

WILLAMETTE FARMER

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THE CASH SYSTEM.

The farmers of Oregon, of this coast, and elsewhere, are all alive to the advantages and importance of dealing strictly for cash, and we have a few brief remarks to make on that subject.

We have tried the credit system, and are tired of it. A portion of our subscribers pay up punctually, but the most do not. We lose interest money, and meet with some losses, and the subscription list does not average over \$2.50 for each subscriber, per annum, and this leads us to making the following change in terms:

Hereafter all renewals and subscriptions, where the cash shall accompany the order, can be paid at \$2.50 per annum. All subscriptions that are allowed to run thirty days over time will be invariably \$3.00 per annum. This offer is made to induce prepayment of subscriptions, and will be applied only to those who pay strictly in advance.

All those who are receiving this paper are invited to remit the balance that will be due us on the 1st of January, and add \$2.50 to pay for the year 1876. That will commence the year punctually, and place them on the prepaid cash basis.

A look at your tag will show you how much you will be indebted to us January 1st at the rate of 25 cts a month.

Remittances can be made by registered letter, currency can be sent by mail at its current value, or money can be paid to our local agents.

[For the Willamette Farmer.]

Our Hills—Brush Lands—Their Composition—Fertility—Questions Answered.

BY A. F. DAVIDSON.

Too much can hardly be said on these subjects. A large portion of land, all over our valley, is now covered with oak grubs, young fir, maple, hazel, &c., and because it takes labor to grub, pile, burn, and clear up such land, and thus fit it up for tillage, many regard such lands as of no value in comparison to smooth prairie. The mere objection of brush is not the only one urged against these lands, but they are said to be rolling and full of branches, sloughs, hills, and hollows.

Now, we are willing to admit the objection, in so far as the grubs are concerned, but are unwilling to admit the validity of the objection as to their being rolling, &c., for all know who are acquainted with hydraulic that rolling lands carry off all surplus water, and thus counterbalance their rolling qualities. Soon after a rain, on such lands, the plow may run. Not so with the prairies or level lands.

If it costs a heavy outlay in the earlier stages of making a farm in the hilly, brush lands, this is compensated by future productiveness in the richer soil. Richer from the disintegration of the grubs, brush, leaves, and staves, and their integration by plants.—These lands can all be drained, because there is plenty of fall to do so. Nor need there be any under-drains, but simply open surface-drains. Here is a great saving in both money and time. On the flat lands, the cost of draining, if we would have the soil in proper condition, is expensive and the labor great.

In Illinois, the prairies were settled first, for a reason; and the rough lands, as the oak points and hazel hills were then called, were neglected. In a few years, the Germans, and especially the English, came in and settled on those oak or rough lands, clearing them up, and making fine farms of them. These lands, though called poor and rough—granitic and aluminous—proved to be the best wheat land in Illinois. Why? Not because they were the richest, but because they contained all the inorganic constituents so necessary to the successful growth of the cereals; and, further, they were dryer, and, therefore, less affected by freezing out; besides, the straw was stiffer and seldom fell down. Why was the straw stiffer? For the clear reason that silica was abundant in this soil, and without silica acid to form the glass on the stalks and leaves, giving them rigidity and strength, no grain will stand well. But this is not all.—Such lands being based on a calcareous sub-soil, furnish to the plant all the phosphates and sulphuric acid necessary to their perfect growth. Hence, grain grown on such lands

is comparatively free from rust, smut, &c., whereas, rich, level prairies being too moist, and containing too much organic matter, humus, peaty and other black mold, the straw is feeble, liable to rust, and the grain often shriveled and light.

