came to within an inch of the skin. He was rendered unconscious for a time from the nervous shock, and it was supposed that the shot had resulted fatally. Soon after he rallied, but his mind was partially delirious. He asked for the pistol, on finding it was first effort at self-destruction had proved unsuccessful, but the request was, of course, denied him. When our informant left Astoria, yesterday morning, young Spedden was being comparatively easy, although his condition was considerably critical in the extreme. His injuries are not regarded as necessarily fatal, but the result is very uncertain. Unrequited love is reported to have been the occasion of the suicidal attempt, but our informant was unable to give us the real cause of the effort at self-murder. Up to the time of leaving, no effort had been made to extract the ball.—Oregonian.

Patrons and Politics.

The Patrons' Helper says: "The following advice is given to the voter by a prominent politician in Kentucky, which we deem worthy of serious consideration by every voting patron in the land, as well as others. The chief reasons are to be effected through the ballot box: 'The bad citizen stays away from primary meetings and from the polls on election days—and does not mingle in politics. He says no man should decline to be more or less a politician who is not opposed to a republican form of government. The stay-away evil is growing to proportions that render it absolutely as dangerous as avowed hostility to the established form of government, because it is throwing control of the government into hands familiar only with wicked ways; and General Hawley's example in denouncing it should be followed by every man of any influence in the United States.'

Australia shows an increase during seven years of 11,000,000 sheep 2,000,000 head of cattle, without counting home consumption and the quantity of meat exported in tins. In New Zealand during the same period, the increase in the number of sheep and cattle was equally remarkable, the former multiplying from 8,418,579 to 11,694,863 and the latter from 372,839 to 491,113.