For the Willamette Farmer.

ORCHARDS.--No. 2.

One of your correspondents asks, How soon will the prunes bear, and how long will they live? The Fellenberg, if grafted on standing trees, will bear in three years; transplanted from nursery, in four or five years; the French prune a year sooner, and they will live, I should judge, from fifty to seventy-five years. Plum trees grafted thirty years ago in Iowa, and two years later planted by Henderson Luelling on the old place, are yet in full vigor, and give good crops, and if protected against breaking by over-bearing will likely last thirty to fifty years more. The plum tree is one of our healthiest fruit trees. In cultivating the plum orchard, (and the prune is only a variety of the plum,) care should be taken to plow very shallow, just deep enough to hit the weeds, for by deep plowing the roots are cut and the trees begin to sprout to their great injury.

In California many plum trees are grafted on peach roots. These do not sprout but do not live as long as plum roots. No orchard, of whatever fruit, should be plowed deep, as that breaks the fiber-roots, which are annuals and essential to the nourishment of the tree and which lie just under the surface naturally. The object of cultivation is to keep the ground clean and to have a mellow surface.

Mr. Hunt's letter in the FARMER, asserting that the Fellenberg will not grow south of Oregon City is perhaps too sweeping. On high, dry prairie land, on the foot-hills, on timber lands, I should venture the prune, if not the Fellenberg, then the German which is hardier, or the Prune d'Agen (or French,) or some of the other prunes as the Ickworth Imperatrice, a late prune easy to dry, and others.

I am inclined toward the prune for drying so much because I believe that these will be much more saleable than the dried plum, but if prunes will not do well, try the plum; the Washington, Jefferson, Bradshaw, Coe's Golden Drop, and Reine Claude de Bavay. This last is a superior fruit for canning. So much for the prune.

APPLES FOR DRYING.

Mr. Patton says in his list of fruit for drying, as tested, that the Gate or Waxen makes a superior article. That is fortunate as the tree is at once the very best in the orchard, the healthiest and soundest of them all, strong short-jointed branches, round spreading top, and is a great bearer; it comes early and lasts two months. For drying I would plant nearly all Gate. Of other varieties I recommend Holland pippin for early, Swaar and Winesap. The last is healthy and gives large crops and all these varieties are of good shape for peeling. The G. N. Pippin and Esopus Spitzenbery are not profitable, as one bears too sparingly, and the other is too sickly.

PEARS.

Bartlett first, and Bartlett last, early bearer, large crops, high flavor, and sound tree. If another is wanted the Fall Butter comes in after the Bartlett. Pear trees are healthy in Oregon and make excellent dried fruit.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have told you part of my experience in fruit-raising without reserve or without any other object than to give some hints that may be useful to those who contemplate planting new orchards, a branch of agriculture just now taking a new interest, and if started right will be of great benefit to Oregon farmers. I say without reserve what I think about fruit trees, as I have no ax to grind; no trees to sell, no nursery to recommend; I have done with all that; Flowers and shrubs I raise now, "only that and nothing more."

HENRY MILLER.

The following article, on Prunes, written by Mr. Miller, was published in the *Oregonian* last June:

Of course we do nothing by halves; that wouldn't be American. We fight by wholesale, vote by wholesale and pay taxes by wholesale; and now we rush into the prune business by wholesale. Well, do you recollect *Morus Multicaulis*, Mr. Editor? Perhaps not. I am older, and I do. Silk worms and silk were all the rage then. We have no Morus Multicaulis trees for sale now, but every nurseryman has thousands of prune trees which are certainly better; though not every body is going to make his fortune by them.

