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Is Co-operation by Farmers Profitable?

ED. FARMER: Believing that the farmer's paper is the medium through which farmers should interchange views, and having your invitation to write, also, I shall offer no apology for sending you a short article for publication. Like many whose time has been spent on the farm, your correspondent is not a proficient in the art of writing for publication, and will be satisfied if successful in making himself understood by those who peruse the columns of the FARMER.

To compose and write with due legibility and dispatch is an art not acquired without more practice than is usually bestowed on it by laborers and farmers; yet none require the aid of the pen more than they, as they have not heretofore enjoyed the advantages of personal intercourse that is enjoyed by professions, and for this reason they should call the services of the pen more into requisition. Let farmers write and read, as well as plow and reap, and their interest will be advanced more than if their entire time was occupied in labor.

Let them give substantial support to such papers as have espoused their cause, and which are identified with their interests, and they will soon become strong and united, whereas they are weak and divided. Since the organization of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry, much has been accomplished in this direction, though much more remains yet to be done. The principle of co-operation should be fully applied to the support of a reliable agricultural journal such as the FARMER, so much as that it would find its way to every farmer's home, and then the publisher could furnish it much cheaper in proportion to the increased patronage.

Co-operation is talked of by the order of the Patrons of Husbandry, as much or more than any other order, yet practiced as little at present, in proportion to numerical strength; and we hear it questioned seriously whether the order should endeavor to co-operate in business matters at all; however we think there are few who take that view in Lane county.

In the supplement of the last FARMER I see an article headed "Is co-operation beneficial to farmers," which meets my views on this subject with the exception of the latter part of the article where it speaks of co-operative stores. In the first place, he says: "Where are they to be located? There is not a town or village in the Province which is not already crowded with stores and consequently prices are kept down to the lowest remunerative points." Now we agree with him fully in the proposition that the towns and villages are over-crowded with stores, but we do not agree that prices are thereby kept down. On the contrary, the more stores the higher the prices; the merchants having applied the principle of co-operation to their business long since. Merchants do not compete with each other. They have an established price both for their wares and your produce. They adhere strictly to those prices, and divide the trade so that they have to sell on the principle that 25 per cent. on one dollar is equivalent to 6 per cent. on four dollars, the demands of the vicinity for supplies (wherein the stores are located) being pretty much the same annually. When there are any accessions to the number of merchants, there must be a corresponding raise in prices in order to support the new dealer, and the surrounding country supports this new merchant on the same principle that a farmer would hire four men to do the work on his farm when he only had work for them one fourth of the time, and would have to board and clothe them the year round, when one hand

could do the whole amount of work required. We know a very respectable merchant in our county who sold goods last season at an advance of 44 per cent. on wholesale prices and yet complains that Patrons are responsible for the dishonesty of other people "not being willing to pay a living price for their supplies" so that the merchant is necessarily compelled to put up short weight to make the forty or fifty per cent. on his investment. Merchants complain that they do not make much in their business. It is not because they do not sell high but because they do not sell enough. Large sales and small profits is the remedy for the evil of which they complain. Now, while we have no wish to harm the merchant in his legitimate business, (having been favored by them ourselves, when we did not have the money on hand to pay down, but we were always of the impression that we paid the interest on that favor and do not think that we would have got it if the merchant had not been laboring under the same conclusion,) but we nevertheless hold to the right to supply ourselves with goods from our own establishments and on a different principle altogether from what we have heretofore been practicing. We want reform in this matter, and we should not hesitate to undertake to remedy an evil that we know exists. EX ADVERSAO. Creswell, March 29th, 1876.

Solution.

MR. EDITOR: In the last issue of "my paper," the WILLAMETTE FARMER, an inquirer wishes "to know how many feet, lumber measure, there are in a post twenty-two feet long, eight inches square at one end, and two inches square at the other." According to Loomis's Geometry, Book 8, Prop. 18, "A frustum of a pyramid is equivalent to the sum of three pyramids having the same altitude as the frustum, and whose bases are the lower base of the frustum, its upper base, and a mean proportional between them"; or, in other words, to find the contents of a frustum of a pyramid: to the sum of the areas of the ends add the square root of their product, and multiply this by one third of the perpendicular height.

Hence, 64, the area of the lower base, plus 4, the area of the upper base, plus 16, the mean proportional, multiplied by 88 inches, one third of the height, gives 7392 cubic inches, the contents of the given figure. Dividing this by 144, the number of cubic inches in one foot, lumber measure, gives the required answer: 51 3/4 feet.

