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CORRESPONDENCE.

GASTON, OR., Feb. 12, 1876. GEORGE BISHAW, Esq.—Dear Sir: I have been much interested in your articles in the WILLAMETTE FARMER.

In your last article (varieties of wheat) you express the belief that "White Chili Club" is the best spring wheat. I find considerable difference among farmers as to names of wheat.

I have considerable low bottom, which is now covered with water, and will be wet until the 15th of March; but being alluvial deposits from the mountains, and containing considerable sand and decayed leaves &c. it dries out quickly.

You mention three varieties of winter wheat—the Old White, the White Velvet, and the White Horse varieties. Permit me to inquire if either of these are identical with the wheat raised in the vicinity of North Yamhill, and also in parts of Linn county.

If not taxing your time too much I would like to hear from you in the questions above and greatly oblige.

Yours truly, J. GASTON.

EUGENE CITY, Feb. 28, 1876.

J. GASTON.—Dear Sir: Your letter of Feb. 12 is received, and its contents noted, but not knowing very well to what county to direct, I think the best way, to answer your questions through the FARMER. I see you express the same opinion in your letter, and if my opinion will benefit the farming class of Oregon, I will cheerfully answer all questions pertaining to farming whenever I have time to do so.

main, you say you have land that will stand on until the 15th of March. You ask me which will be the variety to seed this land—Red Little Club or Chile Club—my opinion is that the red chaff Little Club will be much the best. It will do to

put in until the last of April, but not quite so well as earlier. Again, you ask me if the varieties mentioned in my former letter are identical with the Burton or Irish Lameth. I answer no. I raised the Lameth several years ago, but the white velvet is much the best, whiter and larger grained.

MARION CIRCUIT COURT.

Doctor E. Smith vs. P. K. Murphy; jury failed to agree and discharged. State of Oregon vs. Amory Miller; larceny. Defendant entered plea of not guilty. Josephus Holmes vs. E. A. Pike; judgment rendered for plaintiff in accordance with stipulation filed.

New STRAIGHTS.—The Portland Journal has the following: "After repeated rumors to that effect for a year or two past, we have at last, on undoubted authority, that these first class steamships will shortly be placed on the Portland and San Francisco route by the U. S. S. Co. These vessels have been only recently built, and for speed, freight, passenger accommodations and a worthiness as a vessel, are superior to those at present in use on this route. The first steamer of the new line will leave New York for this port about the 1st of April next."

Management of the State Fair.

BUTTE CREEK, WASCOCO, Feb. 13th, 1876.

FRIEND MINTO; As you request me to write when I have leisure time I will say that I am on the shelf now, by my horse falling on my foot. There is little news from this section; our winter has, up to this time, been the most favorable for the past five years.

You being one of the old stand-by's of the State Fair, suppose I express an opinion of its welfare. I have been expecting to see a published list of the premiums before this; on the whole they are larger than heretofore, especially the trials of speed, yet they are not more than they should be, as I shall prove hereafter. Suffice to say that the expense of training has always been in excess of the premiums given.

True it is no small talk to accommodate 20,000 people, and the greater portion remain on the ground during the week. When the managers can so regulate and govern the fair that the people go home satisfied, they will come again, and continue to come as there is something new and worth seeing.

Some years the dust has been almost suffocating. The Pavilion is the general resort of the ladies, and through the middle of the day it has been packed, and jammed, and crowded so that a person only got through by patience and good elbowing. Articles on exhibition were two or three deep, affording but little satisfaction to spectator or exhibitor.

Now let us see what we intend having in the future. Good running water is to be brought in pipes from Mill creek to supply the wants of all. Two sprinklers will keep the ground and track in nice order, no dust, no lack of water for man or beast. The water is expected to cost from \$4,000 to \$6,000. Next, a new Pavilion, or a part of one built after the plan of the grand one at St. Louis, room for all well provided with seats.

The trials of speed in most of the purses offered promise to be good, especially the two-year-old stake, and three, and five. The first I think will have about five or six starters, seven in this neighborhood are being fed to be trained in the spring. In the three

in five race you may expect to see the three brothers, Bigham, Rye straw, and Oregon, aged six, four, and three; of the trio Rye straw is entitled to the preference, as he proved the victor last fall. But if the three shall come to the post in equal condition, I will lay \$100, no one can place either horse in the race, and if there are not more than five heats, they will not vary three seconds, some of which will be in the forties. As for the trotters; in the three year old stake I think S. G. Reed, C. P. Bacon and two from Walla Walla will be started.

Nothing but bad weather can keep us from having a good fair again this fall; and if we do I hope there will be added to the premium list \$100 worth of silver ware to the three-year-old stake for trotters and the two-year-old stake for running, and make them yearly events, and so with all the stock and leading articles at the fair, making it necessary for the same party to win it three times before receiving it.

Hereafter the lady equestrians are to ride on Wednesday, immediately after the three in five race. Heretofore the time has been late in the afternoon, as it is to be, those in the stands to see the race can remain to see the ladies' equestrianism.

One more suggestion: I would have the horses, and cattle if desired, paraded, each class in routine, as soon as the entries are closed, and one parade after the premiums have been awarded, so that we can all see and form an opinion whether the judges have made a good and impartial award. I have no knowledge who the judges were, or what horse got the first premium last fair for horses of all work, but I do think the horse of Mr. Redman that got the second premium the best horse in that class I have ever seen on the Pacific coast.

I would have programmes printed for each day's progress and live up to them. Some say it cannot be done; I think different, and until it is done there will always be clashing and confusion.

Hoping we will all meet again and have a good time this fall.

I remain yours, WM. BIGHAM.