The case is similar, though not to the same extent, here. Our hill lands produce our heaviest and best-matured wheat. All the red hills, or foot lands, along the Cascades on their west side, are of the best wheat lands. They are called "red hills," or basaltic hills. But they are not merely basaltic in their nature, for, although the rocks are mostly basalt, there are other rocks than igneous. There are various sedimentary rocks, as sand-stones, conglomerate, and argillaceous; breccias and calcareous marl are abundant, and deep down are vast limestone beds. The igneous rocks seem most plentiful because on the surface, but on closer examination the majority which have formed the soil are both sedimentary and metamorphic. As a consequence, then, we may expect to find, as we do find, that these red hills are admirable in their mineral constituents. Sand and lime are scarcer than they should be, yet, by deep tillage, summer-fallowing, and pasturing by sheep, goats, and hogs, they will not only prove very productive, but among our most lasting lands. And yet these hills are objected to for the following reasons: First, they are very rocky, often fields of rocks. Secondly, they are rough, steep, often cañons and deep ravines. Thirdly, they are growing up, and are even now quite brushy, in many places. Fourthly, gardens cannot be made successful unless in damp or irrigated places.

Now, I am willing to grant the first, second, and third objections, but to the fourth I put in a plea of demurrer. Let me say, I know from practical experience that as good vegetables can be grown on our highest, roughest, rockiest, driest hills, as we ever grow, if the soil is manured, or, better yet, sheep or cattle corralled on the land every other year; that is, have two garden spots, in one you are growing your garden "truck," while in the other you corral your sheep on it, plowing and harrowing in the manure every month—thus keeping it mellow and rich. You will say this is a "heap of trouble." True. But trouble in the form of labor "moves the world," and he who will not labor should suffer, and he who will not use his intellect in adopting means to accomplish ends, not only ought to, but will, and must, suffer.

I have been asked, Why are our hills mostly red? I answer, It is the oxide of iron, or peroxide. This is iron rust. The iron in the soil coming in contact with the oxygen of the air, produces a compound called oxide of iron, or, more properly, peroxide, which is red. Hence the red color of our Red Hills.

[To be continued.]

Pacific Coast Thoroughbred Stock Journal and Record.

ED. FARMER: Permit me to ask the attention of your readers who have interests connected with the improvement of stock on this coast to the above-named periodical. It supplies a want that a large and increasing class devoted to stock-growing and stock-improvement have long felt. Especially to those who have devoted time and money to the establishment of studs, herds, or flocks of thoroughbred animals of any kind, does this new enterprise commend itself as the receptacle of the history of stock growing and stock-improvement, and place of deposit of pedigrees of stock, as foundations for improvement of studs, herds, or flocks yet to be established. The interests represented by such a paper as the "Stock Journal and Record" already have a firm foothold on this coast, and are bound to multiply until all the country from Panama to Alaska west of the Rocky Mountains is supplied, each district with the particular kind of stock best calculated for profitable care. As one having a common interest with many others in the establishment of such a Journal, I wish it abundant success. J. MINTO.

Wants to Know.

MATFIELD, CUYAHOGA Co., OHIO, Nov. 21, 1875.

Editor Willamette Farmer: Will you have the kindness to publish in your columns the post-office address of F. A. Dashiield, James Hendershot, and Samuel Coot—all formerly from Iowa. I wish to know their post-office address, as I want to write to them for information about Oregon. I once knew them all. I want to come out there, and desire to learn where they live. I am a reader of your valuable paper. W. A. THORP.

[We publish the above so that the parties named can answer it.]

Protection of Sheep.

ED. FARMER: This terrible weather makes the shepherd think seriously what he can do for his sheep besides giving them the ordinary feed and the shelter of sheds at night. With the pasturage as good as it is now, it seems a pity to turn sheep out of warm dry sheds in the almost continuous rains we have been having of late, and yet it is a loss and inconvenience to keep them up. With high-bred, open-wooled sheep, the shock must be very great to go from the sheds into the cold rains, and it seems to me quite probable that it is owing to that cause so many of them are affected with running at the nose, &c. With them, the cold reaches the skin where the long wool generally parts along the back, especially of lambs and young sheep, much sooner than it penetrates the thick oily fleece of the Merino. But let a flock of Merino legs be exposed to these

