

# WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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## Hints—Flowing, Sowing, etc.

**ED WILLAMETTE FARMER:** With your consent I will give a few hints relative to experience and observation in the matter of plowing, sowing, &c. As the old saying is, "There is a proper time for all things." This maxim is undoubtedly true. The difficulty is to know when the work ought to be done. Seasons differ so much in Oregon, that farmers are often puzzled to know when they should plow. There are so many different kinds of soil and in close proximity; more so than in any State I ever lived in.

This being the Centennial year, should be an inducement for farmers to look back in their business affairs, and see if there has been any mistaking; and so, this is a good time to turn over a new leaf. With the exceptions of low and bottom lands, I find from observation and experience that the best time to plow is in the fore part of the winter. Commence plowing as soon as possible after harvest, and continue until completed. This gives seeds a chance to germinate, besides more benefit is derived from undergrowth. Stubbin and soil turned up in the fore part of the winter has a better chance for such chemical operations as are necessary for growth of vegetation. The majority of nutriment comes from rain and the atmosphere. This being the case, soil that's never been exposed to the sun and atmosphere requires time for such changes to take place. We find from observation that our rains, that are so much dreaded in this country, have the same effect on our soil as freezing in colder countries; and right here I would say, one cause of our success in raising grain is the heavy dews to which we are subject through the growing season. A heavy fall of dew is better than three times the amount in the shape of rain, from the fact that rain comes with such force and in the heat of the day and is soon absorbed by the soil and atmosphere, or, more properly the sun, whilst the falling of dew continues through the night, and is entirely absorbed by the soil.

I have noticed plowing this season (as well as in former times), that was done in the fore part of winter, that was in a pulverizing condition, when in the same field or on adjoining farms, the ground that was plowed was hard and in a condition impossible to pulverize. My motto is, (and I find many farmers coincide) plow early, and then let the boisterous March pass over; after that give your land a single stroke of the harrow; sow your grain; and use modern cultivators. What we call single-bum, with nine or ten plows. Such a piece of machinery four horses can take along all day, and put in from ten to fifteen acres. Grain cultivated in this form is preferable to drilling or sowing broadcast and harrowing in, from the fact that by cultivating we accomplish three objects by passing over the ground once, where a drill only performs one; first, the grain is covered up as well; if not better; the ground is better pulverized; and last, but not least in importance, there is nothing comes as near killing weeds or foul undergrowth. On the other hand, there is no better cultivator of weeds than a drill. Why do you so often see fields thrown out to the weeds? Is it entirely because the soil is exhausted? No, it is from the fact the weeds have taken possession. Grain sown broadcast is preferable, from the fact it is more equally distributed, and sprangles out better. The more stalks from one grain and the larger the stalk, the longer the head, the larger the grains and more plump. This proves the benefit of grain spreading. The causes of grain spreading, I find there is a considerable diversity of opinion about. There is an old saying, "sow grain early if you want it to spread." This idea I consider erroneous. I will give you my reasons, and the readers of your valuable paper can be the judges of their correctness. The quality and condition of the ground when the grain is sown, and the weather. I'll admit there are some kinds of grain that spread more than others, but this does not disprove the argument.

Excuse the length of this article, for these matters presented are of no minor consequence to the farmers of Oregon.

R. R. R.

Irving, Lane Co.

**DROWNED**—On last Saturday, about 4 o'clock, Mr. Jacob Stenour, of Fern Ridge, of this county met with a sad accident. Mr. Stenour had some water in a keg for washing or scrubbing, and while her attention was called to some other part of the house a little girl, about two years of age, went to the barrel or keg and attempted to dip some water out of the same, in doing so fell into the keg and before any person missed her she was drowned.—*Statenman.*

## Still More about Hogs.

**ED. FARMER:** I am glad that friend Cross has not lost all faith in blood. Now, Friend Cross, I think I understand you—you think so much of high feeding that you are willing to sacrifice some of the merits of blood or breed in hog, to induce farmers to feed higher. Now, the worst advice you ever gave was when you said, "I say to all do not start with improved breeds, unless you intend using good care and feeding well." The fact is, the better the blood the less attention and feed, friend Cross to the contrary notwithstanding. About 45 years ago my brother F. W. (of Butteville) and I caught two elm-peeler shoots that ran in the corn field. We talked of yoking them a la goosa, to keep them out of the corn-field, but finally concluded to put them in a tight pen and feed them well on corn and milk. They were not wild, and ate well from the start, and did as well as any scrub hogs could do. About 6 or 8 weeks after we put them up Fother (J. C. Gear of Butteville) bought a spotted China boar, put in the pen with them, and we soon found the boar was getting too fat, and we shut off part of the feed, and still he got fatter and fatter, although the elm-peelers ate three-fourths of the feed and squealed for more all the time, and we were compelled to take the boar out or starve the elm-peelers to death, or nearly so. That experiment was all the lesson that father or I ever wanted to teach us that "blood would tell" in hogs, as well as other stock, and until we came to Oregon we never bought a scrub hog to feed or breed.