I think the interest on the money received from the sale of bolts, in that cow yr. tobacco question, should have been \$1,512 instead of \$1,412, as J. A. Ayers has it. Perhaps it is a typographical error. H. A. CORNELL. Portland, March 25, 1876.

[J. W. Harris, Creswell, Lane county, Oregon, writes, giving us the same answer as the above. A "Juvenile," Eugene City, also gives the same answer as above, and then adds: "I want to know how long the post would be should it taper out, forming a pyramid."—ED. FARMER.]

Alkali Rock.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17, 1876. ED. FARMER: Some time since I forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution, for analysis, a specimen of the "alkali rock" of Eastern Oregon, and received the following account of the same. It is composed of, Soda..... 50 per cent. Sulphate soda..... 20 do. Carbonate soda..... 25 do. Water and common salt..... 5 do. 100

The specimen I picked up on Butter Creek some fifteen miles from its mouth. AUG. C. KINNEY. Last year Dr. John Save of McMinville prairie, procured some seed wheat at one of the mills in this section and planted it on a piece of ground near that place. It proved that the wheat was mixed about half and half, of winter and white spring wheat. The spring wheat came on last year and yielded 35 bushels to the acre; and now the winter wheat is coming on, and is one of the thickest looking fields of grain in this neighborhood promising to yield a full crop.

PUBLIC MORALS.

ED. FARMER: Seeing your article on the public morals, I cannot help offering a few thoughts on that subject for the consideration of your readers. When I consider the fact that is revealed to us by the history of the world, that all efforts of republican forms of government, both ancient and modern, have failed through their internal corruption and the degraded state of their public morals; and when I cast a look at the political condition of this, my country, of which I am a part and to which I owe my allegiance, and in which I expect my children and my children's children to dwell, I cannot help but cast about and see if I can trace these vast political corruptions that have brought this Government to disgrace and to the verge of ruin, and made us the objects of pity and, I fear, the contempt of the civilized world. They are the effect of certain causes, a part of which you enumerate. But there is one great cause omitted.—Now, may God help me, in the name of humanity and an outraged country, to do this justice, while I attempt to lay it before your readers. I refer to the legalized sale of spirituous and malt liquors, a traffic at once at variance with the declared objects of our Government, and that has done more than all other causes combined to bring about the deplorable state of public morals that disgrace and corrupt this nation at this time.—Let us first look at the magnitude of this traffic, and its power and influence.

On Jan. 10th, 1876, Senator Morrill, of Maine, in a debate in the U. S. Senate on Senate bill No. 1,6, said: "The distillation, under our encouragement and countenance, is, say 70,000,000 gallons, and we are a people of 40,000,000."

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio—"I think the amount returned on which tax was paid was 70,000,000. There was some 'crooked' whiskey that did not pay the tax."

Morrill of Maine—"I do not know the amount of crooked whiskey, but I should suppose the distillation was not less than 100,000,000 gallons at least. Now, just think of 100,000,000 gallons of distilled spirits for a people of 40,000,000, in addition to all that is imported from abroad. * * * What becomes of it? It is doctored and medicated, rectified and retified, into all the shapes that human ingenuity can conceive, and the people are doctored with it, and poisoned with it, the effect of all which is pauperism, crime, destitution, beggary, want, and death. The statistics show, beyond all controversy, if any thing has ever been made clear by statistics, that three-fourths of the pauperism is attributable directly and indirectly to intoxicating drinks, and three-fourths of the crime to the same cause. * * * Why, sir, more than all other agencies combined is the terrible effect of alcoholic drinks upon the health and morals and prosperity of this people. It is the gigantic crime of crimes in this age, and particularly in this country."

Now, just look at the law governing this crime of crimes: the Government sells for \$70,000,000 the right to carry on this business. And just take a glance at one year's business with me: 100,000 men have bought the right from our Government to degrade, demoralize, say, to make, paupers, criminals, vagrants, and vagabonds of our citizens—to maintain an army of at least half a million of hopeless drunkards, and to make miserable at least one and a half million of helpless women and children who are so closely related with them as to be partakers of their degradation and wretchedness, and sending at least 200,000 of them yearly to the poorhouse and charitable institutions, murdering from 80 to 100,000 of our citizens and consigning them to a drunkard's grave. Now, with these facts staring as full in the face ought we to be surprised to find the "public morals" degraded? We are beginning to gather the fruit for the corrupt tree we have planted and nourished by our laws, "for by their fruits ye shall know them." Let us lay the ax at the root of this tree. But how shall this be done? It is no small job to do away with an evil that has the power and influence of this "crime of crimes." According to the report of Mr. Wells, Internal Revenue Commissioner, for 1867, there was sold by retail dealers in the United States \$1,483,491,865 worth of liquors and cigars. This statement is sworn to by the dealers, in which they pay the license tax, (and in little Oregon, \$4,261,240.) With this vast sum of money from the retail trade, together with that from other branches of the traffic, they create a fund with which they are able to control political parties, and consequently control this Government. Bonfort's "Wine and Liquor Circular," in an editorial on this point says: "As to the possibility of carrying a law through Congress which is the outcome of the unanimous wishes of the trade, we have no doubt. The Wine and Spirits Trade society has successfully carried every important measure through Congress, heretofore, and enjoys the highest consideration