Not a homily, but a short history of *our* prunes I was going to write, partly, too, in response to the article of Mr. Brown in your paper of the 24 instant. In 1857 I imported from Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., four varieties of prunes, named in the invoice (now before me) as German prunes, Prune d'Agen, Downtown Imperatice and Fellenberg, In 1858 I imported in addition to the above scions of all all other prunes on E. & B's catalogue, consisting of Dominis Dull, Manning's Long Blue, and Ickworth Imperatrice. Of all these seven varieties I grafted on Mr. William Meek's plum trees for testing, I not having any large trees then, and the rest of the scions I grafted in my nursery. The grafts in the the orchard soon bore, and the Prune d'Agen promised the best by its early and abundant crops. The Fellenberg came two years later in bearing. The Down Imperatice and Domanie Dull proved unpromising. Manning's Long Blue made a good appearance, but we lost sight of it. The Ickworth Imperatrice is a good prune, very sweet, good bearer, late, and on that account worth a further trial. When the Fellenberg came in with a full crop and was put in market, it superseded at once the Prune d'Agen and the old German prune, our German prune, our German customers being good judges. We (J. H. Lambert and I having come into possession of the old Meek & Eddy orchard) then grafted largely of the Fellenberg, and I think regrafted some Prune d'Agen. The Fellenberg is a strong grower, good bearer, not breaking full, and a first-rate prune for drying in every respect. Planted out on dry soil it is a healthy tree. Wet ground is not suited for it at all. The Prune d'Agen is still worthy of cultivation. It bears heavily and dries well. Manning's Long Blue I would also recommend for an extended trial. A new variety, the Petit Prune d'Agen," is much talked of in California. It was last year introduced here, and it remains to be seen whether the two d'Agens are not the same.

Synonyms—Fellenberg, Italian Prune, Improved German.

Prune d'Agen—French Prune.

German Prune—Twetsecke, St. Catarine.

This is the "true story" of prunes as far as my experience goes. I believe all our stock about here came from the above importation as we have disposed of all scions we could cut every year.

GRANGE ELECTIONS.

BUTTE CREEK, Dec. 31st, 1875.

ED. FARMER: Butte Creek Grange, No. 82, is working well. They have incorporated their Grange in the sum of $500, have loaned State Agency $100, and have let the contract for a new Grange Hall 20x40 feet two stories high, to be built one mile east of Butte Creek on the road running from Silverton to Oregon City. It is situated in a good farming community, and is composed of some of the best and wealthiest farmers in that locality. This annual election was held Dec. 18th and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: E Skirvin, M; M J White, O; J Muse, L; F Nicholson, S; C Hegadorn, C; Robt. Thompson, T; J. R. White, S; Robt. Murdock, G K; P A Marquam, A S; Mrs. Murdock C; Eliza Skirvin, P; Martha Skirvin, F. Katy Jones, L. A. S.

LEWISVILLE, OR., Dec. 28, 1875.

At a regular meeting of Mono Grange, No. 25, held Dec 18, 1875, the Grange elected the following officers: M, H C McTimmonds; O, G W Harvey; Lec, I Smith; S, H D Staats; A S, W W Williams; C, D R Lewis; T, I Staats; Sec, J M Bewley; G K, H M Berry; C, America Price; F, L E McTimmonds; P, M E Harrison; L A S, Olive M. Price.

TUALATIN, OGN., Jan. 6, 1876.

At the regular election of Butte Grange P. of H. the following officers was elected to fill the various offices for the ensuing year: Thomas Paulsen, M; W M Tigard, C; W C Hicklin, L; A Gustin, A S; E Wood, T; M Richardson, Sec; I R Nelson, G K; Mrs. F M A Tigard, P; Miss I G Tigard, F; Mrs H Hicklin, L A S. S. D. POWELL, Sec.

The following officers were installed for Pioneer Grange, No. 15 Whitman co. W. T., at their Hall on Jan. 1st, for the present year: James Benton, M; W J Hamilton, O; Henry Spaulding, L; C B Hald, S; Thos J Liddle, S; O F Wilson, A S; John Hughes, T; John Harper, C; India Mason, C; Martha Liddle, P; Lula Hamilton, F; James Eajan, G K; Annie Eajan, L A S. After the instalation there was a grand dinner spread of which all fed sumtuously after which the members participated in a lively debate of which our grange is taking quite an active part and commends a full attendance. Pioneer Grange is in a flourishing condition.

A READER OF THE FARMER.

TYGH VALLEY, Dec. 26, 1875.

EDITOR FARMER: Barlow's Gate Grange, No. 157, met Saturday, Dec. 25th, and held their regular annual election, and elected the following officers: John End, M; D A Wilson, O; D Wilson, L; A Kelly, S; J Mayfield, A S; Mrs. Mary Kelly, C; B Savage, T; Martin Wing, Sec; S Broyles, G K; Mrs. E Broyles, C; Mrs. E Miller, P; Mrs. B C Ena, F; Mrs. M Wilson, L A S. It commenced snowing on the eve of Christmas, and has snowed most of the time since. Snowing to-night with sixteen inches on the level, weather not very cold. JOHN END.

