## Wumetrenter

## \$2.:0 per Year.

SALEM, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 22, 1876.


| WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE Editor Willamette Farmor: |  |
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| During last July a prominent farmer |  |
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| the State and the Company to pass freight in boats and water craft generally at a charge of fifty cents per ton.- <br> these data be correct, we have the producers and consumers of Western Oregon paying more than twice the cost |  |
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| changes have been effected thaough |  |
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| the state whoso duty it was to see to and defend the people's interests in the |  |
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| matter, and that the $\$ 00,000$ which the |  |
| tate commere in West |  |
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| lost beyond recovery, unless some stringent and effective measures be adopted by the present Legidative Assembly to |  |
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| secure the terms for which that money was paid. |  |
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| Various suggestions are made by "Farmer," and more lately by a writer |  |
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| in the Oregonien, and by the editor of |  |
| mer sugrests an opposition channel for commerce by the way of Corvellis and |  |
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| Yaqutna Bay, to be efrected by building a narrow-gauge railroad and repudiating the bonds given by the state to |  |
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| diating the bonds given by the State to the Locks Co. The Oregonian correspondent says "provide a board of |  |
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| locks commissioners, with powers to |  |
| enforce the rights of the state." The editor of the Farmer leans toward the purchase of the locks by the state. All |  |
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| agree by the prosent Legislative Assembly that will secure to the people the rights |  |
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| that have been contracted and honestly paid for. |  |
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| Now, permit me to make a sugges. |  |
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| tion that wiil be effectual, and no injustice be done any one. Pass a bill creating a board of supervision of public |  |
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| highways, including our navigable |  |
| streams; give this office, whether filled by one person or three, ample powers to enforce all contracts made by the |  |
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| State having for their objeet the opening: of channels of commerce, with powers and instructions as to the locks, |  |
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| in case the present owners break con. |  |
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| tract, to take them, under the righe of eninent domain, and pay for the cost or construction, repairs, ise. Let the state |  |
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| bond and the state's share of the net the bo |  |
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| then there will be left for the state to pay, if I am correctly informed, about |  |
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| $\$ 180,000$, and no man will lave been robbed of a single cent. |  |
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| But, an objector says it is impossible |  |
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| for the state to buy! Well, Ghen, the matter over to the U. S. Giovern- |  |
| ment, and ask its aid to take the commercial interests of the State out of the |  |
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| power of this grinding monopoly by its |  |
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| exerclse of the power of eminent domain, the right to exercise which against this very O.S. N. Co, at the |  |
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| Cascades of the Columbia was lately so ably set forth by Senator Mithell from |  |
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| his seat in Congress. This right of eminent domain can be lawfully exercised |  |
| by either the state or the National |  |
| Government. This case and that of the projected canal at the Cascades both |  |
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| itself unable to meet the just expenses call |  |
| of its exercise, then it may justly ask for and receive the aid of the ereater |  |
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| power, tat while this is being done the state should, if it be necemary, secure |  |
| the right of panage, without umine mary demy, of every bat or hargo seck. ink to pass the Wilamette Fafls with freight <br> As to the value of these locks, I will |  |
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