in Washington." And do not recent events at Washington indicate that this is so?

We see by Gov. Tilden's figures that taxation has increased in twenty years from \$3 57 per head to \$17, coin, for every man, woman, and child in this Government. Now, is there any man of foresight that cannot see that this system of whisky rule and reckless extravagance must be put down, or this Government must go to the wall? Let me ask you, then, fellow-citizens, to bury, with me, your political creeds on the altar of our common country, and work to put this Government in the hands of men who will honestly administer it, from constable to President.

It seems that all efforts of the people to organize for this purpose, in this State, are soon captured by the dominant parties.—Now, let us go to the primaries of the party we think the best, and there commence the work of reform, and if we cannot carry our measures, let us make the best fight we can for our country, and let us keep up the war as long as there is anything for us to do.

G. W. DIMICK.

Hubbard, March 26, 1876.

Terrible Flood in Massachusetts.

WORCESTER, March 29.—About 8 o'clock to-night the alarm was given through the valley that the dam of the Lyndebrook reservoir, which supplies the city with water, was giving away. The work of clearing out dwelling houses and mills throughout the valley was at once begun, and the excitement was great. The water was pouring in torrents through the stone gate-house, and an entrance was forced to the gate-house, but the waste-gate could not be opened, it being clogged with stones and gravel and the iron rods with which it is worked being bent. The reservoir covers 140 acres and stores 670 million gallons of water.

At 6:30 p. m., the reservoir dam gave away with a great crash. The spilling walls crumbled, letting off 700,000 gallons of water stored behind it. The water rushed down the ravine with a terrible roar, in a solid mass 20 feet high. Down through a narrow ravine, 100 feet wide and one mile long, the flood swept on. The sides of the ravine were fairly dug out clean in an instant, for 50 feet, until the edge of the embankment was also perpendicular. Through the pine woods on one side of the ravine, the waters tore. The largest trees were twisted around like screws, pulled up by their roots, and carried onward down the decline. The flood tore out everything in the ravine and rushed towards the highway below.

Three hours after the dam broke away, the effect was felt at New Worcester. The course of the stream from the reservoir through the other villages, was nine miles, showing that the water advanced at the rate of three miles an hour. The first mile, however, was made in three minutes. The situation was critical when the water had cut a hole through the dam. A few minutes past 9 one end of Curtis & Marble's large brick shops gave away, falling in the stream. Soon after the Arnold building tipped over and was left standing on one end. About a quarter of 10 the double-arch bridge on the Boston and Albany Railroad, below Curtis & Marble's shop gave way and a section of the embankment, 70 feet long and 20 deep, with 10,000 feet of water above it, fell into the river. Worcester was thus made and the danger at New Worcester was averted. After the second breaking of the B. & A. R. R., the mill of Wicks' manufacturing company at South Worcester was destroyed. The water then spread out into a series of interlocks and in the south part of city there was a general inundation. The water is rapidly subsiding and no further damage is feared.

WORCESTER, March 31.—The flood by the dam disaster did no material damage below South Worcester. Blackstone river was not harmed. The losses to private estimated as follows: City of Worcester, dam and reservoir, \$125,000—bushels, the summer's supply of water, \$3,000; Geo. W. Olney's house and barn, \$10,000; J. W. South & Co., mill and town out-mill owned by Wright & Babcock, and occupied by A. E. Smith—\$20,000; Ashworth & Jones, mill, etc., \$10,000; J. A. Hunt, saw-mill, \$5,000; Boston & Albany R. R., two bridges; Curtis & Marble, on mill, \$2,000; the Wicks Manufacturing Co., \$150,000. The city of Worcester also loses largely, perhaps \$150,000 by damage to highways, besides damage by the falling of the mills. Nearly every dam is destroyed. One man and two boys are missing and are supposed to be drowned. The city is already building a dam on Parson's brook to secure a supply of water.