"Heavy, dark, continued, a' day rains,"

and they come up at night a rather forlorn looking lot of animals. In casting about how to get the benefit of the tender green grass we now have for my sheep, and yet not have them loaded down with water by exposure in getting it, I have come to the conclusion to try what the English and Scotch call "bratts," that is covers made of cloth. In Britain they use two kinds wool and flax. It is claimed that woolen cloth made of inferior carpet wool will last five years at a cost of six pence each, of flax lasting two years for 3 1/2 pence—7 to 12 cents. I have just had fifty made of strong white cotton drilling, at 16 cents each. They are fixed on by a broad strap of cloth across the underside of the neck, and fastened down to the back by strings (I made them of cloth too) tied across the bristles behind the shoulder, another across the belly before the hind legs, and one behind the hind legs. A piece of cloth 30 by 30 inches will make a good cover for a medium-sized Merino. They are a great protection, even with the cloth alone, and I have no doubt that if prepared by dipping in tar, linseed oil, or melted India-rubber, to make them waterproof, they would last longer and be still more effective.

British flock-owners claim that in addition to saving the lives of many sheep from the effects of inclement weather, they add greatly to the value of the fleece, by both weight and quality, the natural oil so preserved keeping the wool sound and supple.

J. MINTO.

Notes from Waldo Hills.

BEAVER GLEN, Dec. 18, 1875.

EDITOR FARMER: Times are rather lively in the hills this winter, there is quite an amount of new land being cleaned up, and plowed ready for the spring sowing; in fact, land-owners seem to accept the situation that stock raising is played out and have gone to farming in earnest. This vicinity has received quite an addition from Canada of several enterprising well-to-do farmers, and more coming. The old town of Sublimity is taken by the Dutch of the right sort, which from Holland I know not, but just the kind to build up business.

The Rock Point Farmers' Club will meet on the second Saturday in January at one o'clock, for the election of officers, and a debate on the proposition: Resolved, That fruit-raising is more profitable than grain-raising. There are several planting new orchards. The plum, prune, and late keeping apples, are the varieties. While on the prune I will say, in my opinion, that the tree will not be very lasting in Oregon. It will pay to plant the hardy pines, but I think from my experience the tree will not last very long, at least on the open ground. This thing of sheltered situations I will take up some future time. G. W. HUNT.

Good Ranch For Sale.

We call attention to the notice published elsewhere of a good ranch for sale in Eastern Oregon, with the assurance that we have reason to believe the property very valuable and worth attention from any one desiring to locate there in the stock business.

Currency and Coin.

Greenbacks are advancing, as late dispatches quote gold in New York at 1.12, which is lower than for several months. Portland quotations of currency are 87 buying, 88 selling, which is one per cent. lower than San Francisco.

GRANGE ELECTIONS.

Oakland Grange No. 86, P. of H., elected the following officers for the coming year: I. F. Rice, M.; H. Davis, O.; W. R. Smith, L.; A. Cautt, C.; P. Thiele, S.; H. L. Marsh, A. S.; J. L. McKinney, T.; Wm. Thiel, Sec.; I. F. Rice, Jun. G. K.; Mrs. M. L. Rice, Ceres; Mrs. S. McKinney, Pomona; Mrs. J. Thiele, Flora; Miss J. Reed, L. A. S.

LELAND, OR., Dec. 20, 1875.

At our Grange election last Saturday the following officers were elected: Joseph Pollock, M.; B. F. Sloan, O.; Wm. N. Pollock, L.; L. F. Allen, S.; A. Burrough, A. S.; J. L. Wilder, C.; J. Burrough, T.; D. H. Sexton, Sec.; J. Niday, G. K.; Laura Daniels, C.; Caroline Sexton, P.; Ferinda Burrough, F.; Mrs. Fressley, L. A. S. J. P.

Scappoose Grange No. 144, held their annual election on the 11th of Dec. 1875, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: M. Pomeroy, M.; Orin Johnson, O.; T. H. Waite, L.; E. S. Gore, S.; John McKay, C.; W. W. West, T.; John C. Ball, S.; Robt. Rowland, A. S.; W. W. Marr, G. K.; Mrs. Mary Marr, C.; Mrs. Susan R. Cloniger, P.; Miss Sarah Johnson, F.; Mrs. Laura Tredau, L. A. S.