I say to all, Do not start with scrub stock, without you intend to use the best care and feed to the highest notch, for without the best of care and the highest feed scrub hogs are a curse to any farmer; whereas, Poland-Chines and other really kept hogs do well without much care or high feed, and if you don't believe me, come to our farm and I will convince you that "blood will tell" just as much if not more than feed, and, certainly, with 100 per cent. more profit, which friend Cross knows as well as I do. I am satisfied from experience that it is better to sell wheat at one cent a pound and pay five cents per bushel to have it drawn to market, than to feed it to scrub hogs; consequently the farmer that owns scrub hogs ought to own but few. I suppose everybody has heard of the two men that were traveling, and as they were passing a very poor looking farm one man says to the other, "I swear, the man that owns this farm must be a very poor man"—and the owner happened to be in hearing, and he immediately responded "not so poor as you might suppose, for I own only half of it." Now, the less cold blood in stock a man owns, the better, and the more warm blood in his stock, the better. The best bacon that I ever made, or that friend Cross ever made, was made from thin-grained, thin-skinned, warm-blooded, high-bred hogs. R. C. GEEK.

Fruit Farm, Marion Co.

## Fatal Accident.

**SMITHFIELD, LANE CO., May 22, 1876.**  
**ED. FARMER:** A sad affair happened in the Cashier neighborhood on Thursday evening of last week. Frank Hart accidentally shot himself with a Spencer rifle, the ball taking effect about two inches to the left of the navel, ranging through and coming out between the opposite hip and back bone. Dr. P. J. Lee was summoned, but of no avail, the wounded man expired seven hours after being shot. On leaving the house he was cautioned by an affectionate mother to be careful of the gun, to which he replied: "Mother, don't be scared about me, there is no danger of my shooting myself," but alas! thirty minutes from this caution, he was doomed to the grave.

Just one hour ago! Oh, what a change! To him it was but a brief thought. Had he minded his mother's caution his life might have been spared. This sad event cannot be forgotten by those who loved him, and who have only left of him a memory of happy hours that are past and gone.

G. W. GIBSON.

**WASHINGTON, May 21**—The following are the postoffice changes in Oregon and Washington Territory for the week: Offices established—Miss Fowler, Baker county, Oregon; Miss M. A. Tarter, postmistress; Norway, Coos county, Oregon; J. Henry Schreiner, postmaster; Oneonta, Benton county, Oregon; John E. Peterson, postmaster; Ringo P. Mt., Clackamas county, Oregon; W. J. Allison, postmaster; Bay Center, Pacific county, Washington Territory; Sidney Smith, postmaster; Postmaster appointed—Henry Jackson, Lowell, Suwomish county, Washington Territory.

## Letter from Daniel Clark, Esq.

PLEASANT POINT FARM,  
MAHON COUNTY, OREGON.  
May 18th, 1876.

**EDITOR WILLAMETTE FARMER:** Will you please give the following a place in your paper? While East last fall I made the acquaintance of Mr. C. G. Akam, one of the principal stockholders in the Whitney Sewing Machine Company, of Patterson, New Jersey, and made arrangements with him to introduce their sewing machines into this State and Washington Territory, through the Grange. I brought a few of them home with me. Our State Agent has a fresh supply on hand, and there are more on the way. The Agent expects, in the future, to keep them constantly on hand to supply all wanting a first-class machine for a reasonable price, and to supply agencies in other parts of the country. As a family machine, they are not surpassed by any; they are fully warranted, and each purchaser is permitted to keep the machine twenty days on trial, and, if not entirely satisfied, they can return the machine, and their money will be refunded. While in Louisville last fall I took some pains to learn the standing and character of those where they had been tried. To that end, I talked with Bro. Price, State Agent of Missouri, and Bro. Guthrie, State Agent of Kentucky and Tennessee, also Bro. Tiner, State Agent of Indiana. All of whom render the same verdict, and I cannot give it better than to quote Bro. Tiner's own statement, as published in the Bulletin of the Kentucky State Grange, as follows:

"Office of Indiana State Grange Purchasing Agency, Indianapolis, May 1st, 1875.  
C. G. Akam, Esq., Cincinnati, O.: Dear Sir: Yours of the 21st ult. received. In reply would say we have sold, through our State Agency, in the past six months, 304 Whitney Sewing Machines, amounting to \$79,555 50, all of which are giving universal satisfaction. We have given each purchaser the privilege of returning machines and refunding money if not perfectly satisfied, and I take pleasure in stating that we have not been asked to do so in a single instance. Wishing you continued success, I am, very respectfully, yours,  
A. TINKER,  
State Purchasing Agent, Indiana."

This gentleman (Mr. Akam) started for this coast April 20th; will stop a short time in California, and hopes to visit Oregon before returning to the East, and I bespeak for him a hearty and brotherly welcome from all Patrons in this jurisdiction as a co-worker in bringing producer and consumer in direct contact with each other. You will find him a pleasant gentleman. He is the traveling agent of the Company.

Truly yours, DAN'L CLARK.

## A New Telescope.

**ED. FARMER:** One of Oregon's productions is a telescope made by Mr. T. W. May, of this county. The size of the telescope is forty-two inches in length; the object glass is four inches in diameter; one eye glass is one and one-quarter inches in diameter; the other is seven eighths in diameter. These lenses are made from plus glass three eighths of one inch thick. With the exception of the correcting lens, it is made from cut glass. There are eight lenses in the telescope. It takes several weeks to make one lens—grinding and polishing. It will magnify about two hundred times; will show all the phases of Venus; the many spots on the sun; the moons of Jupiter; and the rings of Saturn; the circular valleys on the moon, in which you can see peaks many hundred feet high, a most beautiful sight. Mr. May takes delight in showing any one the planets, or anything that will be instructive, through his telescope. He has made philosophy a study for many years, and he can interest the most thoughtful. We think, Mr. Editor, that if Mr. May would give us his process of making lenses that it would stimulate some of our young boys to try their hands. What we want to learn, first, is to get the right circle—double lens, one convex, the other plano-convex. Now to get these to fit to a nicety is the great secret of lens making.

H. B. M.

Clackamas county, Oregon.

The Pendleton *Oregonian* says: "times in Umatilla county are beginning to liven up. This is owing mainly to the great number of cattle that are being bought in this country and driven to the railroad and other points east of here. Adams and Reynolds left here a few days ago en route to Wyoming with about two thousand head. Shiedly and Lang have purchased about four thousand head, and will in a few days start for Cheyenne. These cattle have cost the parties about fifteen dollars a head; six thousand head at \$15 per head will make \$90,000. Quite a snug little sum to leave in this county."

## [For the Willamette Farmer.]

### ORCHARDS—NO. 5.

Another article on orchards will make the round complete, as we have gone through all manipulations till we come to

#### CULTIVATION

and the enemy of orchards. In growing plants we have two objects in view, one to make the plant grow, another to make it bear either blossoms, as for the green house, or fruit as for the orchard. If then, we merely want the trees to grow for the first four or five years or so, we cultivate the ground all we can; when the trees are large enough to bear good crops, we check their growth by turning the orchard to grass; that is clover. When this has made a good growth, don't cut it down or pasture it, but just let it alone. It will die down and grow up through it again, and thus make a bed of manure, in four or five years, rich in the elements that make fruit and healthy trees. After this time, turn it under and cultivate for one or two years and then let it grow up again; there will be plenty of seed in the ground. Where ready land is plenty, the temptation to use the luscious clover ought to be overcome easily. This is the *ne plus ultra* for orchard culture. Let me add, give the land entirely to the trees, if set sixteen or twenty feet. If potatoes are planted,—the only crop admitted in an orchard,—they take much substance from the ground that goes to make the fruit. Deep plowing is not advisable. All we want is a mellow surface free of weeds. By the treatment named we come in possession of a thrifty orchard; but we must not lie on our oars; we must watch as well as work, for the