HON. JOHN MINTO, Salem.

The Best Oats.

ED. FARMER: I see in your paper of Feb. 15th, an article on oats culture and how to keep them from smutting, which is in the main correct, from the pen of Mr. Belsshaw. We have been acquainted with Mr. Belsshaw for several years, and know that he is a very successful farmer, but my experience in farming has caused me to arrive at a different conclusion as I have followed farming in Oregon ever since 1853, and having raised no other variety of oats but side oats until about four years ago I was induced to try the barley oats, as they are a much finer looking oats, and are about twelve pound to the bushel heavier than the side oats, and yield as many bushels per acre for me as the side oats do, which has been from 40 to 50 per acre and don't smut any worse than the side oats. I have raised the barley oats for four years and they do not smut for me. I therefore have laid the side oats away and supplied their place with the barley oats as I think 45 pounds of the barley oats is better than 31 pounds of the side oats. This is the exact weight of a bushel of each variety, the samples of which I herewith send you. The side oats weighing 31 and the barley oats 45 pounds, which was weighed in my barn in the presence of Walter Fisher, and Albert Davis.

The sample of each variety sent you are both pure, my son raising the side oats, and I the barley oats. I think as Mr. Belsshaw does planting, in oats late is the cause of their smutting. They should be sowed as early as you can get the land in good order. I saw two bushels and a half in the acre on the last lands we have in this county and they are now to be thick.

CALEB DAVIS, RAINTONDAKE, LEWIS CO., Feb. 24th, 1876.

A census lately taken puts to population of Oregon City at 1,008.

Letter from Umatilla.

PENDLETON, March 1, 1876.

EDITOR FARMER: The weather is beautiful, which it has been for the past month. In fact it has been so warm the peach trees in some localities have budded, and it is feared that this kind of fruit crop will be small on account of budding too early and getting frost-bitten.

The grass is growing rapidly, and all kinds of stock are fattening in proportion. Most every body all over the country are done seeding and all are flattering themselves that their crops will yield abundantly this season.

The sickness that has been so prevalent in this county this winter is dying away, and everybody seems happy and cheerful. The only contagious disease that this section is plagued with is the Black Hill fever.

Our last ride over the county found everybody busy, gardening and farming; setting out raspberry, strawberry plants, pruning fruit trees; looking after the plows, hauling cattle; hauling rails, posts, and poles; building fences; clearing ground; building houses, and barns; repairing wagons and harness; everybody busy as a bee. Wake up everybody and what hearty shaking of hands all amongst our folks when we shall meet the spring after waking up. And what minute details will be given about all the symptoms of the "blues;" and how lonesome they have been; how Sally and Mary and Rachel and Susan scolded, and what the men had to bear; and we know they (the men) have to bear an awful sight, for one instance that we was an eye witness to goes to prove it. We were riding along the road and saw a man sitting on his sulky plow, bearing (down) I should judge from appearance about 200 lbs. (on the plow seat) and as we passed along by the house, there the woman was, up to her elbows in the wash tub and one foot on the cradle, and every few minutes she would run to the oven and look at the bread, which she was trying to get a nice crust on for her protector(?) who had to bear so much. Oh, I tell you, it is terrible what we men have to bear when Sally and Rachel have such an easy time.

During our trip we visited Pilot Rock, Heppner, Butter Creek, Lena, Weston, Umatilla, and found business flourishing in each place, and especially was our attention attracted at the enterprising town of

BEVERLY.

This town consists of two dry good stores; one drug store; one saloon; one livery stable; two hotels; one good school house in which is taught a No. 1 school by Prof. L. H. Lee, ex-county school superintendent, there being 40 scholars in attendance. Mr. Wm. Beagle a very worthy and highly esteemed citizen of that place will, about the middle of this month commence the erection of a grist-mill, and express to have it completed in time to do grinding this fall. At present there is only a weekly mill at Heppner, but it is expected that there will be a daily line of coaches put on that route sometime this summer. Geo. H. Sansbury is the proprietor of this lively little town, and sells lots at \$25 each. We learn that Mrs. E. J. Smith, a resident of this place, whose daughter has been spending a few months in Salem, wishes to sell her house and lot and move to Salem.

And now, in conclusion, we will comment on the

CITY OF PENDLETON, which is no doubt a wide awake place. The hall given by the Masons on the night of the 22nd inst. is said to be one of the grandest affairs of the kind ever known east of the Cascade mountains, there were over 65 tickets sold at \$5 each, amounting to about \$325 and the supper, which was had at the Pendleton hotel, was grand beyond comparison.

We are informed that Esq. Everts, of this city is going to run for Circuit Judge against Slater of LaGrande.

We only know of one man in this city who really wants an office, and that is our enterprising merchant Mr. Lot Livemore; he only holds the offices of County Treasurer, Wells, Fargo & Co's Agent, Postmaster, and Stage Agent.

Mr. Dodd, of the firm of Hawley, Dodd & Co of Portland, gave Pendleton a flying visit this week.

All the business houses of this place close up Sunday.

Pendleton High School progressing finely—60 scholars.

Grist mill and planing mill just a going every day.

River up—timber hard—money scarce—hog pens up—Indians plenty—eggs 25 cents per dozen—good roads—bad times, and—tell your readers that the name of your correspondent is

X T R A.

OUTLET—Sheep, Antelope, President of the O. S. N. Co. has written a letter to Messrs. Wm. & Metzger, D. Lyon, W. T. to the effect that that company will carry wheat and flour from the landing at the mouth of the Tucuman to Portland for eight dollars per ton, provided that the people of that part of the country ship two hundred or more tons during the season.—Oregonian.