Circuit court for Yamhill county failed to convene according to regular appointment on Monday last, on account of the illness of Judge Bonham. The Judge was compelled to vacate his seat at Albany on account of sickness in his family, and since then he has been prostrate himself. Undoubtedly a special session of court will be called at no distant day. There are several prisoners in jail at quite an expense to the county, whose cases should be attended to as speedily as possible to relieve the county of their expense.

The U. S. Supreme Court has decided the law of California, forbidding the importation of Chinese women, as unconstitutional.

[For the Willamette Farmer.] Which is the Best Breed of Hogs?

Essex, Berkshire, Suffolk, Poland-China, Chester White, or Little China. I am well aware each of those breeds has its friends and admirers, and I will not attempt to lead your minds from it, for like the poet, I believe, convince a man against his will he is of the same opinion still. Essex is an entire black hog, and when well fattened there is no hog having less waste; I mean there is much, if not more, bacon and lard than any of the above-breeds in same ratio of pounds net weight of the hog. They are a very slow grower, and do not cross well, do not mix but in my mind amongst the best grass hogs and most quiet feeder, but do not possess as much lean meat as I think our market demands. Berkshire is a black hog, with a white strip in the face, all feet white to its dew claws, and tip of tail white. The early breed of these, history informs us, has some white spots upon its body, they are good graziers and mature early and possess a large share of lean meat, and are very prolific breeders. A Suffolk is a pure white hog, very thin hair, easily kept, meat of excellent quality; but I find them too subject to mange in this climate. Poland-China is a dark spotted hog, and are a mixed blood, and of late I find they are getting much darker by infusing more Berkshire blood in them. They have a large coarse head and ears, very large bone, and not a fleshy hog, and can be made to attain a great weight, but I think more percentage of waste. Chester White is a hog emanating from Chester county, Pennsylvania, its breed cannot be traced back to any importation of blood, and it is thought was brought to its present state by good care and feed for a number of years. It is a poor grower, waits for its food, and possesses less lean meat than any hog I have ever seen dressed, and are fast going out of reputation. Little China is well enough known without my describing them, and I find them too small for profit, and too small for bacon purposes.

Now before a selection of hogs is made, we must enquire what market we are going to? whether heavy pickled pork, such as was used in the whale fisheries, or whether lard to make lard oil, or whether we want it for family use. Now, if you are going to purchase a hog, you select him for a special purpose; you first consult your need. Now you want to know what is needed in market; what sells most readily; and which is most profitable. Then you will select your hog accordingly; you are all more or less posted about bacon which brings best prices, hams, sides, or shoulders, and their relative weight; then select your hogs accordingly.

In conclusion, I desire to call your attention to the most important point about a hog, and in which the largest error is committed and is the hardest to remedy or dispel from the minds of hog-rabbers, and that is the bone. I differ with nearly all upon this point. I have four especial points in a hog I want to enforce, hence I dwell at length. First, a nice, well-balanced, and pretty head and ear, and a round heavy body, covering as much ground as possible with his feet, but especially his bone, and when you hear a man say, "I like that hog," he will follow it up by saying he has a good bone. As I have written too much at this time, I will tell you in my next about what I like, and when I tell you I like a profit you will all believe me. Well, we all want the hog that is most profitable. Mr. Editor, I have promised you so much and so long to give my views upon this, I want you to tell me when you think I have fulfilled my promise, or when you are tired of printing it. THOMAS CROSS.

Salem, March 31, 1876.

The largest train that ever left this place went from here Saturday last, consisting of 19 cars loaded with 140 tons of wheat besides the passenger, mail, express and baggage car. Each box car weighs 17,000 lbs. making 323,000 and the loading consisted of 380,000 making a grand total of 703,000 lbs. exclusive of the passenger, express mail and baggage cars and the engine. The engine that took this vast amount of weight over this road must have a power unknown to the general reader. This was engine No. 11, presided over by Mr. John McFadden, one of the R. R. Co's. popular engineers. Mr. Bellinger, who presided over this immense train says he could take ten more if necessary. This is quite an improvement over the old ox teams that formerly dragged loads to and from Roseburg.—Paunder.

The town of Seattle is a lively and patriotic place. It is troubled fearfully with burglars, has three lotteries in full blast, and has raised \$1,200 for a Fourth of July celebration.

The railroad from Duluth to Bismark, on the Missouri river, was completed recently, and is now in running order.