Rock Point Grange on Dec. 17th, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: G. W. Hunt, Master; Wm. Smith, Overseer; Jas. Taylor, Lecturer; Edwin Downing, Steward; W. W. Brooks, Chaplain; W. J. Patton, Treasurer; Jas. Aitken, Secretary; Abner Lewis, Assistant Steward; Andrew Stanton, Gate Keeper; Mrs. John Downing, Ceres; Mrs. W. W. Brooks, Pomona; Mrs. Mary Howd, Flora; Mrs. Caroline Parker, Lady Assistant Steward. Moved to have a public installation on the third Saturday in January next, at ten o'clock.

BUTTEVILLE GRANGE No. 74.—The annual election in Butteville Grange was held two weeks ago and resulted as follows: P. F. Castleman, Master; F. X. Mathieu, Overseer; J. W. Grim, Lecturer; J. D. Crawford, Secretary; J. C. Buchanan, Treas.; —, Steward; J. W. Batcheller, Chaplain; D. C. Reese, Asst. Steward; Miss Ellen Eberhard, Miss Castleman, Mrs. Wallace Graham, and Miss Ella Geer, were elected to office, but our informant could not properly locate them.

Officers of Warner Grange, No. 117 elected Dec. 25th, 1875, Arthur Warner, Master; John Brush, Overseer; W. H. Latourrette, Lecturer; J. H. Thayer, Steward; W. G. Long, Assistant Steward; W. H. Fancher, Chaplain; L. D. C. Latourrette, Treasurer; J. T. Apperson, Secretary; Alfred Howland, Gate Keeper; Miss Clara Vinson, Ceres; Mrs. Martha Howell, Pomona; Mrs. Sarah Fancher, Flora; Miss Jenny Vinson, Lady Assistant Steward.

TURNER, Dec. 28, 1875.

MR. EDITOR: The following are the officers elect of Turner Grange, for 1876. L. M. Herren, M.; W. G. Porter, O.; J. P. Cole, L.; J. W. Shaw, C.; A. Halstead, Sec.; D. Robbins, S.; Jas. Wigel, A. S.; Wm. Steels, G. K.; Mrs. Mary Cole, Treas.; Mrs. J. M. Kinsey, C.; Mrs. M. E. Missler, P.; Mrs. M. E. Porter, F.; Miss Mattie Gibson, L. A. S. Yours, W. M. HILLEARY.

WILBUR, Dec. 27, 1875.

ED. FARMER: At a meeting of Wilbur Grange No. 114, P. of H., Dec. 18, 1875, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: G. W. Grubbe, M.; J. Strange, O.; N. T. Grubbe, L.; W. P. Grubbe, S.; H. Pinkston, A. S.; Mrs. E. T. Grubbe, C.; J. O. Booth, T.; J. A. Frazier, Sec.; E. T. Grubbe, G. K.; Mrs. Dodge, C.; Marietta Strange, P.; Mrs. Booth, F.; Miss Belle Dodge, L. A. S. G. W. GRUBBE, Sec.

The following election of grange officers at Union, Union county, is sent us by Mr. John Creighton: John Dobbins, M.; John Coughton, O.; A. E. Eaton, L.; C. F. Biskelso, S.; John Purley, Asst. S.; A. Miller, C.; D. Hilt, T.; James Hendershot, Sec.; John McLean, G. K.; Mrs. Lewis, Ceres; Mrs. Huffman, Pomona; Miss Morrison, Flora; Mrs. Ames, L. A. S.

Whose DATE GIVEN.—In the notice published by Mr. Minto last week of meeting of the Salem Grange to install officers, the date given should have been January 1st and not January 15th as was printed. Members are requested to take note that installation in that grange will take place Saturday of this week.

Hon. A. J. Dutre has appointed A. H. Sale, Deputy Master P. of H. for Clatsop county, as chairman of a committee to assist in procuring and installing a statue in front of the building and warding to him in Portland such specimens of timber and ornamental woods as may be deemed creditable to the State.

STATE NEWS.