#### ENEMY

is in our land, and, if we will overcome him, we must not give him a firm lodging, but check his advance. I refer here to the bark louse, which if not met by firm purpose and diligent work, will blast our hopes. Six or seven years ago I first saw this pest on apple trees, covered so as to leave no spot free. They stood in the south part of Portland. Not knowing the full extent of their power for mischief, not much was said about it, but we kept a sharp look-out, and about three or four years ago, they were first discovered in the orchard at Milwaukie, and now they have spread far and wide. I cut a crab apple stalk growing in the middle of the road a quarter of a mile away from any apple tree, and it was coated with this destruction. What can be done to destroy the pest? Here is an experiment tried by Mr. J. H. Lambert, of Milwaukie, and with good success. He also observed that many of the shells are empty before the time of coming out, indicating that a certain little insect, a great enemy to the bark louse is at work to help us, and this is the

#### REMEDY.

Take half a bushel of unslaked lime to one barrel of water, and a half of a gallon of salt. Stir it well and often. Use a whitewash brush, and put on all the limbs you can reach, and on the body of the tree. Put this on now, or as soon as the insect begins to crawl, a small white speck. Renew the wash every day as the settlings are not good. Wherever reached, it has freed the trees.

H. MILLER.

A letter from Lake county to the *Paindecker* says, "A considerable amount of stock has perished during the winter, not, however, from the want of feed, as there was a vast amount of hay put up last year, and the winter before being light, many stockmen had old hay on hand. Cattle died when they were fat enough for beef, and they must have died from other causes than poverty or exposure; it was supposed to be some disease. Sheep also suffered as bad or worse. There was supposed to be about twenty per cent. of cattle of this county died during the winter."

## Answer to A. D. G.

Mr. EDITOR: In looking over the last issue of the WILLAMETTE FARMER I find a question for solution. The author calls in question the truth of the expression "Whereas, it has pleased God, in his all-wise providence, to remove from our midst," &c. In answer to the question, I will state that I believe the expression to be correct. I do not say that it is, for we should be careful in deciding so important a question. I think the author's trouble is all embodied in the word "death." "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of any." The term death does not mean temporal death, but has reference to spiritual death. Again: the word pleasure, in my mind, is used in an accommodated sense in the quotation. For example: our country has a law providing for the safety of the people. It has frequently happened in the history of our State, that certain individuals have disobeyed the laws, have trampled them under their feet, and, as a matter of course, they have been arraigned before the bar of justice to answer for their misdemeanor. They have been convicted, and the judges of the courts have, in obedience to justice, placed upon them whatever degree of punishment seemed right to them. Now, we know that if an individual should commit a criminal deed, and after having had his trial, the jury should bring in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, it would not in one sense be an act of pleasure to him to know that he had acted in accordance with the requirements of law, and that he had received the general approbation of the people. So God, the Ruler of the Universe, has a law, and, of course, there is connected with it a penalty; and whenever one of his creatures disobeys his law, he is pleased in accordance with justice to inflict punishment.

J. A. P.

Junction City, Oregon.

S. B. Catterlin, who has just arrived from Tillamook, brings some rather startling intelligence, the death-bed confession of one Chas. Bean, who died on his ranch, about two miles below the toll-gate on the Trask river road, in that county, on the 12th inst. To his partner, who, with him, was keeping bachelor hall on the place, he confessed to the murder of several parties, as well as to being an accomplice in as many robberies. He acknowledges killing a man, wife and child on the plains several years ago, and also to having a hand in the Howard murder, in Tillamook, a few years since. At his request, the hearthstone of the fireplace was removed and a large bunch of keys destroyed. A valuable breech-loading rifle was exhumed from his garden plot, by his direction, which he desired thrown into the river. He says himself and two confederates robbed the overland stage near Yreka, a few years since, securing some \$21,000, his third of which lies buried somewhere near that locality, the exact spot being described to his present partner. He also gave minute directions where a lot of valuable goods were secreted on a mountain near his house, supposed to be the contents of Hutche's store, which was rifled a few months since. He has always been a suspicious character, and during his few years' residence there has been closely watched, but no evidence could be established against him. His story is credited by his neighbors, and his death is a relief to the peaceably-inclined citizens of that county. More developments are promised us in a few days.

The *Astorian* says: In the face of a general complaint of scarcity of salmon thus far the present season, we have the consoling reflection that a greater number of cases packed, have been shipped, up to this date, than for a corresponding period of time last year. There is this difference, however, relative to the packing: Last year but a portion of the established factories on the river were operating so early, this season all are actively employed, with the addition of four new large establishments, and the remainder with increased facilities, aggregating a capacity much in excess of former demands, which does not lessen the catch by any means, but, on the other hand greatly increased.