Eagle Creek Grange, No. 2, Clackamas co., elected officers as follows: E. Forbes, M; H. Wilburn, O; John Glover, L; W. J. Currin, S; H Gibbons, A S; Philip Foster, Chap; J. L. Baily, T; Geo. J. Currin, Sec; M Young, G K; Mrs. R. A. Young, C; Mrs. Catherine Wilburn, P; Miss Jane Currin, F; Mrs. R.S. Bailey, L A S.

Walla Walla Grange, No. 5, has elected officers as follows: C C Cram, M; C S Bush, O; D Stewart, L; A Cameron, S; T Evans, A S; A W McAtee, G K; J Dower, Ch; J Simonton; H Nelson, Treas; Mrs M Stewart, C; Mrs S A Nelson, P; Mrs Jane Waterman, F; Miss Kate Stewart, L A S.

Umpqua Grange, No. 27, elected the following: P Cooper, M; H Coon, sr., O; W F Owens, L; Cy. Smith, S; Jas Sheffield, A S; Jacob Ledgerwood, C; H Jones, T; N Webb, Sec; W Gregge, G K; Mrs Boggs, C; Mrs Cooper, P; Mrs Emma Boenbrake, F; Mrs Webb, L A S.

Letter from Umatilla County.

BUTTER CREEK, UMATILLA CO. Dec. 30th, 1875.

Mr. Editor, Inclosed please find pay for the FARMER up to Jan. 1st, 1877, we could not get along without the WILLAMETTE FARMER we had a cold snap about the middle of November mercury got down to 12° above zero but it was of short duration lasting a week or ten days since we have had very pleasant weather with occasional growing showers. The green grass is good, better than it has been for many years at this season of the year, stock of all kinds are looking remarkably well; about as well as in mid summer. Farmers have made good use of their time during the good weather in the way of plowing and sowing. It snowed 3 inches Christmas but did not lay on, as the warm Chinook winds soon melted it away, we have here in a prosperous condition, also a school which is second to none in the county, Miss Abbie S. Lansdale of Weston teacher.

Yours, respectfully,
J. L. GULLIFORD.

Grass is growing finely on Willow creek, and stock of all kinds are doing unusually well.

In Memoram.

ED. FARMER: At a meeting of Salem Grange, No. 17, P. of H., Jan. 1st, 1876, the following resolutions of tribute to the memory of Sister Virgilia E. Smith were adopted and ordered published in the columns of the WILLAMETTE FARMER:

Resolved, 1st, That by the demise of Sister Virgilia E. Smith, this Grange has lost one of its most trustful, charitable, and faithful members.

2d, That realizing as we do, though but imperfectly, the great loss it is to the family when the loving wife and tender mother is taken away, we tender our condolence and sympathy to the bereaved husband and family of our departed Sister.

J. MINTO,
R. P. BOISE,
O. G. SAVAGE,
Committee.

Mrs. Virgillia E. Smith, whose death we mourn, was the eldest daughter of Mr. Virgil Pringle, and crossed the plains with her father's family in 1847, and by the circumstance of the family joining with others to reach the Willamette valley by crossing the country from Fort Hall by way of Klamath lake, Rogue river, and Umpqua valleys, became a pioneer among pioneers. By the exercise of that patient endurance of hardship, wolch is often as great a test of courage as is the accomplishment of dangerous feats, Virgilia E. Pringle often stimulated those around her to renewed exertions to extricate themselves from the difficulties that surrounded them. In the passage of the Umpqua mountains by the bed of Canyon creek, in particular, she was in the lead of her people most of the time under a heavy load of the most valuable bed clothing her family had left, traveling down the channel or crossing that stream of snow water, frequently more than waist deep. She married shortly after her arrival in the Willamette valley, and has lived since on the land donated to herself and husband in reward for their toil as pioneers. In her relations of wife, mother, and neighbor, she filled the measure of her duties as only a christian woman can, and became a member of the Patrons of Husbandry only when satisfied that such a relation would help rather than hinder her in those duties.

J. MINTO.

The winter wheat crop in Yamhill county never looked better than it does now. But little plowing, however, has been done since the rain began.

A correspondent says there is plenty of good land yet vacant on the foothills of the Coast range back of Glencoe in Washington county.

The Yamhill river was higher at the late freshet than it had been since 1862, but fortunately it did no great damage.

A New Year's Item.

Remember that the WILLAMETTE FARMER is now only $2.50 a year to those who pay cash in advance. See first article on first page.