The principal business men of Silver City, Idaho, have agreed to close their places on Sunday after January 1st. This New Year swearing off is becoming stale.

A girl with three arms has just been married in New Mexico. Heaven help the husband if they ever indulge in domestic hair matinees.

Captain Nathan Stevens has lately shown the Democrat a specimen of silver ore which he states was recently discovered by him in Benton county. The specimen is very rich in metal, which the Captain says is 50 per cent. silver, 40 per cent. lead and 10 per cent. of other metal.

Last Friday while Walter Pomeroy was leading his horse and traveling through the brush near the Union school house, his coat in some way caught and pulled up the hammer of his gun and discharged it, the ball entering his horse's breast and killing it instantly.

Mrs. Lucy Stewart of Silver City started for New Zealand last week. She will engage in missionary work.

There is a grandmother in Pendleton who is only 32 years old.

The Sentinel has received from Merganser Lake county, news of the suicide of Henry White.

The population of Umatilla county is 4,424. That of Union county 3,450. Union county raised 284,175 bushels of grain, while Umatilla county raised 288,471 bushels; which gives Umatilla 970 more population than Union and 18,704 more bushels of grain than Union.

On Wednesday of last week, Thos. Benson, living near the Twelve-mile house, on the road from Pendleton to Umatilla, met with a terrible accident. While out hunting, the gun he was using burst, and lacerated the left hand terribly, cutting off entirely the second, third, and fourth fingers.

There is plenty of good sleighing in Northern Idaho. A good deal of the ore hauling is now done on sleds.

Tucson, Arizona, is building up rapidly. Among other structures recently erected is a school-house, costing \$10,000.

The Jacksonville Sentinel says: "A large number of immigrants have lately arrived in this section, and notwithstanding the bad weather, some are still coming. In many instances, those arriving are poor and of large families—some couples who came to Ashland a short time ago having 14 children.

The Linn county Council, P. of H., convened in regular monthly session on the 7th inst., in Patrons' Hall, Taugent. The morning session was mainly occupied with reports from subordinate granges on the project of establishing in this State somewhere a Farmers' or Patrons' Bank. With great unanimity the expression was in favor of such a movement. The following named branches were chosen, viz: Dr. G. F. Crawford, president; R. A. Irvine, vice president; F. Pike, secretary; G. Parrish, treasurer; and Thomas Frouman, Gate Keeper.

ROCK POINT, Dec. 28.—The Grange Creek Hotel and telegraph office, owned by Sam'l Harkness, caught fire about 9 o'clock last night, and was burned to the ground. The furniture and nearly all the family clothing were consumed.

The storm commenced Sunday night and has continued raining until now. Cow creek has become impassable since Monday morning. Rogue river is higher than it has been before in five years past. The roads are in a terrible condition. No stage from the north to-day.

The Holidays at Butteville.

From Mr. John Batcheller we learn that Christmas passed off pleasantly at Butteville with a Christmas tree belonging to the citizens generally which was loaded down with gifts in the Grangers Hall. An Amateur company played a farce, "Cool as a cucumber," which gave a great deal of amusement. The singing class of Mr. J. J. Stevens gave some excellent music, supported by two organs; Santa Claus appeared in person (well gotten up) and addressed the children and folks. Two large trees were loaded with presents and there was about a wagon load of things that could not be on the trees. There was an impromptu dance afterwards. The massed had an installation, supper and dance on Monday and the Grangers will have an installation and good time on January 1, next Saturday.

Weather at Canyon City.

Mr. D. B. Rindhart, of Canyon City, Grant county, writes us, as follows, of date Dec. 18:

"From the first of this month to the present the weather has been mild and delightful, more like spring than winter. No snow on the ground; stock doing well."

That is the state of the winter in the Blue Mountain region of Eastern Oregon, where the winters are frequently severe, and probably represents the condition of the season in all the interior.

SUCCESSFUL NURSERYMAN.—Mr. Geo. W. Hunt, of the Waldo Hills, has long been a successful nurseryman and orchardist. His experience as a fruit-grower is valuable, and will be furnished to the public through the columns of the FARMER.